

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

2863 - Opening the Door to Transfer at Highly Selective Private Institutions

Partnerships and Collaboration, Diversity and Inclusion

How many transfer students enrolled at selective colleges and universities in Fall 2017? Just three percent. In January 2021, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation piloted a new model to help open the door to the Ivy League and elite liberal arts colleges. Now, the Transfer Scholars Network is a collective of 24 community colleges and four-year institutions, working to identify and guide high-achieving students through the complex admissions process. During this session, we'll walk through the model and outcomes, elevate lessons from both sets of partners, and surface best practices that ensure student success.

Adam Rabinowitz, *Senior Manager*

Ben Fresquez, *Senior Manager*

Aspen Institute College Excellence Program

transfer scholars network

*Connecting high-achieving community college students
to high-graduation-rate four-year colleges and universities*

Opening the Door to Transfer at Highly Selective Private Institutions

NISTS Virtual Conference | February 1, 2023



Today's Agenda

- Our Work and Community College Transfer to Four-Year Institutions
- The Community College Transfer Landscape at High-Graduation-Rate Four-Year Institutions
- A Transfer Model for Community College Students to Highly Selective Institutions I

Transfer Scholars Network

- Strategies to Build an Ecosystem Devoted to Highly Selective Transfer

Today's Agenda

Our Work and Community College Transfer to Four-Year Institutions

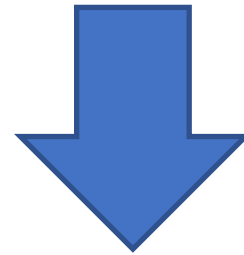
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CEP's Mission: Improving student outcomes through leadership & research

**COLLEGE
EXCELLENCE
PROGRAM**
aspen institute



**UNLOCKING
OPPORTUNITY**
aspen institute

CCRC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RESEARCH CENTER
TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**ASPEN PRESIDENTIAL
FELLOWSHIP**
aspen institute



Current Transfer Initiatives

Transfer Playbook and Tracking Transfer

LEARN MORE →

Transfer Intensive

LEARN MORE →

Transfer Scholars Network

LEARN MORE →

Past Transfer Projects

Tackling Transfer: Supporting Effective Practice in 3 States

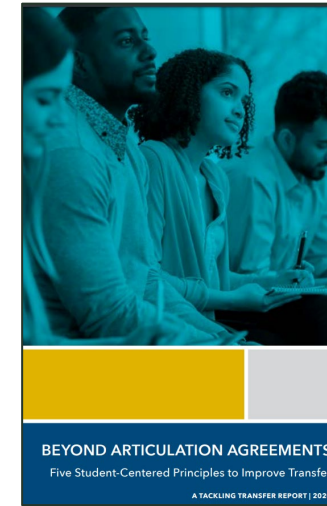
LEARN MORE →

Transfer Workshop Convening Guide

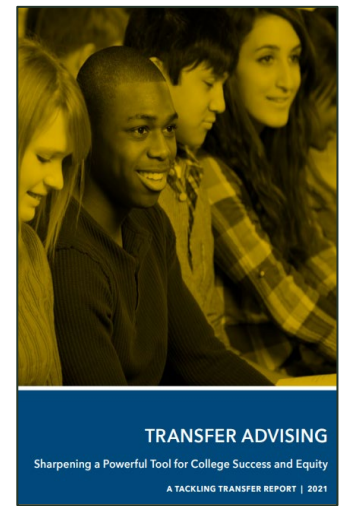
LEARN MORE →

Talent Blind Spot: Research from the American Talent Initiative

LEARN MORE →



BEYOND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS
Five Student-Centered Principles to Improve Transfer
A TACKLING TRANSFER REPORT | 2020



TRANSFER ADVISING
Sharpening a Powerful Tool for College Success and Equity
A TACKLING TRANSFER REPORT | 2021



ENGAGING FACULTY VALUES TO DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE TRANSFER CULTURES
A Toolkit for Transfer Champions
TACKLING TRANSFER REPORT | 2021

Access our publications and additional resources at highered.aspeninstitute.org

Coming soon:
Tracking Transfer & Transfer Playbook 2.0

COLLEGE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
CCRC COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER

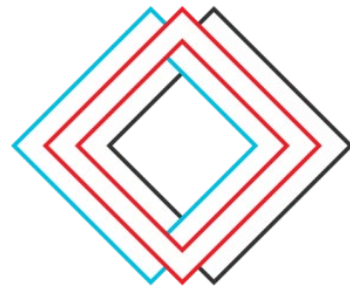
#TransferMeansMore

Bloomberg
Philanthropies

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Bringing Together a Uniquely
Diverse Alliance



AMERICAN
TALENT
INITIATIVE

ATTRACT ENROLL GRADUATE
50,000
more lower-income students by 2025

137 ATI Members

High-Graduation-Rate
Institutions

Four-year colleges and universities with
six-year graduation rates above 70%

337 ATI-eligible institutions in the US

41% of ATI-eligible institutions are currently
in the membership

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The transfer process often fails to serve students....

