Helping students make the connection between where they are and where they are going is an integral feature of guided pathways. This often happens through academic advising and helping students develop an academic plan. When someone assists students with developing an academic plan, they are also more likely to have a stronger productive mindset in the area of relevance of academic experience, one of the four components of academic mindset featured in *A Mind at Work: Maximizing the Relationship Between Mindset and Student Success*, a national report the Center released in April 2019.

For instance…

- Eighty-eight percent of students who said someone helped them develop an academic plan also *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that their college is preparing them for what they plan to do in life, compared to 73% of students who said no one helped them develop an academic plan.
- Eighty-four percent of students who said someone helped them develop an academic plan also *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that what they learn in their classes is necessary for their success in the future, compared to 73% of students who said no one helped them develop an academic plan.
- Eighty-four percent of students who said someone helped them develop an academic plan also *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that they understand how their academic work is preparing them for the career field in which they are interested, compared to 73% of students who said no one helped them develop an academic plan.