

NISTS 2022

FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF TRANSFER
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Research Spotlight

2391 - Barriers to Transfer: Articulation Agreements and Partnerships Pave the Way for an Inclusive Transfer Culture

Partnerships and Collaboration, Credits and Degree Pathways

Articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions are one of the biggest enhancements needed to ease the transition for students moving between institutions and help students complete baccalaureate degrees by maximizing the transfer of credits in order to meet degree requirements. This session details an action research study that resulted in faculty at a four-year liberal arts institution collaborating to create a guide for creating and maintaining articulation agreements with two-year technical colleges.

Kristin Brooks, *Director of Student Success*

Columbia College SC

A red banner with a large black 'N' and the text 'Northeastern University' is mounted on a black pole. The banner is set against a background of green foliage.

Northeastern
University

**Barriers to Transfer: Articulation
Agreements and Partnerships Pave the
Way for an Inclusive Transfer Culture**

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Order of Presentation

- » Introduction
- » Action Research
- » Research Site
- » Problem, Purpose, and Research Question(s)
- » Participants/Collaborators/Stakeholders
- » Results
- » Implications
- » Questions
- » Participant Activity



INTRODUCTION

- > Community and technical colleges increase access to higher education. 48.5% of African American students and 51.4% of Hispanic students are more likely to enroll in a two-year institution (Shapiro et al, 2018) due to affordability, discrimination, social disadvantages, and high school preparation (Bragg, Kim & Barnett 2006) precluding them from initially attending a four-year institution.
- > Articulation agreements between institutions have been identified as one of the biggest enhancements needed to ease the transition for students moving between multiple institutions and help students complete baccalaureate degrees by maximizing the transfer of credits to meet degree requirements (Shapiro et al., 2017).



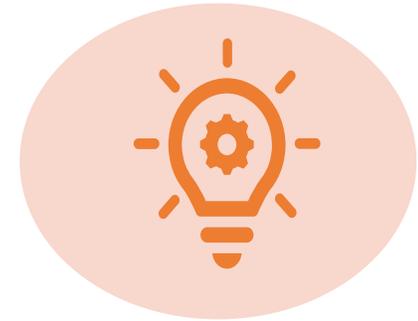
Action Research



ACTION RESEARCH IS A METHOD USED TO INCITE CHANGE IN A COMMUNITY, ORGANIZATION, OR INSTITUTION.

