



# Essential Elements of Metro Academies:

## A Redesign of the First Two Years of College

**Targeted outreach** to low-income, first-generation or under-represented students who can commit to 12 units per semester over four semesters.

**General education course pathway:** all pathway courses fulfill general education requirements for both associate's and bachelor's degrees, including rigorous coursework in writing, math, critical thinking and oral communication.

**Long duration student learning community:** two classes are linked each semester for four semesters to create a 'school within a school;' block enrollment with guaranteed seats.

**Curriculum design** is integrated to systematically build academic skills between linked courses and across semesters. Curriculum is engaged and socially relevant with themes in broad fields such as health, STEM or education.

**Student support tied to courses**, including academic counseling, tutoring, and financial aid advising and early intervention.

**Evaluation** of students and program using indicators of academic excellence and success (e.g. quantitative: retention, persistence and graduation rates; qualitative: analysis of student work with program-level outcomes).

**Faculty development:** 45-hour, one-year faculty learning community on high-impact educational practices to support excellent teaching using engaged pedagogy, and foster collaboration to ensure student success.