80%

of community college students
want a **bachelor's degree**



31%

of community college students
transfer to a **four-year institution**



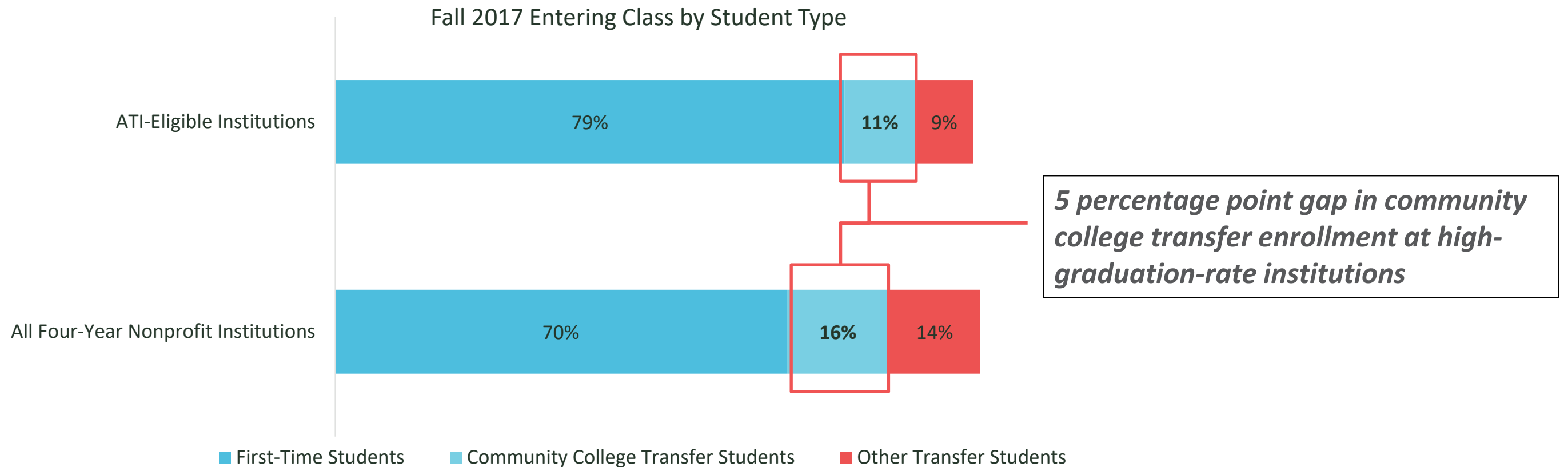
15%

of community college students
will **graduate with a bachelor's degree**
within six years of starting college



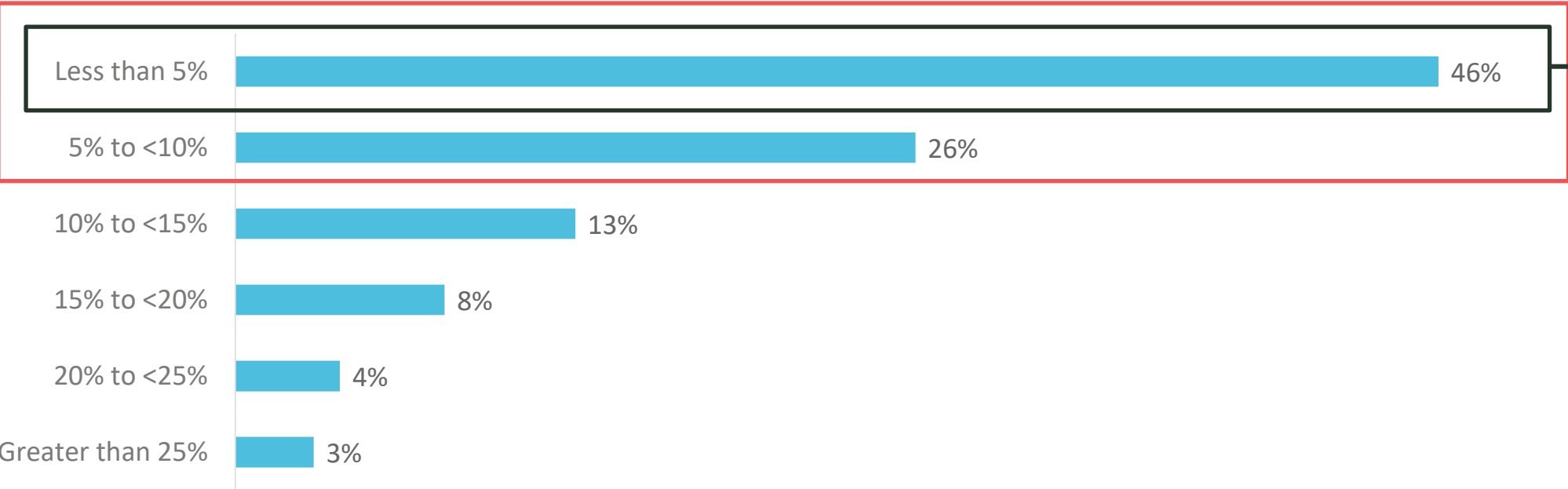
**...few community college transfers
complete their four-year degrees**

The transfer pipeline is particularly narrow at institutions where students are best positioned to graduate