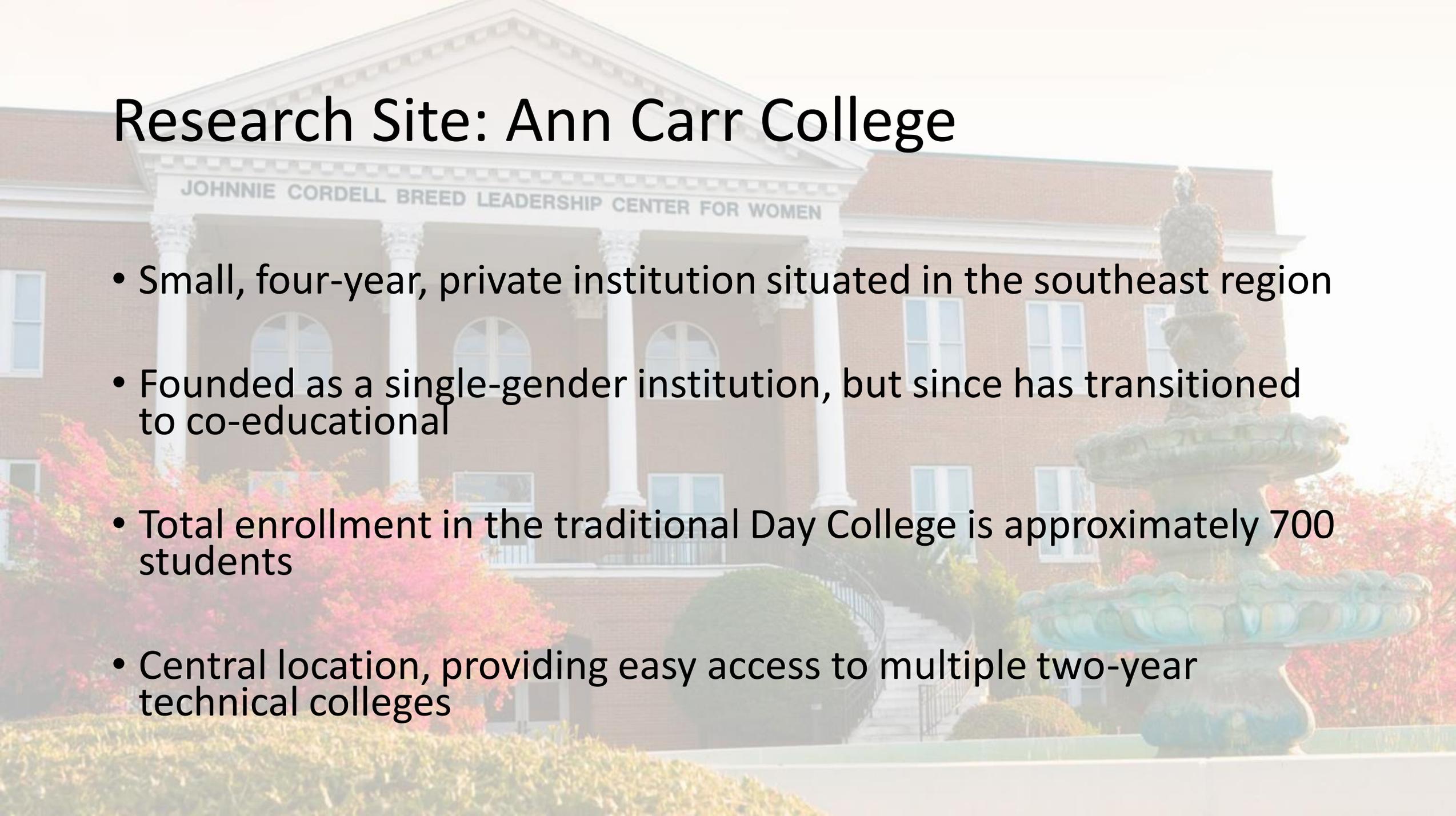


“ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH NEW UNDERSTANDING OF AN ISSUE THEY HAVE DEFINED AS SIGNIFICANT AND THE MEANS FOR TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION” (STRINGER, 2014, P. 61).



THE PROCESS AND PRACTICES ARE COLLABORATIVE, REFLEXIVE, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING DRIVEN, WHICH RESULTS IN IMPROVED PRACTICES AND NEW KNOWLEDGE.

Research Site: Ann Carr College

The background image shows a large, classical-style brick building with a prominent portico supported by white columns. Above the columns, the text "JOHNNIE CORDELL BREED LEADERSHIP CENTER FOR WOMEN" is visible. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate, multi-tiered fountain with a central statue. The scene is set outdoors with some greenery and a clear sky.

- Small, four-year, private institution situated in the southeast region
- Founded as a single-gender institution, but since has transitioned to co-educational
- Total enrollment in the traditional Day College is approximately 700 students
- Central location, providing easy access to multiple two-year technical colleges

Problem, Purpose, and Research Questions

> Problem:

- » Transfer students have an expectation to finish a bachelor's degree program in the industry standard, four years. However, technical college students transferring to Ann Carr College spend additional time, due to poor articulation agreements and weak partnerships, obtaining a bachelor's degree causing increased student indebtedness.

> Purpose:

- » The purpose of this Action Research study is to examine the importance of articulation agreements and partnerships to improve academic partnerships with surrounding technical colleges and strengthen articulation agreements, ensuring all technical college transfers graduate with a baccalaureate degree in the industry standard at Ann Carr College.

