



# Connections

## AN ATD NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 - January 5, 2023



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# Intro to Connections

Welcome to the all-new BC "Connections" Newsletter, your monthly resource for bite sized **ATD/Guided Pathways** updates! This month, shout-outs go to:

**BC faculty and staff members**

**Sarina O'Bar, Jett Guymer, & the BaTS Team!**

## **Sarina O'Bar**

Sarina joins us as the new Early Alert Coordinator after Melissa Martinez's promotion to Interim Director of Advising. Sarina recently graduated Cum Laude with a BAS in our Healthcare Informatics program. Prior to working in Student Success & Retention, Sarina worked in the Counseling Center as a Student Assistant.

## **Jett Guymer**

Congratulations to Jett, our newest Peer Educator and an IDEAL Fellowship Scholar! In his free time, he enjoys video games and working on cars. For more about him, check out our [featured quote](#).

## **Our Rockstars:**

Thanks to Shannon King, Marie Brisette, and Heidi Songstad for their leadership in researching, planning, and submitting proposals for linguistically and culturally responsive FYS-waiver courses for students enrolled in Basic and Transitional Studies.

**And we could use your help!**

Umoja Scholars and Puente are looking for a [Faculty Mentors](#) for the Winter and Spring quarters to help reach out to students. If you or someone you know would be interested in connected to students in such a meaningful way, contact [Multicultural Services](#) to apply!

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"When I started at [BC], I was not sure what degree to pursue. So, I took time off from school in order to work. ...After researching the degrees BC offered I concluded the [BAS] program in Data Analysis was the right fit for me. This is my final year in the program and I am thinking of life after college."



--- Jett Guymer,  
BAS Student/  
Peer Educator (2023)

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## ATD Resources

### What is ATD?

ATD or "Achieving the Dream" is a national framework for improving it's student success initiatives which Bellevue College adopted and made their own as **Guided Pathways**. To learn more about BC's Approach to ATD, including information on our ["Bulldog Trail"](#), the BC's Guided Pathways model, and other workgroups YOU can become a part of, browse [BC's ATD Homepage](#).



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## January Highlights

### When ATD comes together...

Achieving the Dream/Guided Pathways' Leadership Team includes President Locke, AVPs Christina Castorena and Rob Viens, and ATD Co-Leads Esteban Maldonado and Jennie Mayer. The ATD/GP Steering Committee oversees the work groups and the ATD Core Team provides feedback.

### Snapshots of work group progress:

- **BC Pathways** – Pathway maps are being finalized; developing a web-based program mapper tool to enable students to see sample course sequences; exploratory open houses in development.  
**Lead(s):** Allison Kang, Maggie Harada, Katherine Oleson, Jacqueline Gapinski
- **Faculty Professional Development**– Onboarding new faculty; cultural-responsive teaching module; faculty evaluation revisioning team to reduce bias and improve faculty retention; faculty coaching.  
**Lead(s):** Jenn Pang, Jennifer Parada

- **Integrated Student Supports** –Updating "Connect 1-2-3" flyer; assemble subgroups for collaborations and progress in New Student Orientation (NSO), intake form, and Early Alert; restart of ISS Collective Winter 2023.  
**Lead(s):** Melissa E. Martinez, Judy Hernandez-Chapar, Jennie Mayer
- **Math Re-design** - Math 076 replaces Math 070, 075, and 097; co-requisite Math 099/141 course is in implementation; Math 107 and Math 130 co-requisite is in development; set in-person proctoring as required for all math classes starting Fall 2022.  
**Lead(s):** Andria Villines, Esteban Maldonado
- **Data Team** – Identified Leading Indicators (LI); set target goals; created a LI dashboard to view data that can be filtered and disaggregated in real time.  
**Lead(s):** Zach Morgan, Shayna Begun, Zorica Wacker, Esteban Maldonado
- **Peer Educators Program** - Integrates student voice in BC's Guided Pathways work; revamping the Office of Student Engagement site (Club site); support areas include Early Alert, Welcome Center, MCS, and the ATD Communications team.  
**Lead(s):** Esteban Maldonado, Noah Laxton
- **First-Year Seminar** – FYS 101 (or equivalent) required for AAS-DTA students; gives students tools for success within their first two quarters at BC; optimizing communications and procedures to ensure students take this course in their first year.  
**Lead(s):** Jeremiah Allen
- **Umoja & Puente Programs** - MCS cohort programs for African American/Black and Latinx students; attracts diverse faculty; coordinators/instructors refine the curriculum, provide specialized supports, and recruit students.  
**Lead(s):** Hector Guzman, Darnita Boynton-Howard
- **Communications** - Developed three project teams lead by student Peer Educators; centralized communications channel; distribute ATD/Guided Pathways newsletter to campus; created content and a video for student-facing website.  
**Lead(s):** Megan Watson

For more information and to stay up to date with all work teams, check out [ATD Milestones!](#)

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## How to Get Involved

We want you to be a part of student success! Three ways to learn more include:

- **To learn** more about this volume's highlighted work team, connect with [Jennie Mayer](#) and [Esteban Maldonado](#), ATD's Core Co-Leads.
- **To attend** one of our ATD Core meetings held on the second Monday of every month from 3-4:30 pm. The link to join is via MS Teams.

### [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 206-899-2345](#) United States, Seattle (Toll)

Conference ID: 297 354 609#

- **To connect** an employee or student to the work, email us at [atdcomm@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:atdcomm@bellevuecollege.edu).



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