

August 14, 2025

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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In this edition of the Campus Bridge, we're kicking off the academic year by sharing the draft framework of *Our Promise Plan*. Built around Purpose, People, and Place, this strategic guide reflects months of collaboration and sets the stage for how we grow, adapt, and center student success in all we do.

Welcome to a new academic year—and a new chapter for Saint Paul College.

In 2025, we completed our three-year strategic plan, *Creating a Stronger Future 2025*, which strengthened our foundation and deepened our commitment to student success. Building on that momentum, we began reimagining the role of a comprehensive community college.

This fall, we're excited to introduce the draft framework of *Our Promise Plan*—a strategic guide centered on Purpose, People, and Place, outlining how we grow, adapt, and continue placing student success at the heart of everything we do. In a time when higher education is navigating significant transformation, *Our Promise Plan* positions our college to be a responsive, inclusive, and future-focused institution—one that meets the needs of the modern learner and empowers our students and community to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Over the coming weeks, we'll invite feedback, ideas, and questions from across the campus community. This is our opportunity to shape the plan together—and ensure it reflects the values, insights, and aspirations of everyone who makes Saint Paul College what it is.



DID YOU KNOW?

Saint Paul College is part of a national cohort reimagining the future of community colleges through the Education Design Lab's Reimagining Community College Design Challenge. This initiative is helping shape Our Promise Plan—a bold framework built from your ideas, feedback, and lived experiences.

How we got here.

This framework is the result of months of listening, collaboration, and shared design. Saint Paul College is proud to be part of the first cohort of Education Design Lab's [Reimagining Community College Design Challenge](#), a national initiative focused on innovation, equity, and student success.

Our journey began with the formation of a [Reimagining Community College Steering](#) Committee, made up of faculty, staff, students, and leaders committed to shaping a bold future for SPC. To ensure broad input, we launched three surveys—gathering insights from employees, students, and community members about what's working and where we can grow.

On May 20, we hosted a [Strategic Planning Workshop](#) that brought together 55 participants—including faculty, staff, alumni, employers, students, and community partners—for a day of storytelling, design, and discovery. Their voices helped shape the foundation of this framework.

This process has been guided by the Lab's human-centered design thinking approach and informed by their [Future of Learning Framework](#), which emphasizes visible skills, stackable pathways, applied learning, and equitable access to support services.

The result? A draft framework rooted in lived experience, shared purpose, and the belief that transformation happens when we build together.

[Learn More & Stay Updated on Our Promise Plan](#)

A first look at our promises.

We're introducing the draft framework of *Our Promise Plan*, built around three foundational pillars. These bold commitments reflect how we could evolve as a college to meet the needs of today's learners and tomorrow's workforce.



Our Promise to Purpose

We're exploring ways to redesign education across credit and non-credit pathways to make skills more visible, relevant, and career-connected. This could mean creating or modifying programs that better align with workforce needs and empower students to pursue meaningful careers.

Our Promise to People

We're building an inclusive culture where innovation thrives, and employees are empowered to enhance the campus experience. This commitment encourages collaboration and supports one another in our work. As a learning organization, we create opportunities for students to embrace experimentation, knowing that failure fuels growth—and that progress often begins with trying something new.



Our Promise to Place



We're committing to Saint Paul College's role as an anchor institution that advocates for equity and works to eliminate socioeconomic barriers to student success. This commitment involves being a positive force in our community and ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive, whether through our support or by connecting students to community resources. As an anchor institution, we aim to bring invaluable benefits to our community.

Your feedback will help shape how these promises take root.

Over the next several weeks, you'll see opportunities to engage with the draft framework—through surveys, action step-setting workshops, town halls, and department conversations. Your feedback will help shape how these promises take root. We welcome your reflections on how the framework resonates with you. What might make it clearer, more relevant, or more actionable—while staying true to its core intent?

The survey will focus on four key areas:

1. Clarity and understanding of the pillars
2. Alignment and reflection of your role
3. Potential for impact and implementation
4. Support needs to bring the framework to life

Why Now? Understanding the Moment

This strategic plan will guide our work until 2030. Over the last year, we have seen national signals reshaping higher education delivery, impact, and sustainability:

- Workforce Pell is expanding access to flexible, skills-based education.
- Credential complexity is driving the need for clearer connections between learning and work.
- Gen Z learners expectations for flexible, tech-enabled experiences.
- Emerging technologies like AI accelerating the need for responsive, future-ready education.
- New accountability measures positioning community colleges as engines of economic mobility.

These shifts are real—and they're our call to action. This moment invites us to think boldly, act with intention, and keep our promises to our purpose, our people, and our place

[Learn More & Stay Updated on Our Promise Plan](#)

How are we doing?

Is the content in this edition of the Bridge useful? Use the star ratings below to let us know.



Ask Executive Cabinet

Want to tell us more? Have a burning question for College Leaders? Submit those [online](#) or contact [Executive Cabinet](#).

About the Bridge

The Campus Bridge is your bi-weekly source for inspiration, insights, and information about important initiatives at Saint Paul College. In this space, we'll delve deeper into the "why" behind our work, spark conversations, and highlight opportunities to collaborate and innovate together. Our goal is to keep you informed, engaged, and connected to the heart of our mission.

While the Bridge aims to inspire and provide context, its sibling publication, the Campus Buzz, is your go-to source for the latest events, accomplishments, and news from across the college.

Together, the Bridge and the Buzz create a comprehensive communication network, ensuring that you have access to the information you need to stay informed and involved in the vibrant life of our campus community.



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