Research Spotlight

3001 - Outmigration No More: Building Transfer Pathways to Meet the Needs of Rural Students and Communities
Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

Drawing on new research, this session will share lessons for building transfer pathways from rural community colleges that connect students to careers needed in their hometowns. The lead researcher will share an overview of three rural transfer pathways identified in the report. Leaders who have built these transfer pathways will share lessons from their programs in a moderated conversation. The session will end with audience Q&A.

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Outmigration No More: Building Transfer Pathways to Meet the Needs of Rural Students and Communities

NISTS Conference

February 2022
Today’s Session

• Introductions
• Overview of Aspen’s “Rural Transfer Pathways” report
• Conversation with Transfer Leaders
• Q&A
Tell Us a Little About You

Go to slido.com on your phone or computer. Enter #ruraltransfer.

OR

Scan the QR code that will appear when we switch screens.

OR

Paste this link into your browser: https://app.sli.do/event/nEbyBJ5Ka5hDpi6SjQ2i8G/live/polls
Rural Transfer Pathways

Overview of the latest Aspen research

About the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program
Outmigration and Bachelor’s Education

Students from urban and rural schools enroll in college at similar rates\(^1\)

- Urban: 62%
- Rural: 62%

Students from rural schools graduate from college at higher rates\(^1\)

- Urban: 36%
- Rural: 41%

But rural areas have fewer bachelor’s degree holders than urban ones\(^2\)

- Urban: 33%
- Rural: 19%

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1: College enrollment rates and 6-year college completion rates are from the National Student Clearinghouse High School Benchmark Reports for 2020, 2019, and 2018. We’ve averaged the last three years of available data, excluding data for the graduating class of 2020 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Linking Transfer to Rural Community Needs

Many Rural Students Want Bachelor’s Degrees

- Of entering students at rural community colleges transfer to 4-year institutions: 30%
- Of those who transfer complete a bachelor’s degree within 6 years of starting college: 45%

Many Rural Communities Have Bachelor’s-Level Workforce Needs

- 9% work in agriculture
- 12% work in manufacturing
- 22% work in education and health services

And opportunities in many other fields: agriculture, business, construction technology, criminal justice, cybersecurity, early childhood and K-12 education, fire science, food and animal production, health care, IT, manufacturing, social work—and even colleges themselves.

1: Aspen calculations of 3-year averages from the latest National Student Clearinghouse reports.
2: A Complex Portrait of Rural America, City Lab, December 8, 2016.
Three Considerations for Rural Transfer Pathways

- Rural workforce needs
- Rural geography
- Rural wealth and college-going culture
Align transfer pathways with local workforce needs

When local workforce needs aren’t considered...

- No link from bachelor’s degree to local careers
- Students unable to secure related job back home
- Outmigration

Practices to align transfer with workforce needs

- Ensure courses and programs that overlap with the needs of local labor markets
- Think locally...and regionally
- Offer work-based experiences, job placements, and financial incentives to return home
Address geographic reality of rural students

Features of rural geography that impact transfer:

• Education deserts
• Lack of transportation
• Hesitation to leave communities

Practices to address rural geography

• Transfer pathways don’t have to require a departure from the community! Consider on-site programs at community colleges and other community spaces.
• Maintain student’s connections to the community college and/or their home community even after they’ve transferred.
Make the pathway to earning a bachelor’s degree convenient and affordable

Features of rural wealth and college-going culture that impact transfer:
- Poverty levels
- Real and perceived unaffordability of college and value of a bachelor’s degree
- Distrust of higher education

Practices to make pathways convenient and affordable
- Incorporate dual enrollment coursework into transfer pathways
- Identify affordable four-year partners
- Offset costs of higher tuition and additional living expenses for students completing a traditional transfer journey via discounted pricing, scholarships, and financial incentives to return home
Three Rural Transfer Pathways

1. Partnership-Enabled On-Site Delivery Pathways

Students complete the entire four-year program at the community college campus. Faculty from the four-year school deliver upper-division coursework on-site at rural community colleges, and/or community college faculty deliver programs as adjuncts employed by the four-year partner.

2. Locally Assisted Online Pathways

Students begin programs at the community college. The community college partners with four-year schools that offer online programs in local market-aligned fields. Students transfer to the online programs to complete their bachelor’s degree programs. While students complete upper-level coursework online, they can still access resources at the community college campus, such as the library, computer lab, and advising services.

3. Return Migration Pathways

Students begin programs at the community college. Students complete a "traditional" transfer path; they move on to the four-year institution for their upper-division coursework. The partnering institutions intentionally build the programs to align with local workforce needs by collaborating with employers, who also provide students with work-based experiences in their home communities.
Lessons from the Field

A Conversation with Creators of Innovative Rural Transfer Pathways
Participating in BOLD
Far North – At a Glance

- 10,000 Square Miles
- 255,689 pop.
- 31.2% Some College, No Degree
BOLD: Bachelor’s through Online and Local Degrees
Information about reputable, affordable university options for completing your Bachelor’s without leaving home, including four year pathway maps AND A Shasta College support program for students who are pursuing their Bachelor’s degree locally or online
**BOLD Supports: Online STU classes**

Navigate your university and career pathway through four 1-unit Shasta College Student Development classes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bachelor’s degree courses</th>
<th>Shasta College STU courses</th>
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<td>BA/BS courses</td>
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<td>STU 40: Getting Connected to Your University</td>
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<td>STU 41: Career Focus</td>
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<td>STU 45: Graduate/ Professional School Success</td>
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BOLD Supports: Shasta College Resources

Enrollment in BOLD STU classes gives you access to Shasta College resources:

• Library
• Tutoring resources
• Computer labs
• High Speed Internet
• Health Center
• Dedicated BOLD program staff
• Connection to Cohort Programs
Associate of Science – Teacher Education Concentration

Return Migration Pathway
Johnston Community College, Smithfield NC
Carla Stafford, Education Faculty
Key Features and Benefits

➢ Targets first generation college students
➢ Seamless process reduces barriers to completion
➢ Collaboration meetings between high school, community college and university advisors
   ➢ Course plan and schedule, dual credit courses, transfer courses
➢ Free college courses completed during junior and senior year of high school
➢ 3rd year of community college courses before transferring to NC State University
Students will...

• Be accepted into teacher education program at NC State if you complete the associate’s degree with at least a 3.0 GPA
• Access to additional scholarships at NC State
• Take convenient and flexible classes, including completing courses online
• Gain a foot in the door for employment with Johnston County Public Schools
• Receive field-based experiences in Johnston County
• Have access to a graduate assistant coordinator and an academic advisor at NC State
• Get a head start on the NC State experience (access to student events and perks)
Where did we grow from there?

- Now available to
  - all Career and College Promise (high school) students with Johnston County Public Schools
  - All traditional Johnston Community College Students
- Served as a model for statewide development of Teacher Preparation Degree options within the NC Community College System
Questions? It’s time for Q&A.

Feel free to type your question into the chat or use the “raise hand” function to let us know you’d like to come off mute.
Thank You!

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