Even the most talented community college students sometimes assume attending a highly-selective university is not realistic. From higher tuition to imposter feelings, there are real and perceived barriers that make students discount the possibility of thriving at a research university. This session explores how community colleges and universities can collaborate to ensure that transfer students are able to see themselves at a selective institution - and be themselves once they arrive.

**Jesse Carr**, *Project Coordinator*
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Chelsea Lonsdale**, *Faculty and Director of Writing Center*
Sherry Clippert-DeVogel, *Academic Advisor*
Henry Ford College

**Paige Baker**, *Community Partnerships Manager*
University of Michigan

**Anna Maria Clark**, *Director of TRiO*
Grand Rapids Community College

**June Rayburn**, *Transfer Bridges Fellow*
Grand Rapids Community College and University of Michigan
Building Transfer Bridges

From Community College to a Selective Research University
Presenters:

Jesse Carr, PhD, Project Manager, UM-Ann Arbor, LSA
Sherry Clippert-deVogel, B.Sc., M.Ed., Henry Ford College
Anna Maria Clark, MSW, Grand Rapids Community College
Paige Horsburgh, M.Ed., UM-Ann Arbor, LSA
June Rayburn, GRCC alum & current student at UM-Ann Arbor, LSA
Transfer Bridges to Michigan

- Paid, high-impact learning experiences
- Collaborative advising
- Application support
- Skill-building
- Community and belonging
The “Bridge” Metaphor...
Navigation
On-ramps
Abutments
Toll Booths
Potholes
Traffic
Off-ramps
Merging

- Program begins early and travels with the student
- Multiple points of access
- Load-bearing infrastructure
- Bridges the institutions (not just the students)
ASSESSING THE ON-RAMP ABUTMENT

- Increased internal communications for shared grant outcomes
- Early identification and onboarding to TB2H key to success
  - Fall 2021 student data
- Tracking and documentation of student interest in TB2H
- Smooth, compassionate, intentional hand-offs
Anna Maria Clark

Academic Advisor
TRIO, Student Support Services
Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Rapids, MI
What is missing?

- **An incomplete bridge**: that is the extreme beauty and ingenuity of this particular bridge ... and a perfect metaphor for the collaboration between UM and Grand Rapids Community College

- **Who are our students**: first generation, low-income, non-traditional, GED grads, undocumented, DACA, underrepresented, students of color, refugees, and more

- **What did our students think of the University of Michigan?** An unattainable dream, never mentioned as a possibility, and a perception of not being wanted (for many reasons, real and imagined)
Bridging the Gap

- A visionary Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at UM: Dilip Das
- A friendship that led to collaboration and opened unexpected doors - took guts
- TRIO at Grand Rapids Community College
- Setting the groundwork
- Student issues that arose as students began applying and transferring
A Framework/Partnership that works

- Barriers begin to lift by incorporating new initiatives and opportunities at GRCC and UMICH
- The lifting of barriers gives new momentum with new challenges
- Systemic change requires willingness - and access to those who will answer the phone and help!
- Students still feel the pressure of imposter syndrome, racism and classism
- Expanded collaborations at UM and GRCC
- Building of an alumni force that serves as role models and mentors to incoming students
Paige Horsburgh
Community Partnerships Manager
optiMize
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Transfer Bridge Fellows
moMentum
aMplify
Campus Partners
External Partners
Transfer Bridge Fellows

optiMize student social innovators serve as leaders in the transfer student community. Including:
- facilitate professional and personal development for first-year transfer students
- act as liaisons to current community college students
- work on projects that promote a more just and sustainable society
Community College Partnerships: moMentum Program

- 2-Day moMentum Fellowship acts as the ‘on-ramp’ across the transfer bridge
  - Connect with UM transfer students, advisors, and other campus resources
  - Develop entrepreneurial skills and hone in on motivation for transferring
- Co-create skill-building workshop with our community college partners
  - Provides value to students, regardless of transferring to U-M or joining optiMize
- Social innovation workshops provide students with the skills and resources to work toward a more just and sustainable society through self-directed projects
- Support students at community college through the transfer process
  - TRiO, CC Advisors, LSA Transfer Advising, LSA Opportunity Hub, Common App Essay Review
- Host campus visits
aMplify Nights

- Bi-weekly dinner include skill-building workshops and space to build community as they acclimate to campus, and find their place at UM
- Partner with other transfer programs and communities on campus
- For students who participate in the social innovation workshops at their community college or the moMentum fellowship, this serves as the ‘off-ramp’ of the transfer bridge
Campus Partnerships

- **LSA**
  - The Opportunity Hub
  - Newnan Advising
  - Recruitment
  - Central Student Government
  - Comprehensive Studies Program
    - Campus Connections

- **Other UM Schools & Colleges**
  - Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
  - School of Information: Transfer Student Initiatives
  - Office of New Student Programs
  - College of Engineering
  - Ross School of Business
External Partnerships

- **Henry Ford College**
  - Honors Program
  - Black Male and QUEENS Focus Group
  - MDICE

- **Grand Rapids Community College**
  - Honors Program
  - Experiential Learning
  - TRiO Program
  - Advising

- **Washtenaw Community College**
  - Entrepreneurship Center
  - A2 Entrepreneurship Club

- **Schoolcraft College**
  - Honors Program

- **Eastern Michigan University**
  - Engage@EMU
June Rayburn
Community Partnerships Coordinator
optiMize

First-generation, non-traditional, transfer student (GRCC)

optiMize leadership

Cohort 8 Fellow
Thank you for listening!

**It's time for Q&A**

Take 3 mins to jot down:
- something that excited you;
- something you could see implementing at your location;
- something you didn’t understand or want to learn more about
It’s time for Q&A

Jot down:
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Then, take a minute to draft a concise question.

You can put your question in chat or raise your hand.