Collectively, ATI schools enroll more freshmen and fewer transfers than the national average

ATI Institutions by Share of Incoming Student Cohort Who Are Transfer Students

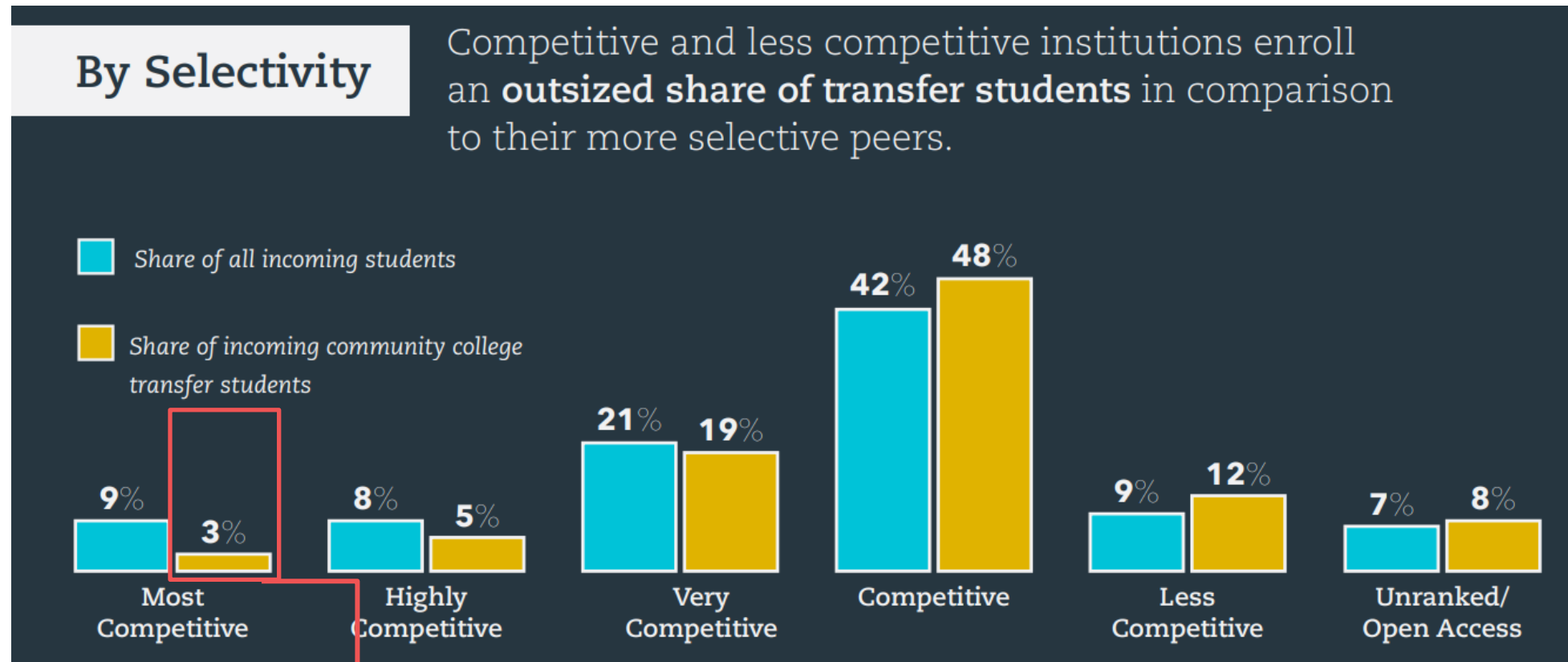


Almost half (46%) of ATI schools have incoming classes that are <5% transfer students.

Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ (72%) of ATI schools have incoming classes that are <10% transfer students.

