

Building Technical Education Programs for Underprepared Students: Why We Should and How We Can

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Norena Norton Badway, Ph.D.

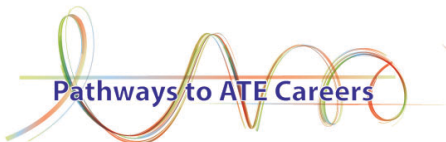
Andrea C. Goldfien, Ed.D.

San Francisco State University

Tanya Rogers

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology

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What does that mean?

- Expanding *access and success* for ATE
- For underprepared students
- Why
- How
- We're doing it already

Why We Should

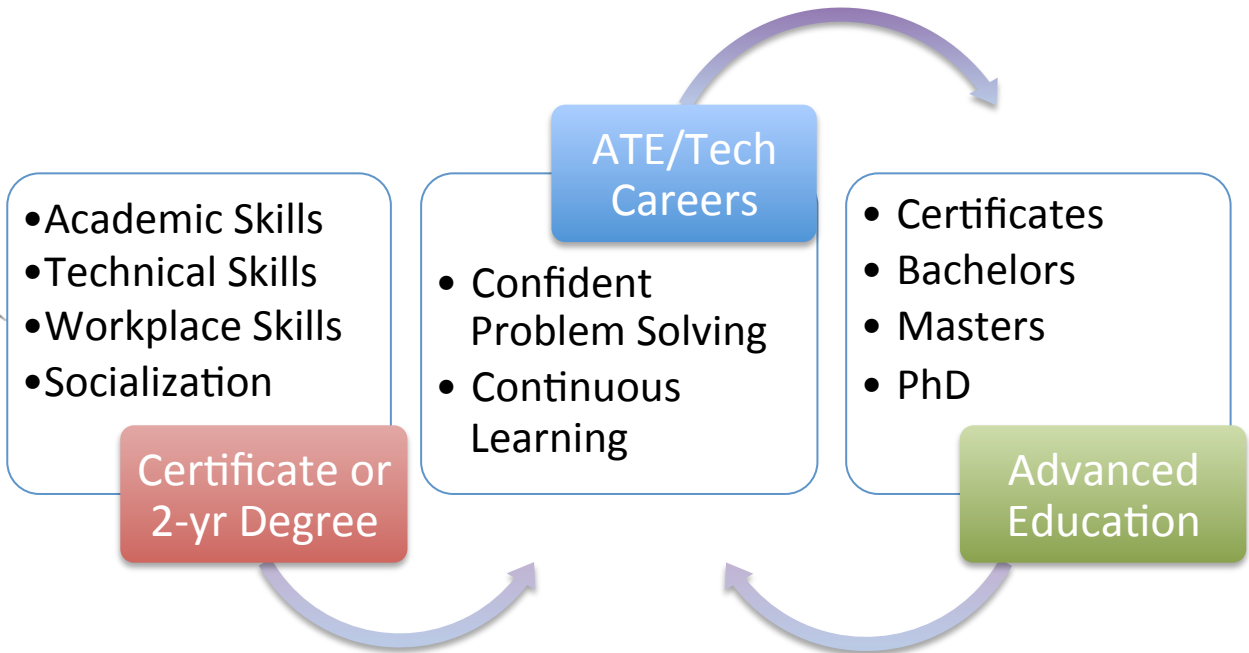
- Labor market demand: is there or isn't there?
- Builds careers instead of jobs
- Creates citizenship
- Moves workers into middle class
- Delays fertility?
- Breaks cycles of “social reproduction” for future
- White talented males will not be enough

How

- Contextualizing
- Bridge programs
- Problem based learning

What is a Bridge Program?

Entryway into a certificate/degree pathway



Why offer a Bridge Program?

Some important statistics:

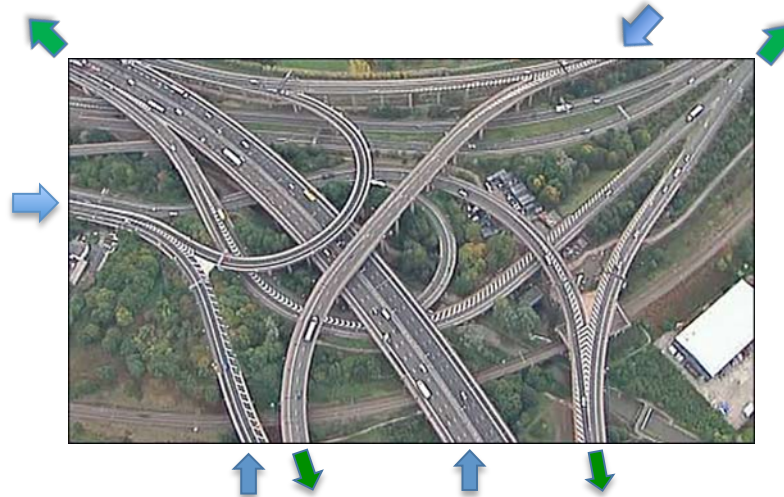
- 12% adults 18-64 have no high school credential;
- 42% adults 18-64 have no more than a high school credential;
- 50-60% first-time CC students assessed below college-level.