> Research Questions:

- » How is Ann Carr College attracting technical college students?
- » Who is responsible for building partnerships, and maintaining and implementing articulation agreements?
- » What articulation agreements would be the most beneficial to initially consider for creation or revision?



Participants/Collaborators/Stakeholders

Participants

- Current transfer students
- Seven faculty advisors
- Three presidents
- Transfer Admissions Counselor

Collaborators

- Registrar
- Assistant Registrar
- Provost
- Academic Deans

• Stakeholders

- All transfer students
- Full-time faculty
- Two and four-year college administrators
- Technical College System Partnership Division
- Board of Trustees



Results

Cycle 1 Quotes

“This is where a lot of institutions, um, fall short. Um, and if you're gonna do transfer, you have to have a specific strategy for transfer admissions, and that's both the marketing of them cause it's different, different kinds of student, different kinds of message.”

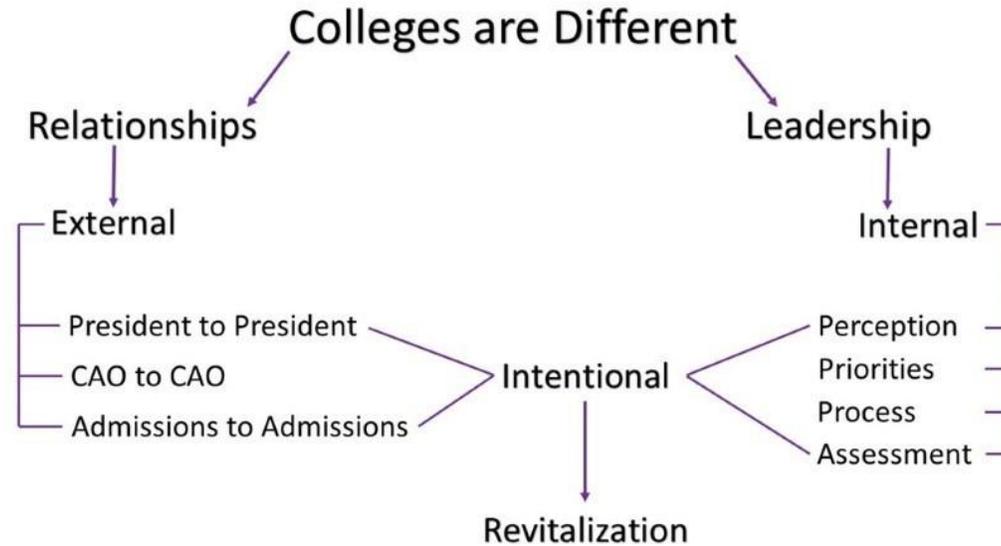
“You're either transfer friendly or you're not, and I don't think we're very transfer friendly. So that's an area that needs to be enhanced.”

Results

Cycle 1 Findings

Figure 1

Network



Data display depicting emerging themes in Cycle 1.

Results

Cycle 2 Quotes

“I really didn’t feel like I had anyone that I could kind of go to and work with through the process.”

“I did follow-up several times, and I don’t really know whatever happened to it.”