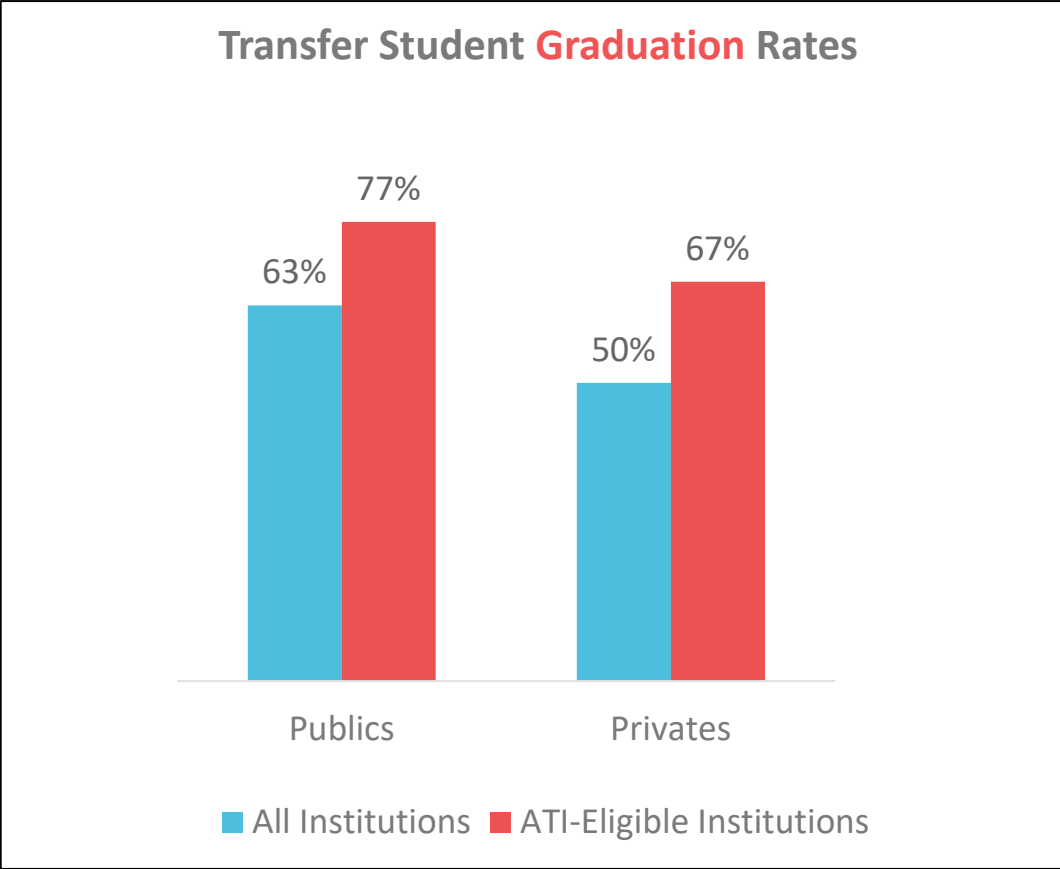
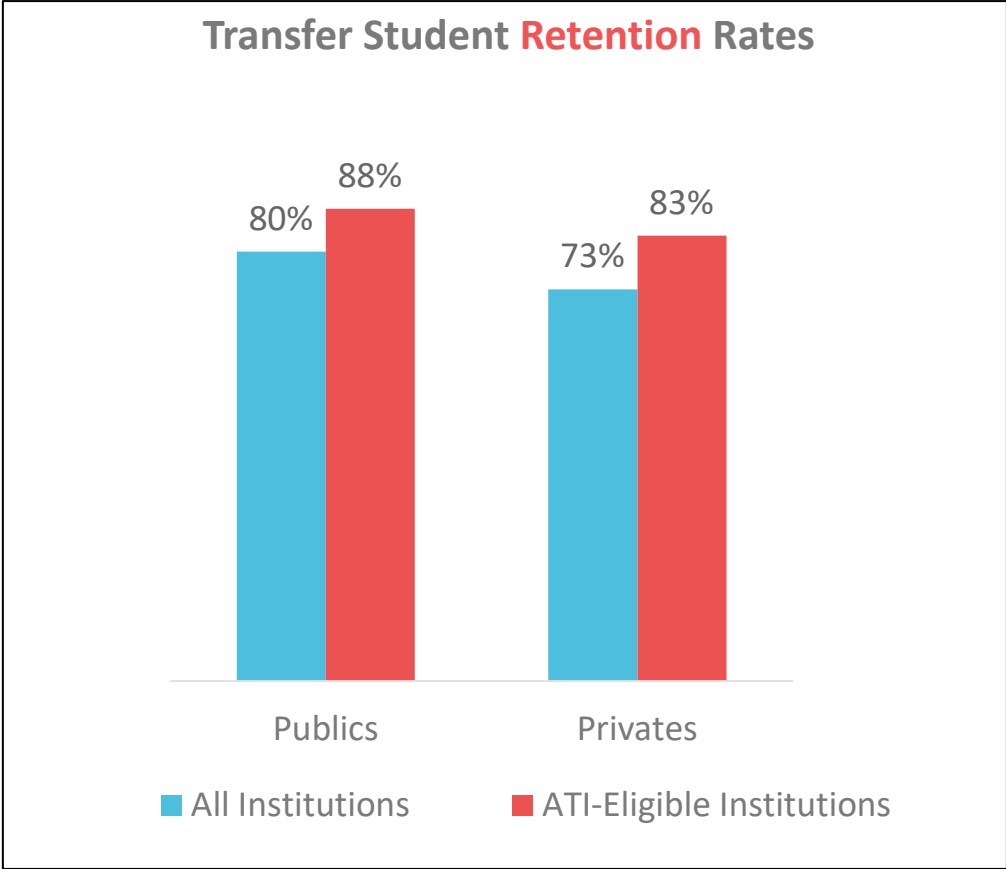
Source: ATI analyses of National Student Clearinghouse data for the Fall 2017 cohort

Private, highly selective colleges have the most ground to make up—and the greatest opportunity—to enroll community college transfers



Just 3% of the Fall 2017 transfer cohort enrolled at the most highly selective colleges and universities

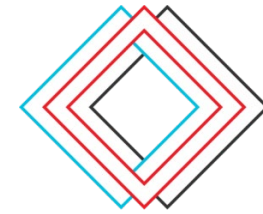
Private, high-graduation-rate colleges can also drastically improve graduation rates for community college transfers



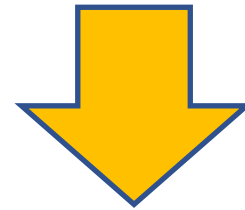
Source: ATI analyses of National Student Clearinghouse data for the Fall 2014 transfer cohort

How do we support more students transferring to high-graduation-rate institutions?

