

**NISTS 2023**

# BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

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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).

*Facilitated Discussion*

## **2789 - Building Transfer Pathways from Community Colleges to Private Liberal Arts Institutions**

Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

There are multiple barriers to students successfully transferring credits from one institution to another. Seventeen community colleges and nine liberal arts institutions are collaborating on a grant funded project aimed at facilitating transfer and completion of baccalaureate degrees. We will share the project goals and lessons learned thus far, engaging the audience in a discussion about a consortial approach to working directly with faculty and staff to improve transfer student experiences and outcomes.

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# Building Transfer Pathways from Community Colleges to Private Liberal Arts Institutions

November 4, 2022



# Welcome & Introductions

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# OTP-LA Grant Overview



- One-year planning grant 2020-21 - Funded by Teagle - We learned:
  - Faculty from different sectors know less about each other than we had assumed.
  - Transfer students are very successful in completing programs when they transfer to independent institutions.
  - Geography is significant in transfer as many transfer students intend to remain local.
  - Although independent institutions proclaim that they welcome transfer students, they are less friendly than they think, as they tend to focus on first year, first time freshman admits, and transfer students are too often neglected or assumed to be much like first-time freshmen.
  - This is complicated work that requires partners inside campuses and between campuses.
- Three-year implementation grant Fall 2022-25
  - We will integrate what we learned, efforts from Major Transfer Maps and existing articulations, and desire to serve students in 12 initiatives intended to pave pathways to success for transfer students.

# Transfer Barriers: The Road to Admission



## Lack of Institutional Relationships

- Public institution presence is significant on Community College campuses but not Private
- Community College stakeholders do not know about Private institutions
  - Including Organizations, Programs, and Opportunities
- Students often do not know that Private institutions are an option

# Transfer Barriers: The Road to Admission (cont'd)



## Cost Reality vs. Misconceptions

- General misunderstanding that Private institutions are unaffordable
- Information on actual cost for transfer students is not readily available

# Transfer Barriers: Finding Acceptance



## Transfer Experience vs. First-Year Experience

- Transfer Students are often treated as first-year students
- Transfer students do not feel fully integrated into the Private community
- Transfer students tend to be non-traditional students
  - Families, Full-Time Jobs, Age 25+

## Transfer Barriers: Finding Acceptance (cont'd)



### Curriculum Alignment

- Not all credits transfer (courses and actual credit number)
- Major Transfer Map and articulation agreements are generally not established with Private institutions
- Private institutions often require institution-specific courses
- Transfer students cannot afford “additional credits” due to financial aid restrictions



# What We Knew About Transfer Students

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- Successful degree completion of students transferring between institutions in the course of their academic career is an important component of overall higher education attainment goals in Oregon. **Using data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the Community College Research Center and Aspen Institute (Jan 2016) we found that the completion rate for students transferring into private nonprofit institutions in Oregon was the highest in the nation at forty-seven percent.**
- Transfer students to Alliance member institutions with any prior attendance at Oregon Community College was trending down from 2014-18.



## Oregon Transfer Pathways Project Planning Grant Goals & Outcomes

- Improved understanding of community college transfer initiatives and transfer student experiences at Alliance member institutions.
- Strengthened cross-institutional relationships and understanding - particularly among faculty.
- A unified vision around transfer between Oregon's two-year colleges and Alliance member institutions.

# Planning Grant Key Takeaway - Self Study



- One of the key takeaways we learned from our planning work was the need for private, nonprofit, liberal arts institutions to be aware of and understand the challenges facing community college transfer students and consider a rich set of support services to help community college transfer students succeed.
- The Alliance engaged with Credo to develop a transfer student success self-study focused on non-academic personnel critical to transfer student success at Alliance member institutions.
- The purpose of the self-study is to provide institutional leadership an accurate and comprehensive picture of the transfer student experience on Alliance member campuses. This process will serve as a guide to building a set of feasible strategies for implementation that will provide both short - and long-term solutions while identifying opportunities for growth and success.

# Overview of Implementation Grant Initiatives

Develop informational material for potential transfer students	Develop guaranteed admissions agreements for ASOT, AAOT, OTM
Design wraparound support for transfer students on Alliance campuses	Develop guaranteed admissions agreements for adopted MTMs
Build transfer map and articulation agreement for mathematics majors	Establish reverse transfer agreements
Build transfer map and articulation agreement for biology majors	Design training modules for faculty who either send or receive transfer students
Build transfer map and articulation agreement for English/writing majors	Develop options for additional financial resources for transfer students
Build transfer map and articulation agreement for psychology majors	Generate innovative ideas to increase number of successful transfer students