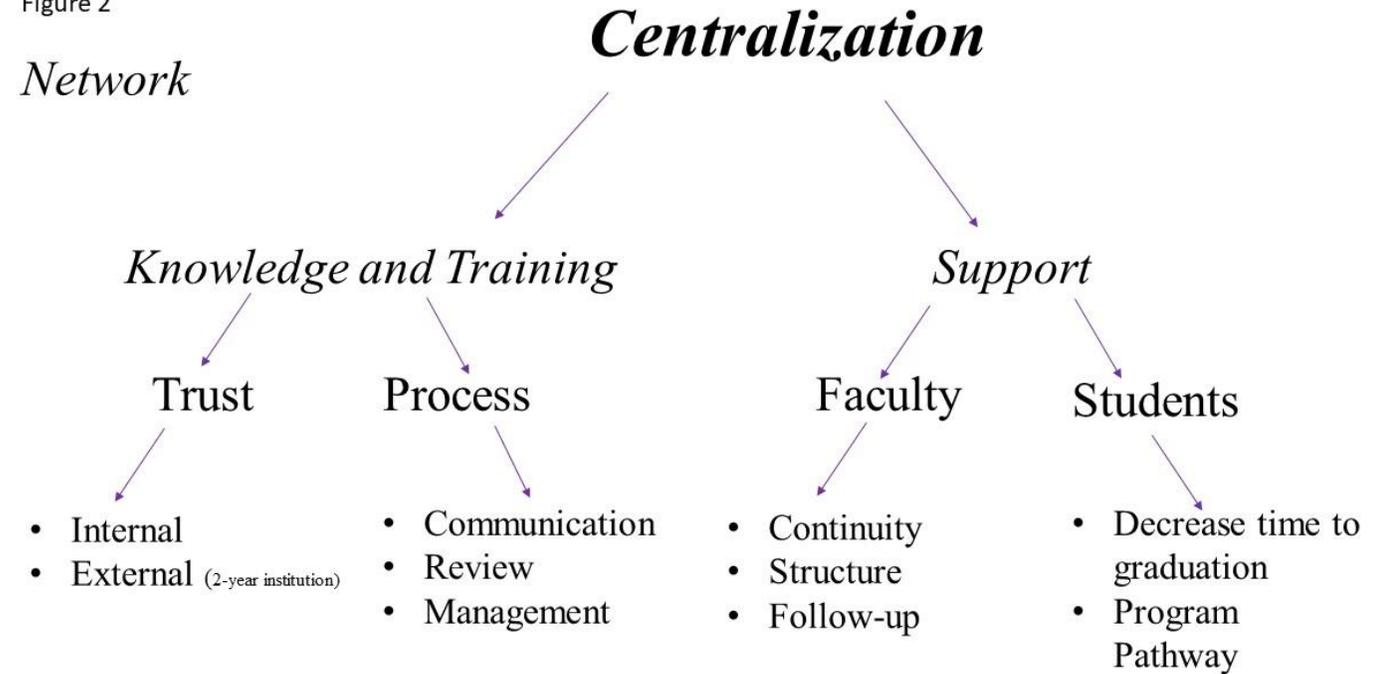
“I felt previously like it [the articulation agreement process] was very willy-nilly.”

“We should at least know where it [articulation agreements and the process] lives or, or the genesis of it, and we don’t.”

Results

Cycle 2 Findings

Figure 2



Data display depicting emerging themes in Cycle 2.

What are the Implications for Practice?

- » There are two major implications for practice:
 - » Transfer students coming to Ann Carr College and their faculty advisors will better understand articulation agreements and transfer credits, decreasing both time to graduation and student debt.
 - » Study fills a gap in transfer research, providing more awareness to and data for practitioners interested in vertical transfer between technical colleges and four-year, private, liberal arts institutions.
- » A better understanding of transfer and transfer barriers will create a more inclusive transfer culture at Ann Carr College driven by faculty advisors and transfer students.

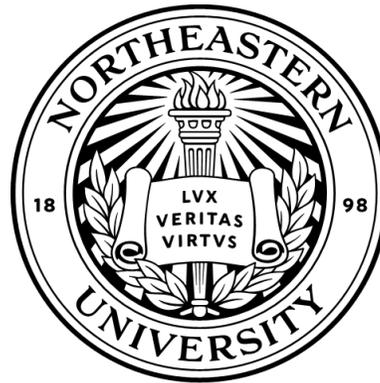


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- Shapiro, D., Dundar, A., Huie, F., Wakhungu, P.K., Yuan, X., Nathan, A. & Hwang, Y. (2017). Tracking transfer: Measures of effectiveness in helping community college students to complete bachelor's degrees (Signature Report No. 13). Herndon, VA: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.
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QUESTIONS



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Participant Activity

1. Describe the process for creation and implementation of articulation agreements at your institution.
 - » Who is responsible for the process?
2. What are some of the successes of this process?
3. What are some of the challenges associated with this process?
4. What would you enhance or change about this process?