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transfer
scholars
network



Partner with community colleges to ensure talented community college students not only transfer upward but attain bachelor's degrees critical to accessing the jobs of the future.



Leverage the collective wisdom of institutions across the higher education spectrum to broaden postsecondary possibilities for community college students and create a seamless, comprehensive pipeline to highly selective colleges they once dreamed of.

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A Transfer Model for Community College Students to Highly Selective Institutions I

Transfer Scholars Network

- Strategies to Build an Ecosystem Devoted to Highly Selective Transfer

The Transfer Scholars Network:

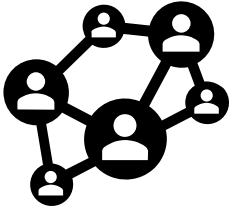
HOW DOES IT WORK?



Trusted partners with established relationships with both community colleges and highly selective institutions...



...can build the network needed to create a pool of high-achieving prospective transfers, laying the groundwork for...



*...a **student-facing online platform** directly connecting four-year institutions to prospective transfer applicants competitive for admission*

Highlighting The Possibilities

Alumni from Year 1 of the Transfer Scholars Network



“Being nominated for TSN opened my eyes to a wealth of opportunities, including applying to a four-year institution that I never thought about.”

Evelyn de la Rosa

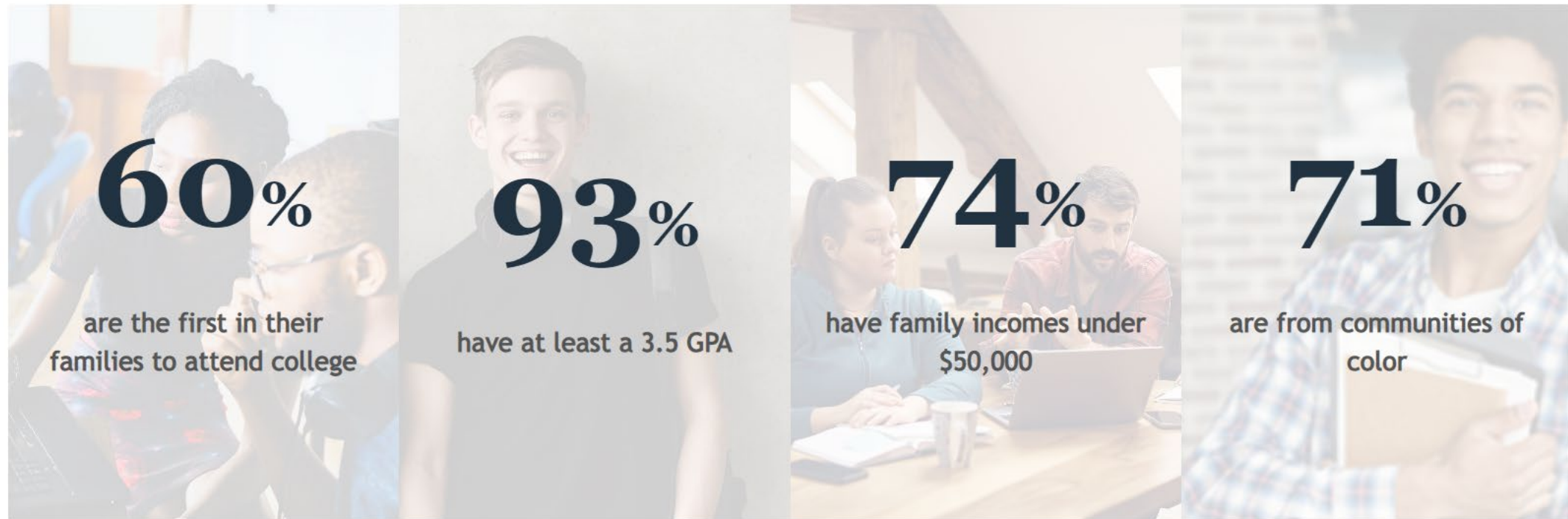
“I had an opportunity to learn about colleges I’d never heard of and talk directly with their admissions officers, allowing me to consider colleges I previously assumed would be out of reach.”

Meelod Waheed

The Transfer Scholars Network

Who Are They?

The Transfer Scholars



Highlighting The Possibilities

Four-Year Destinations for Transfer Students

TSN Partners



Cornell University



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

MOUNT HOLYOKE



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY



Pomona
College



SMITH
COLLEGE

Williams

Yale

High-Graduation-Rate Institutions



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY



Georgia
Tech



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY



NYU

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin



TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

WELLESLEY
W

TSN's Aims in Our Early Years

Stage I

Build the Blueprint

2019 – 2020



Convene community colleges, highly selective ATI institutions, and partners to understand the resources and supports needed to create a transfer system

Stage II

Launch the Model

2021 – 2022



Run a closed-door pilot to obtain “proof of concept” for the model, refine it to address partner and student needs, and launch a network of students