## Year One - Fall 2023



- Completed training for faculty and other institutional colleagues
- Established transfer guarantee of admission for students who complete OTM or AAOT
- Promotional materials for potential transfer students developed
- Implemented plan for wraparound support for transfer students based on CREDO audit of campus resources completed spring/summer 2022
- Completed development of a transfer map for mathematics

## Year Two - Fall 2024

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- Establish transfer guarantee of admission for students who complete the ASOT
- Well-developed consortial and institutional agreements around state adopted Major Transfer Maps and transfer degrees, including the AAOT, ASOT, OTM, Major Transfer Maps
- Completed development of a transfer map for biology

## Year Three - Fall 2025



- Completed development of transfer maps for English/writing and psychology
- Develop additional financial resources for transfer students
- Assessment data showing increased transfer from Oregon community colleges to Alliance institutions and successful completion of degrees (will be shared publicly)
- Established reverse transfer agreements—allowing students to return credits to community colleges in cases where degrees need to be completed

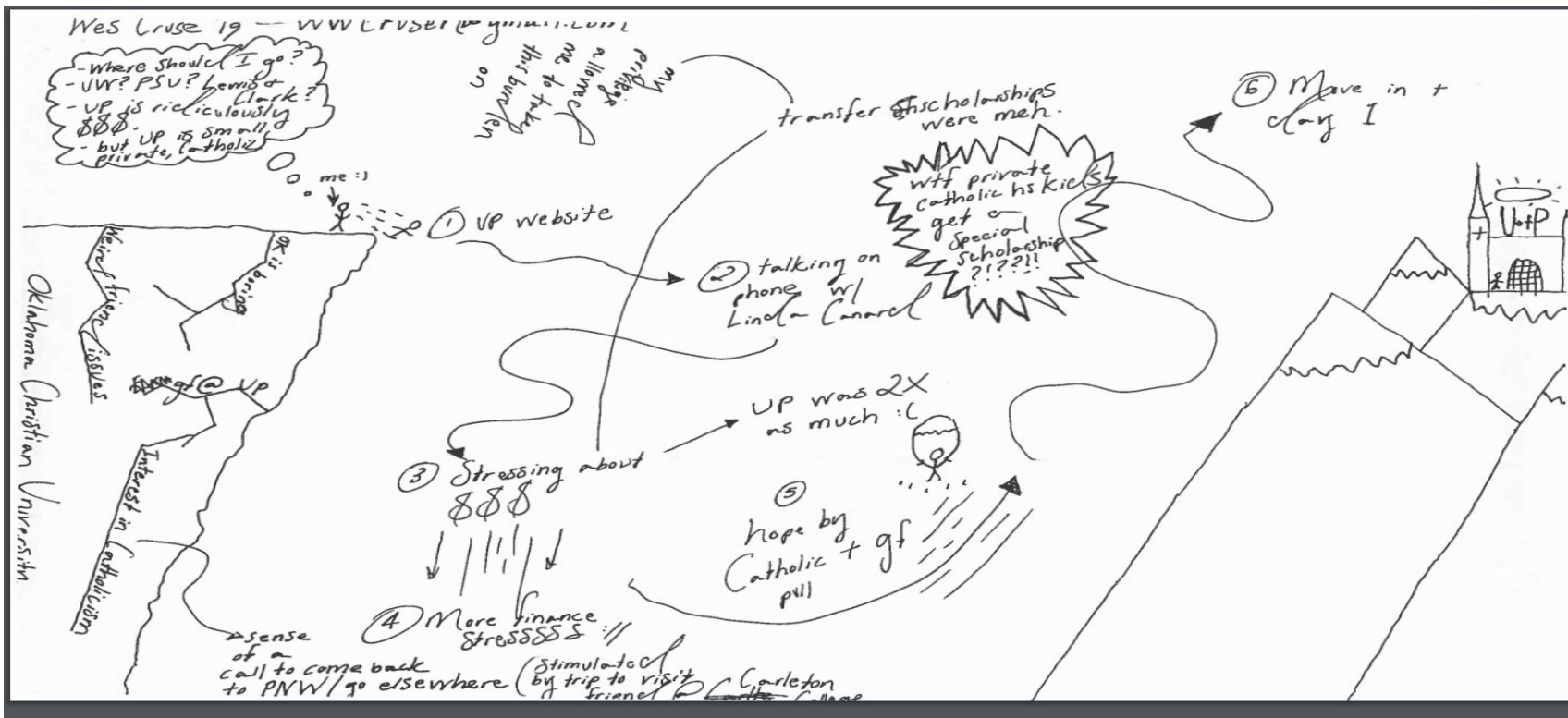
# Small Group Activities



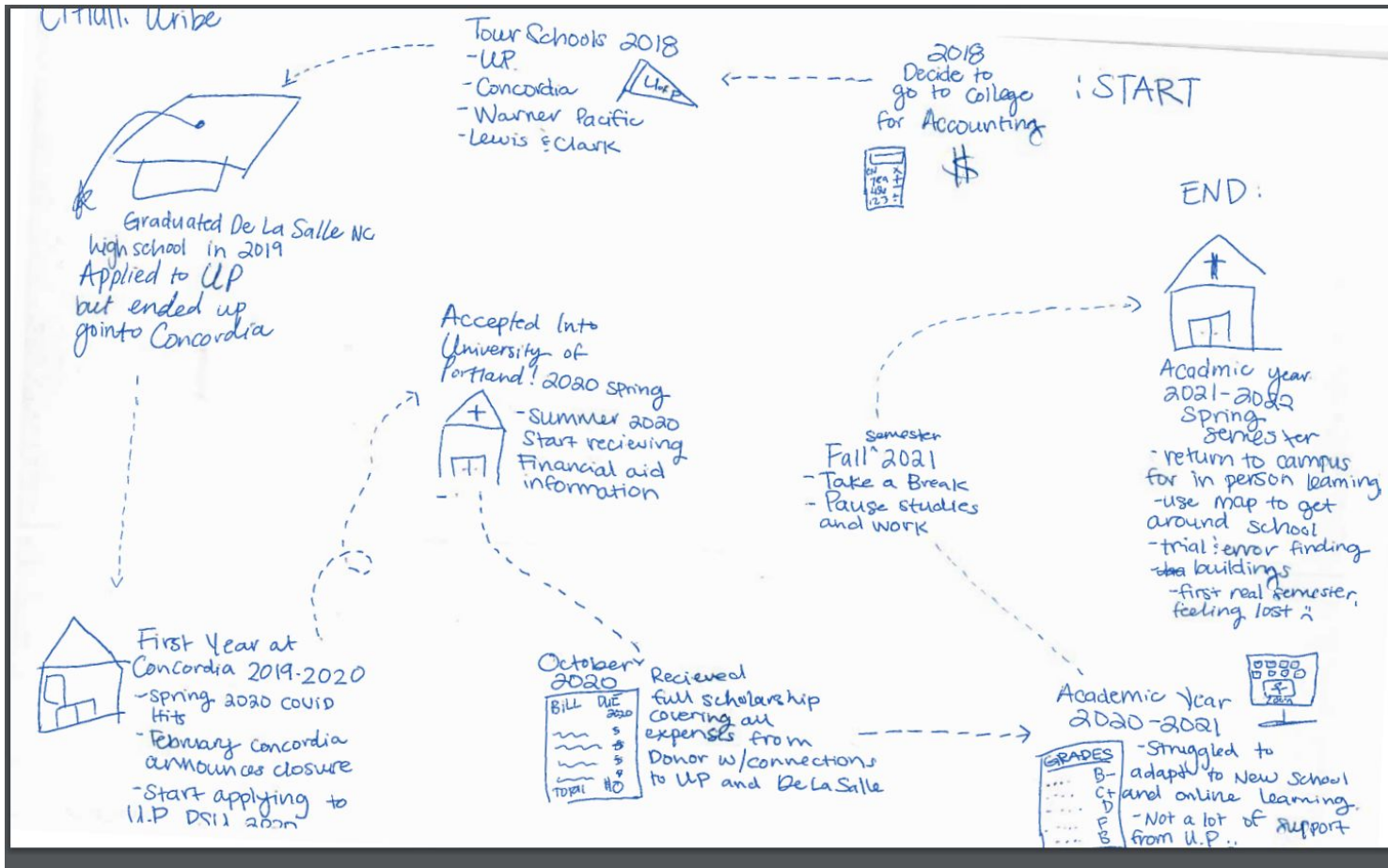
1. Create a networking list of your group members. Share contact info.
2. Questions and constructions:
  - a. What did you hear in the presentation that was new or interesting?
  - b. In your experience, what is the #1 barrier to successful student transfer? To private institutions?
  - c. Design the ideal pathway from community college to a private liberal arts institution. Be sure to include preparation on the sending end and support services on the receiving end.



# Student Concept Map: Mountain Climbing



# Student Concept Map: Finding One's Academic Home



# Reference List

Folt, C. (2022). Navigating the path from community college to prestigious private university. *Inside Higher Ed*. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/beyond-transfer/navigating-path-community-college-prestigious-private-university-0>

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Pasha, O. M. (2022). Navigating the path from community college to prestigious private university. *Inside Higher Ed*. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/beyond-transfer/navigating-path-community-college-prestigious-private-university>

# Resources

## Credo: Higher Education Consulting

<https://www.credohighered.com/>

## The Teagle Foundation: Transfer Pathways to the Liberal Arts

<https://www.teaglefoundation.org/Call-for-Proposals/RFPs/Transfer-Pathways-to-the-Liberal-Arts>

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