

NISTS 2023

BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

Virtual • February 1-3 | Portland, OR • February 22-24

The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2839 - Creating Greater College Access and a Four-Year Experience Through Community College Partnerships

Partnerships and Collaboration, Transition Programs and Supports

Through the advent of a national collaborative, a private university and a community college are creating greater opportunities for first-generation college students to attend and benefit from a high-quality, private university education. Participants will learn how creating a public-private transfer program can assist in easing the transition for transfer students. In particular, we will highlight features like holistic, built-in support across all 4-years, and student feedback and success.

Donnell Wiggins, *Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission*

Cody McMillen, *Executive Director of Recruitment and Admission for Transfer and Strategic Partnership Programs*

University of Dayton

Creating Greater College Access and a Four-Year Experience Through Community College Partnerships

UD | SINCLAIR | ACADEMY



**University
of Dayton**



**SINCLAIR
COLLEGE**

Presenters

- Donnell Wiggins, M.Ed.
 - University of Dayton; Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission
 - Email: dwiggins1@udayton.edu

- Cody McMillen, Ph.D.
 - University of Dayton; Executive Director of Recruitment and Admission for Transfer and Strategic Partnership Programs
 - Email: cmcmillen1@udayton.edu

Session Agenda

- Introduction and history of the UD-Sinclair Academy (UDSA), including its position as an institutional imperative/commitment.
- Enrollment information, including student demographics, of the UDSA, along with program elements.
- Introduction of the Kessler Scholars Collaborative and their approach to student success.
- Discussion of the Kessler Scholars Program for the UDSA, including elements of the program.
- Question and answer session
 - Brainstorming ways that similar models/elements could be implemented on other campuses.
 - Discussing ways to elevate student voices and collect feedback in transfer programs.

University of Dayton

- Founded in 1850, the University of Dayton (UD) is a top-tier Catholic, Marianist research university with academic offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels.
 - Diverse community committed to educating the whole person and linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.
 - New University leadership in 2016 afforded new opportunities to fulfill our mission.
 - Developed a strategic plan to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion which includes a detailed plan to become an anti-racist university and a commitment to pursue inclusive excellence.

University of Dayton: Commitment to Community and Access

- UD is an anchor institution deeply engaged in the city of Dayton through investments that benefit the entire community and enrich the educational experience.
 - Belief that education can transform society if people work together in community.
 - At “The Hub”, students, faculty and staff work alongside local entrepreneurs in the recently renovated historic downtown Arcade.
 - Greater West Dayton Incubator offers microlending, training and education, networking opportunities and consulting services to Black entrepreneurs in a historically underserved section of the city.
 - Fitz Center for Leadership in Community serves as a connecting point and campus-wide partner for community partnerships, leadership, community-engaged learning and scholarship, and innovative solution-based strategies to civic needs through an asset based approach.

University of Dayton: Commitment to Community and Access

- As a Catholic, Marianist university dedicated to community and the common good, advancing access, affordability, diversity, equity, inclusion and student success are core to UD's vision, mission and identity.
 - UD has championed:
 - Transparent net-tuition model,
 - Enhanced outreach to recruit talented students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds,
 - Created new programs and pathways, and implemented practices to ensure student success.

Pause and Consider

- How does your institutional mission align with opportunities to create more experiences for transfer students and community engagement?
- Are there local or regional institutions that could be potential partners to serve more students?

UD-Sinclair Academy (UDSA)

- UD-Sinclair Academy is UD's unique version of the community college transfer model as a four-year experience.
 - Public-private partnership.
 - Over 100 articulated four-year degree pathways.
 - Transparent four-year net-tuition plan with no hidden fees.
 - Academic and student support services at both institutions.
 - Dual enrollment and access to both campus facilities, fostering a sense of belonging on each campus.

UD-Sinclair Academy

- Academy benefits and features:
 - Articulated academic pathways to ensure little to no loss of credits once students transition from Sinclair to UD.
 - Access to UD academic advisors while at Sinclair.
 - Dedicated student success staff for holistic support and advising.
 - Online platform that allows for program engagement and vehicle for student feedback.

UDSA Success and Outcomes

- Primary driver of enrolling over 1,200 new transfer students since 2016, the majority coming from low and moderate income families.
 - 110% increase over this five-year period, with signs of additional growth in the future.
 - Since 2016, 20% of UDSA students have identified as first-generation, and 30% have been Pell-eligible.
 - 96% success rate for UDSA graduates.

Leveraging Even Greater Opportunities to Enhance Community and Access

- While many public universities have developed community-college transfer programs with the support of available public funding, higher performing private universities have not kept pace, and, in fact, have seen significant declines.
 - According to IPEDs, higher performing private universities have experienced a 55% decline in transfer students since 2016.
 - UD is one of only three private universities with enrollment of over 7,000 undergraduates that has shown material growth of transfer students over this same time period.

Kessler Scholars Collaborative

- Introduction of the UDSA Kessler Scholars Program for fall 2023 provides even greater access to four-year degrees.
- Kessler Scholars Collaborative
 - Provides first-generation college students with transformative support across their undergraduate experience.
 - Supported by the American Talent Initiative with funding support from the Judy and Fred Wilpon Family Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Kessler Scholars: Comprehensive Support

- Kessler Scholars Collaborative:
 - Employs evidence-based best practices for student success.
 - Kessler Scholar Programs featured at 16 partner campuses nationwide.
 - Comprehensive, cohort-based program design with critical support to foster students' academic, personal, and professional development and to help assure their success in college and beyond.
 - Asset-based model that recognizes the importance of the student voice in program design.
 - Campus-based programs employ skilled professional staff who connect students with important resources and support their exploration of high-leverage opportunities.

Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy

- The Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy will support first-generation college students' success.
 - Starting in fall 2023, the program will welcome 20 first-year students each year and will support a four-year cohort of 80 students.
 - To be eligible, students must identify as first-generation college students, meet family income requirements, qualify for the federal Pell Grant, and participate in an interview process.

Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy

- Students in the Kessler Scholars Program for UDSA will engage in:
 - Shared learning experiences, including a summer bridge program and regularly scheduled workshops,
 - Regular one-on-one guidance from dedicated professional staff,
 - Peer-mentoring opportunities,
 - Community service events,
 - Shaping programming through a student leadership board.
- Kessler Scholars receive significant financial support from UD and benefit from federal financial aid while at Sinclair.
- Program modeled after other Kessler Scholars programs, as well as the UD Flyer Promise Scholars program, which supports underserved students' success and boasts a 92% four-year graduation rate.

Further Promotion of College Access and Success

- We view the UDSA Kessler Scholars Program as a way to demonstrate the scalability of a transfer academy model that institutions nationwide can replicate.
 - Opportunities for discussion:
 - Is this model replicable? Are there barriers that could prevent partnerships like the UD-Sinclair Academy?
 - In what ways could similar models/elements be implemented on your campuses?
 - How could you offer multiple approaches or pathways to serve a greater number of students?
 - How are student voices elevated in transfer programs? How do you collect and apply student feedback?
 - Other questions?

Thank you!

- For more information:
 - UD-Sinclair Academy:
 - udayton.edu/academy
 - Kessler Scholars Collaborative
 - kesslerscholars.org
 - Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy:
 - go.udayton.edu/kessler