Stage III

Sustain the Network

2023 and beyond

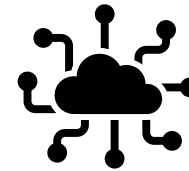


Solidify a model and associated activities that a growing number of institutional partners can embed in their recruitment, admissions, and completion strategies

Stage I: Building the Blueprint for TSN



We convened 20 nationally-recognized community college and four-year leaders to **tackle two questions:**



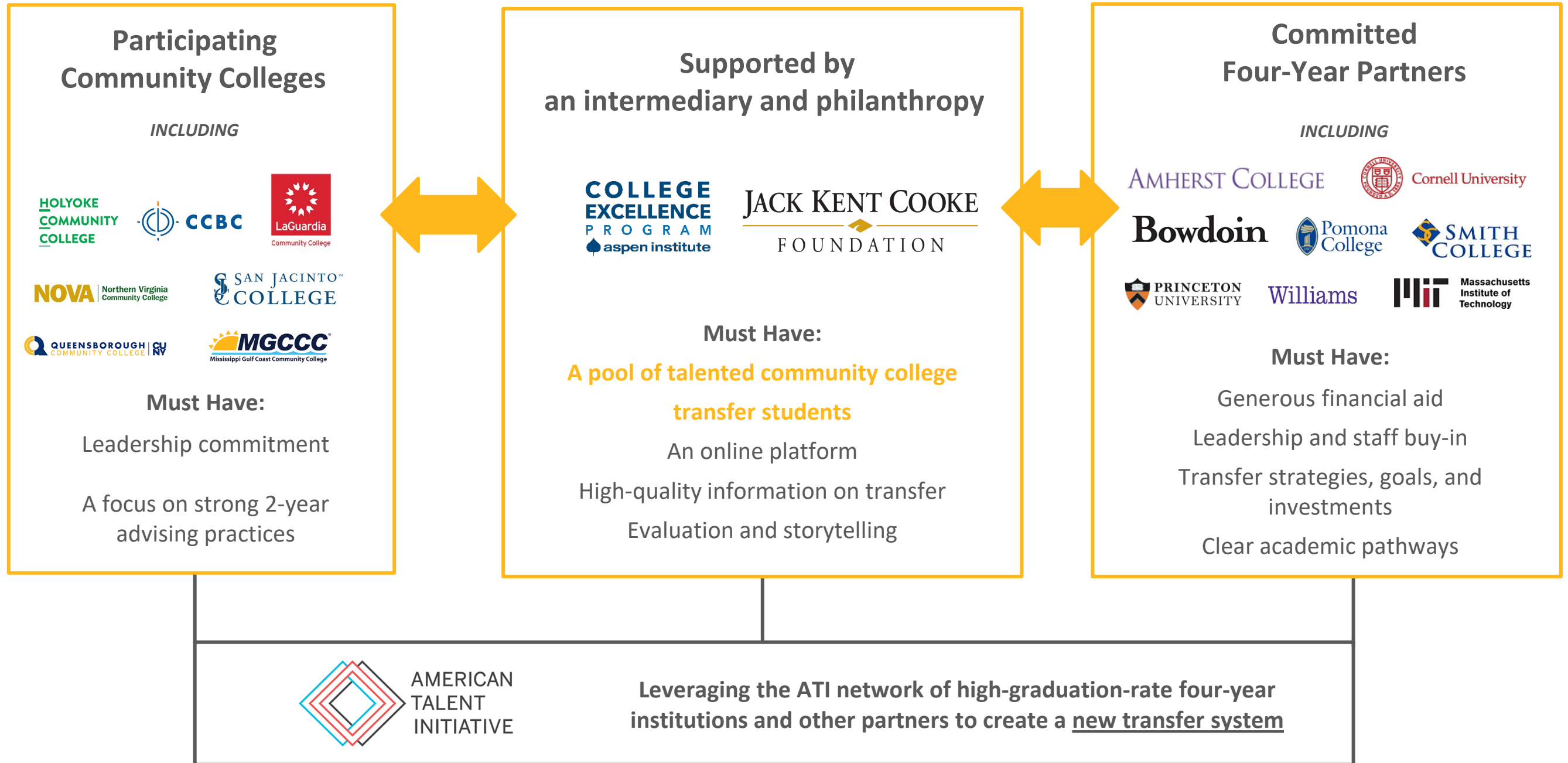
How would a new transfer system help **connect more** community college students to selective institutions?



How would this new system help **expand transfer pipelines across participating partners** and elevate the importance of transfer more broadly?

*Snapshots from the October 2019 National Planning Summit
The Aspen Institute, Washington, DC*

Where we landed...



