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Prospectus

### Guided Pathways to Success or to Control?

“Navigating the complicated path through college is a difficult task for far too many. All students need step-by-step roadmaps and intrusive guidance to on-time completion — saving time and money — and significantly boosting their success” (GPS). This quote may be black and white, but what’s between the lines? Guided Pathways claims to be the quickest way to success but is it the right way? When students begin the program, they pick a major, and all of the minimum basic classes are set up for them. It focuses on keeping the students on the program’s definition of an educational goal. Guided Pathways claims to have “intrusive guidance” that implies a suggestion towards a major although it seems that it’s really more of a forced “recommendation.” Guided Pathways is forming a controlling educational system by forcing students to take courses that are only in their major’s curricula, by making block schedules, and by pushing them to take 15 credits a semester. This program constrains students from being able to go above and beyond their potential in education and careers. Nothing will set aside the students from being anything but ordinary. The program does not serve students and their success as much as it serves the institutions that implement it. These institutions include community colleges and the foundations that promote the program, institutions such as the Lumina

Foundation and Gates Foundation. Their values are based on earning money, company control and portraying an image to the society that we are a helping hand towards the future. With the federal government being a secret contributor towards the program it continues to be another component in maintaining the social class differences.