Educational Session

2753 - The Power of Storytelling: How a Transfer Art Contest and Gallery Focused on Resilience Builds Belonging Across Campus

Partnerships and Collaboration, Diversity and Inclusion

How do we honor diversity while simultaneously educating the campus on the transfer experience? Within this session, we’ll share the inception of the Transfer Storytellers Contest and Gallery - an art competition where students explored their resiliency and identity. We will share how we engaged faculty and staff as they acted as coaches, judges, and Gallery viewers. Participants will brainstorm ways of incorporating self-reflection practices to promote resiliency and identity exploration for their transfers.

Jaclyn Duerr, Program Manager, Transfer Student Success
University of California, San Diego
The Power of Storytelling

How a Transfer Art Contest and Gallery Focused on Resilience and Identity Builds Belonging and Engagement Across Campus
Hello! My name is Jackie

New Yorker in spirit, California girl at heart

Former transfer student!

Program Manager for Transfer Student Success @ UC San Diego
Hold the phone

Literally.

Search the web for a visual or audio representation of a key moment in your life where you showcased resilience.
Hold the phone

LITERALLY.

What can a visual or audio depiction of our story do that sometimes we cannot do just on our own?
Learning Outcomes

Individuals who attend this session will be able to:

- Apply critical questions to identify restorative practices which promote self-authorship to enhance transfer student resilience
- Create a new strategy for engaging transfer students in self reflection
- Utilize self reflection and storytelling as a focal point to increase retention and belonging
- Identify innovative ways to engage faculty and staff in the transfer student experience
A little about UC San Diego

1 in 3 incoming undergrads are transfer students.

That means we have about 7,900 transfer students!

Our transfer students are the most diverse population on campus.

UC San Diego’s first centralized transfer support, the Triton Transfer Hub, opened its doors in January 2020.

Mission: support students academically, professionally, and personally. Be the best practice for transfer success for the campus.

...and we all know what happened in March 2020.
Big questions lead to big ideas...

How can we celebrate the transfer identity, while also educating the campus on the diversity of the transfer experience?

How can we create a culture of care and belonging for transfer students on campus?

How can we celebrate and build resilience?
Inspiration from others

Stanford presents at NACADA ~2016 about resilience through Spoken Word

Stanford, I Screwed Up

Thursday, March 31, 2016 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Meyer Green
Open to Stanford students, faculty and staff.

If it rains, the event will be held at Arrillaga Sports and Recreation Center at Erickson Courts.

"Stanford, I Screwed Up!" is an annual event commemorating and celebrating the 'epic failures' in our lives. Students from across campus come together and share experiences through storytelling, comedy, poetry, song, video, and other creative means.
Triton Transfer Storytellers

Celebrating Resilience and identity Through Art

An art (and writing) contest.
Artwork depicts a story which showcases resilience and identity.
3 winners receive $1,000 scholarships.
Winners and runners up have their art showcased in a virtual gallery*
Overall Goals of Storytellers

Support engagement between students, faculty, staff, & community
Enhance knowledge of diverse transfer student experiences and identities through art
Provide Financial support
Promote restorative practices of reflection, and celebrate resilience
Implement best practices in retention by promoting self-authorships and increasing sense of belonging
Creative Coaches.

Staff and Faculty who were available to students as they helped craft their story into art and words.

Students selected coaches based on interest and specialty.

Writing Coaches.

Writing tutors (students) were provided via direct email connection.
Support engagement between students, staff, faculty, and community

Kickoff event with local artist.

Students receive inspiration on how to share their story.

Open to entire campus community.

Hybrid event.
Enhance knowledge of diverse transfer student experiences and identities through art

Judges.
Staff, Faculty and Students reviewed artwork and synopses.
Rubric was provided to allow for baseline consideration of all works.

Website Gallery.
Emailed & shared with campus community.
Accessible always from homepage.
Provide Financial Support to Participants

Scholarships.

$1,000 available for three winners.

Eligibility:

- Register for competition
- Be enrolled in Winter and Spring
- Transfer student submissions prioritized
Promote Restorative Practices of reflection, and celebrate resilience

Guidebook with key coaching questions provided to coaches.

Reminder emails sent with key reflection questions.

Write-up requires reflection identity and resilience.
Implement best practices in retention by promoting self-authorship and increasing belonging

### Pre/post participant survey:

- Feeling valued
- Feeling of belonging
- Feeling proud of what they had accomplished at UCSD
- Feelings of belief in one’s self through hard times
- Spending more time in self-reflection
- Connection to at least one new faculty or staff member on campus

### What the campus community said…

80% of those who viewed the gallery agreed that they had more knowledge of “the diverse transfer student experience and identities”

“Things like this contest are absolutely the reason I wanted to pursue a career in higher education - connecting with students, hearing their struggles and triumphs, and seeing how college can impact their development is so inspiring to me!” - 2021 Creative Coach
Lessons Learned

The good, the bad, the ugly
It's an art contest, and I'm no artist. Thank god for technology.
Funding

It's tough, but this program is affordable.

We currently run Storytellers on a $3,500 budget.
Working Through Tough Topics

How do we support those who share (or read) stories on mental health experiences?

Resources into the Creative Coach Guidebook.

Counselor is a judge.

Disclaimer on website main page and above all pieces, regardless of theme.
Ok, Your Turn.

How could you use storytelling?

How can you incorporate stories of resilience and identity into your work?

How might you utilize storytelling to inform your campus community about transfer experiences?

How can you utilize art for reflection and self-authorship?
Q&A

Let's connect!

jduerr@ucsd.edu

linkedin.com/in/jackieduerr
PLEASE COMPLETE A SESSION EVALUATION
(via the conference app)

This session's id# is: 2753

Thank you for attending!