TSN's Aims in Our Early Years

Stage I

Build the Blueprint

2019 – 2020



Convene community colleges, ATI institutions, and partners to understand the resources and supports needed to create a transfer pipeline and system

Stage II

Launch the Model

2021 – 2022

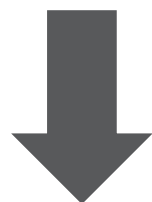


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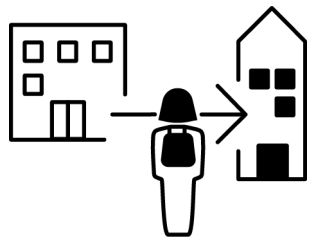


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Major Components of the Transfer Scholars Network

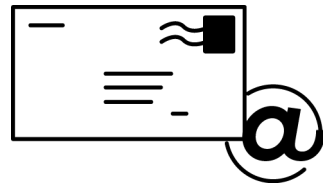
1

TSN partners work together to **identify prospective transfers** with demonstrated financial need that have the academic credentials and diverse experiences to thrive at (and enrich) highly selective institutions



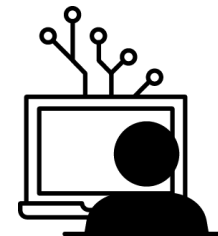
2

Community college partners **execute a student nomination campaign**, rooted in evidence that early, proactive outreach to community college students can seed their interest in transfer to high-graduation-rate colleges and universities, especially institutions that offer substantial financial aid.



3

Students join TSN via an online platform, where they submit demographic and academic information and are **instantly connected to senior four-year admissions leaders** early in the admission process.



TSN Eligibility and Nominating Criteria

Points of contact at participating community colleges will identify students with the following criteria:



A minimum 3.5 GPA



A minimum of 15-30 credits for first-year students and 30-60 credits for second-year students



Intent to apply for transfer admission after associate completion and transfer-ready based on their educational journey



Adjusted gross family income or personal income of <\$100,000



Holistic record of achievement (e.g., extracurricular activities, leadership, volunteer service, resilience, life experience)



No previously documented attendance or enrollment at a four-year institution

*With these criteria in mind, the students that make up the Transfer Scholars Network will not only be **well-positioned to thrive at any four-year institution**, but...*

*... **ideally reflect the diversity we see at community colleges across the country**, spanning socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, age, and professional/life experiences.*

Stage II: Launching the Model

Four Core Accomplishments Through the TSN Pilot

1

Established a network of...

10 Aspen Prize and leading community colleges

14 Four-year ATI member institutions

2

Obtained proof of concept...

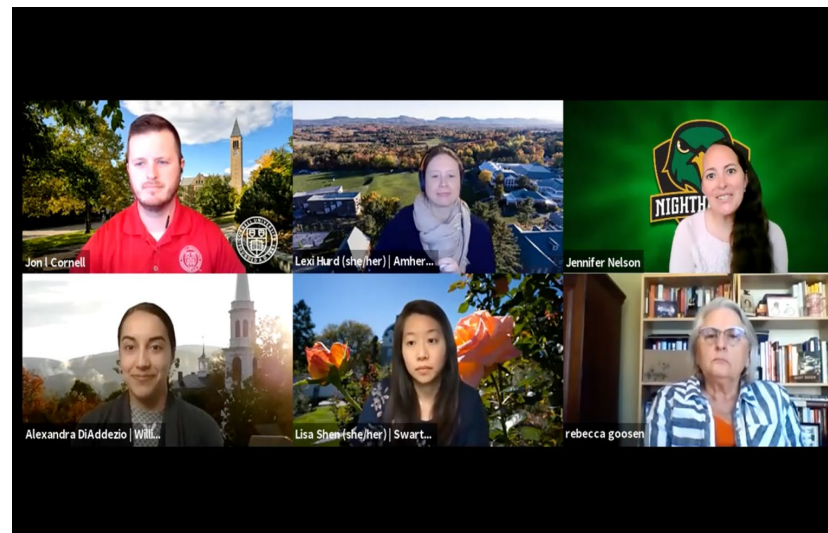
120 TSN students applied to four-year partners

115 enrolled at high-graduation-rate institutions

20% enrolled at four-year partners

3

Solidified the network through partner and student engagements



4

Generated results that led to national press...

Forbes

**The
Boston
Globe**

**INSIDE
HIGHER ED**



THE HECHINGER REPORT

INSIGHT *Into Diversity®*

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Strategies to Build an Ecosystem Devoted to Highly Selective Transfer

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Four Lessons Learned from Students and Partners







- **Early outreach matters;** engage students as early as possible in the transfer process
- **Tap into growing interest among highly selective institutions;** identify and engage transfer-specific staff, speaking to enrollment and equity opportunities
- **Lead with affordability-focused messaging;** highly selectives are often cheaper since they meet full demonstrated need
- **Tailor resources/tools and special engagements to biggest barriers to transfer**
 - *Fit/belonging at transfer destinations*
 - *Credit transfer policies*
 - *Transfer admission and major advising*

TSN Tips and Tools

Welcome to the Transfer Scholars Network! We look forward to supporting you throughout the transfer admissions process. To get you started, we're excited to share TSN-exclusive resources with more information about our four-year partners, application tips, and an inside look into the transfer student experience. We'll continue to update this "resource hub" over the next year with more webinar recordings and informational materials. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@transferscholars.org.

Fall 2022 Four-Year Partner Profiles

Includes institution-by-institution information on transfer admissions requirements, financial aid, the transfer student experience, and career opportunities.

 View Profile	 View Profile	 View Profile
 View Profile	 View Profile	 View Profile

Transfer Planning Map

CONGRATULATIONS!
You've been nominated to the Transfer Scholars Network, an initiative seeking to connect you to 13 of the most selective colleges and universities in the country. Your community college staff and faculty are confident you can excel and graduate at these institutions.

