Educational Session

2783 - Creating Connections Across Campus: Facilitating the Transfer Student Life Cycle
Transition Programs and Supports, Leadership and Strategic Planning

Private institutions have historically not been perceived as transfer inclusive to community college transfers. Over the past five years, through qualitative analysis of interviews with transfer students regarding the barriers they have encountered in transitioning to and being successful in a 4-year institution, this team of colleagues who represent five different areas of the university, have honed the practice of working with transfer students to ease that transition and that path to completion. This small, private institution in a metropolitan region has strengthened its connections to improve transfer initiatives all over campus. This support for transfer students is embraced by administration, academic affairs, enrollment management, admissions, student success, and the registrar to create a smooth transition for these students. The strategies outlined apply to all transfer students (those with AA and AAS degrees; those who are core complete; and those who only have some community college credit), address many of the barriers that students mentioned, and offer suggestions for all institutions, regardless of size or location.

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St. Edward's University
connections for a successful
TRANSFER PATHWAY

ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY
presenters

Academic Affairs

DR. GLENSA BALLARD

Transfer Admissions

TRACY CANALES
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DR. NICOLE TREVINO
Private institutions have historically not been perceived as "user-friendly" to community college transfers. Over the past five years, St. Edward's University has transformed its connections to improve campus-wide transfer initiatives. With more students receiving associate degrees as they complete high school; increased visibility of access and opportunities to flexible learning formats; and with an emphasis on strengthening community colleges, private institutions are overlooked as an option for transfer students. But, with higher retention, smaller classes, and completion rates, private institutions may be a great investment.
Total Undergraduate Population: 2,584
Transfer Population: 1/5

Average Age: 24
Average GPA: 3.12
Average # of Credit Hours Transferred: 54

Texas Core Complete (Fall 2022): 55
New Transfers living on campus (Fall 2022): 80

4-Year, Private University
Liberal Arts
Hispanic Serving Institution
TRANSFER HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

**2016**

**TRANSFER CHALLENGES**
University concerns related to transfer retention. Transfer Task Force created to review university data related to persistence and retention for transfer population.

**2018-2020**

**IMPLEMENTATION**
Success Coach Model created with connection to campus partners; Texas Core Complete adopted; Transfer Advising Guides developed; Mining for Credits; Onboarding process developed.

**2022+**

**COLLABORATION AND EXPANSION**
Continuation of support and campus partner collaboration; Transfer Inclusive Majors; Transfer Student Association; National Transfer Week Visibility.
## Transfer Taskforce

### Committee
- Academic Counseling and Exploration
- Admissions
- Career and Professional Development
- Deans
- Department Chairs
- Registrar
- Student Affairs
- Student Financial Services

### Directives
- Develop a process for serving the needs of transfer students from entry through graduation
- Review university data including:
  - retention and persistence data
  - student success surveys
- Review current services and practices

### Recommendations
- Overall Goal - close gaps and ensure the availability of integrated support that fosters student retention, progression, graduation, and post-graduation success
- Create a Centralized Transition Model
- Implement a Transfer Task Force to Review Articulation Agreements
TRANSFER CHALLENGES

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The University was concerned with:
- Transcripts not being submitted on time
- Transcripts not being reviewed prior to first day of class
- Internal tracking and course approval process issues

REGISTRATION CONCERNS

Transfer students were interested in:
- Time to graduation and developing academic plan
- Understanding how prior credit will apply to degree
- Registering in a timely manner

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Transfer students struggle with transition to the University:
- Identifying and connecting with resources
- Becoming engaged and involved on campus
- Feeling a part of the community
ADMISSION/RECRUITMENT

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH TRANSFER STUDENTS

TRANSFER PLANS & PATHWAYS

TRANSFER-INCLUSIVE MAJORS

TRANSFER ADVISING GUIDES BY MAJOR
SUCCESS COACH MODEL

PERSONALIZED ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ACADEMIC AND GRADUATION PLANS

CONNECTION TO RESOURCES

MINING FOR CREDIT
Developed and implemented a centralized model for all transfer students which allows for:

- One-stop shop service
  - Advising and registration
  - Graduation plans reviewed and approved by deans offices
  - Career coaching
  - On-going transitional services
- Opportunity to provide evening and online services
  - Late night option for students who work or have other obligations
- Streamlined and coordinated communication
  - Coordination between admissions, academic schools and success team
  - Utilized mongoose text messaging, email, phone calls etc..
- Provide support to students, faculty and deans

Success Coach caseloads of 125, 3 Coaches

Due to success, we implemented the Success Coach Model across the undergraduate population

Caseloads of around 175 per Coach, 16 coaches
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

EMBRACING TEXAS CORE COMPLETE

CREATED TRANSFER ADVISING GUIDES (TAGS)

CREATED AAS PATHWAYS TO BA DEGREES

TRANSFER-INCLUSIVE MAJORS

FOCUSED ON UNIVERSITY:COLLEGE COLLABORATIONS

FACULTY CONNECTIONS
Four New Degrees that Embrace Workforce Credit
- BLA in Leadership & Social Justice
- BA in Health Systems & Administration
- BA in Digital Storytelling & Content Creation
- RN to BSN in Nursing (Fall 2023)

2022-2023 Transfer Advising Guides (May 1)

ACC & SEU Faculty Collaborations
- Theater, Religious Studies
- Peer Learning Network - E3 Alliance/Gates Foundation
- Educator Preparation (Grant Opportunity)

First-Generation Organization (First to Goat)

Research Project to Gather Rich, Qualitative Data
connections supporting TRANSFER STUDENTS

- Embracing Texas Core Complete
- Transfer-Inclusive Majors
- Transfer-Friendly Academic Degrees
- Campus Community
- Success Coach Model & Onboarding
- SEU Transfer Student Association
- Transfer Advising Guides by Major
- Mining for Credit
- National Transfer Student Week
Transfer 1 & 2 Year Retention Rates by Term Admitted

- Fall 2014:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 77.8%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 72.0%

- Fall 2015:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 78.3%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 70.3%

- Fall 2016:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 86.9%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 79.8%

- Fall 2017:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 79.7%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 71.6%

- Fall 2018:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 83.3%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 75.7%

- Fall 2019:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 81.2%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 71.3%

- Fall 2020:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 83.4%
  - 2-YR Retention Rate: 70.6%

- Fall 2021:
  - 1-YR Retention Rate: 85.7%
let's continue to work together
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