Most students entering two-year colleges are not well prepared to succeed in your technical education program.

But they *can* succeed.

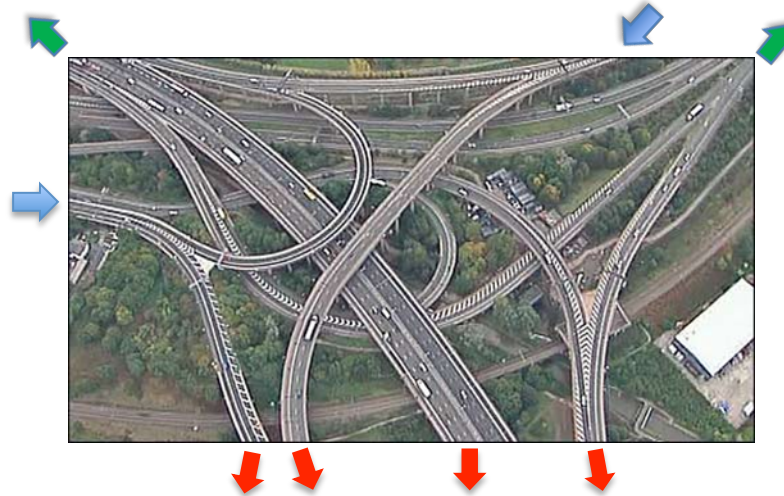
What we see *vs* what students see...

We see pathways...from 30,000 ft



What we see *vs* what students see...

We see pathways...from 30,000 ft



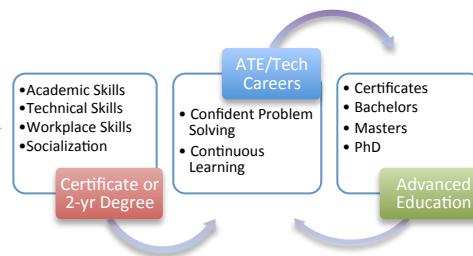
What they see is a jumble!



With significant barriers!



A Closer Look



Models Reflect a Continuum

Effectiveness *and* Challenge

Integrated with Enhanced Support

- + Contextualized curriculum
- + Linked courses
- + Support structures

Students accomplish key milestones during program

Effectiveness *and* Challenge

Linked Elements

- + Contextualized curriculum

Students accomplish intermediate milestone during program

Effectiveness *and* Challenge

Loosely Coupled

- + Concurrent enrollment in standard courses

Students accomplish intermediate milestones during program

Lessons Learned – What Matters?

- ✓ **The students** – barriers
- ✓ **The college team** – academic & support
- ✓ **Professional development** – on-going
- ✓ **The culture** – institutional & disciplinary
- ✓ **Senior administrative support** - leverage
- ✓ **Evaluation** – summative & formative

A Mindset of Belief and Support

Problem Based Learning

- Benefits for Students
 - Develops leaders who claim their education
 - Increases confidence, retention, critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills
 - Deep learning that is engaging
 - Value real world applicability
 - Rosalyn's story
 - Initial resistance turns into advocacy and perseverance
 - Jason's story
 - Eliminates equity gaps

Problem Based Learning

- Implementation Challenges
 - Facilitation vs. Lecturing
 - “No, I won’t give you the answer!”
 - It takes time!
 - Course schedules, learning the process, changing the culture, developing curriculum
 - Teamwork
 - Assessment

Problem Based Learning

- Overcoming Implementation Challenges
 - Academic freedom
 - Administrative support
 - Professional development
 - Support and guidance from experienced colleagues
 - Existing curriculum models
 - Experience

Effective Pathways

- Into
- Through
- Back through

Contact Information

- Norena Norton Badway, Ph.D.: nbadway@sfsu.edu
- Andrea Goldfien, Ed.D.: a_goldfien@yahoo.com
- Tanya Rogers: tanya.c.rogers@gmail.com