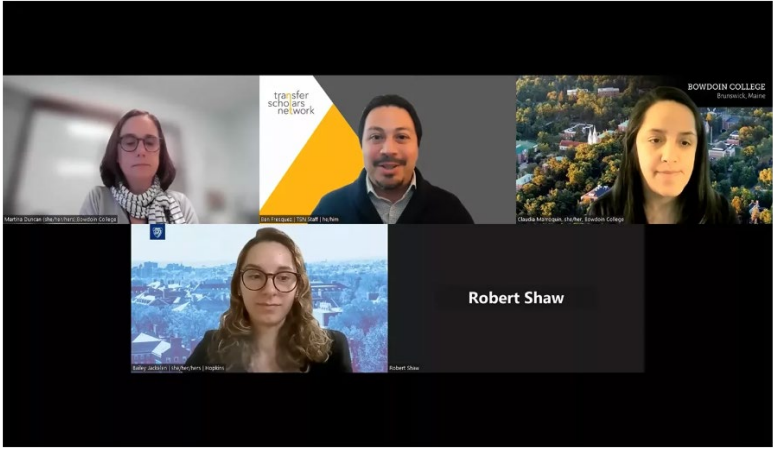
What next?
We know the transfer process can seem complicated and there are many institutions to consider, including those in TSN. We've mapped a five-part journey for you to follow over the next few months.

- 01 Broaden your transfer options**
Consider what you're looking for: a small liberal arts campus, a STEM program, or a public university with a big transfer-student body. Crosswalk your academic, extracurricular, and professional interests with the many four-year colleges out there, including programs especially designed for transfer students at TSN schools.
- 02 Ensure your courses are aligned and transfer-ready**
Evaluate credit transfer guidelines at each four-year college you're interested in. Work with your community college advisor to determine the courses that would apply to the major degree program you're looking to pursue. Consider rigor (like honors courses) and relevance as you explore a variety of academic pathways—and make sure they are transfer-specific and transfer-friendly.
- 03 Engage directly with admissions leaders**
Build connections with admissions staff at webinars they host for transfer students. Come prepared with institution-specific questions about admissions, financial aid, or the student experience. TSN also will host exclusive opportunities to meet and learn from our four-year partners.
- 04 Get a first-hand perspective of the transfer student experience**
Even if you're unable to visit the campus, many colleges and TSN partners offer virtual tours and in-depth webinars about campus life. Ask about connecting with current transfer students or transfer ambassadors, including transfer students from your community college to get a reliable perspective.
- 05 Pay attention to application deadlines**
Once you identify schools you're interested in, keep their application deadlines front and center. You'll also want to pay attention to deadlines for financial aid and other key application materials (like transcripts).

transfer scholars network

DECEMBER 2022 CREDIT TRANSFER OVERVIEW

Informational webinar from senior leaders at Bowdoin College and Johns Hopkins University about how to navigate the credit transfer process.



Full Webinar

How do COMMUNITY COLLEGES make the case to highly selective institutions?

- **The high school senior population is shrinking nationwide;** community college transfers represent an alternative pipeline of talented students ready to thrive and make an impact
- **We need to produce more graduates with bachelor's degrees to fill the jobs of the future;** community college transfers are just as well-positioned as first-time, full-time peers to graduate
- **Transfers can have a transformational impact on your campus;** community college transfers are poised to assume leadership positions and offer diverse perspectives that support a culture of belonging and widespread student success
- **Community college transfer presents an opportunity to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities;** students are more likely to be older and hail from lower-income and underrepresented backgrounds

Emerging Partnerships

What happens when it works?



- Launched first-ever informational webinars for San Jacinto students
- Sponsored fly-ins and other admissions opportunities for admitted San Jacinto students
- Regular engagement and communication among admissions officers



- Pomona admitted first student from NOVA in its history
- *That student is one of the first-ever community college admits to Pomona***
- Admissions officers co-host workshops and informational webinars



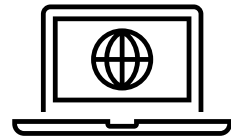
- Began “orientation webinar” series for interested Broward College students
- Exploring regular virtual engagements
- More students are considering destinations outside the region, sparking deeper collaboration with other partners in the network

What's Next for TSN?

- **Expanding the network;** engage additional community colleges and four-year institutions nationwide
- **Sponsoring more community college–highly selective engagements;** host strategy-focused and practice-sharing webinars, and potentially in-person events around issues of interest
- **Supporting more equitable transfer practice;** develop shared resources and guidelines to inspire effective credit transfer and ensure transfer student belonging
- **Introducing dedicated advising;** supplement institutional support of TSN students with insights and counsel from external experts

Questions?

Share your reflections in the Zoom chat



Visit TSN at

transferscholars.org



or email us at

info@transferscholars.org

NISTS 2023

BE A **CONNECTOR**
FOR **TRANSFER STUDENT**
SUCCESS

Thank you
for attending!

**PLEASE COMPLETE
A SESSION EVALUATION**

(via the conference app)

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2863