

# #NISTS2019 CONFERENCE

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SIMPLIFY TRANSFER

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### **Through the Gate: An Examination of Factors Determining Whether Students Achieve Transfer**

*Diversity & Inclusion, Matriculation Trends & Issues - Research Spotlight*

In this session, the RP Group will discuss new quantitative findings from our “Through the Gate” study. This research examines the most salient factors predicting whether students transfer to a university or get stuck at or near the gate. We will explore how student- and college-level factors differ by student sub-group and region. Participants will be invited to share the unique factors that may play a role for their students and region.

**Darla Cooper**, Executive Director  
RP Group

# Through the Gate:

## An Examination of Factors Determining Whether Students Achieve Transfer

NISTS Conference  
February 14, 2019

Darla Cooper, EdD  
Executive Director

# The RP Group

[www.rpgroup.org](http://www.rpgroup.org)

## Mission

- Strengthen CCCs' ability to gather, analyze, and act on information in order to enhance student equity and success

## Services

- Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

## Organization

- 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization

# College Futures Foundation

[www.collegefutures.org](http://www.collegefutures.org)

## Vision

- More graduates for a thriving California

## Mission

- Removing barriers so more low-income and underrepresented students attain bachelor's degrees

**Funder**

**Partner**

**Connector**

# Today's Presentation Outcomes

*Participants will...*

- Recognize the existence of a student population who are completing all or most of their transfer requirements, but not advancing to the university.
- Learn what factors influence whether students transfer or stop at or near the transfer gate, and how these factors differ by region and student sub-group.
- Understand what colleges can do to identify these students on their own campus and how to support their transfer journey.
- Know next steps in this research that will inform practitioners and policymakers on how to address practices and policies hindering students' transition to a university.

# Today's Presentation Outline

- Through the Gate Study Recap
- Examining Factors Determining whether Students Achieve Transfer or Get Stuck At or Near the Gate
- Getting Better Directions: Phase II
  - Transfer Decision-Making Framework

# Through the Gate Transfer Study

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Challenge



# Through the Gate Aims to...

Identify individuals who have **completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it “through the gate”** to university

Identify strategies for increasing transfer, boosting baccalaureate production, and enhancing students’ social and economic mobility--especially for underrepresented populations



# Research Approach

## Phase I:

### Mapping the Transfer Landscape

Quantitative research to better understand the transfer landscape focusing on students who met all or most of their requirements but have not transferred

## Phase II:

### Getting Better Directions

Mixed-methods research to understand what factors impact these students' journeys and how policy and practice might change to propel them through the gate

# A Fresh Take on the Transfer Continuum

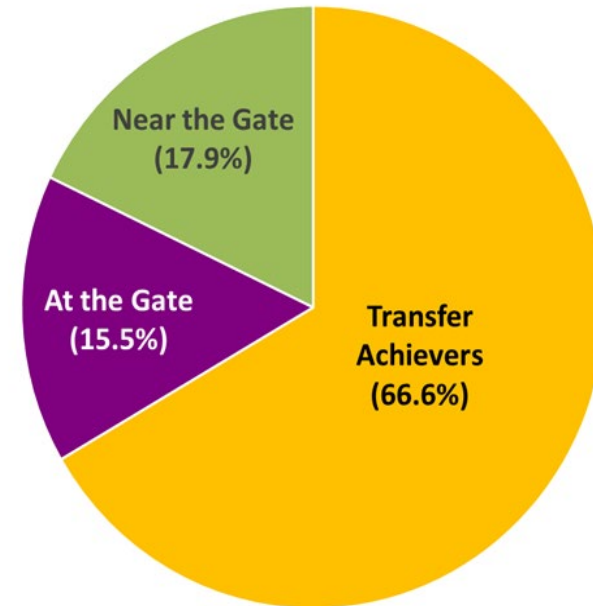


# Study Sample

- 875,630 CCC students
- Enrolled between 2010-2011 and 2015
- Outcomes through spring 2016

## Three subgroups:

1. Transfer Achievers (583,074)
2. Students At the Gate (135,557)
3. Students Near the Gate (156,999)



# Phase I Key Findings

## Transfer Achievers

- Majority transferred without a degree or certificate (68.5%,  $n=399,635$ )
- 75% of African American students achieve transfer

## Students At the Gate

- Over half of transfer-ready students left without a degree or credential
- Latino students most likely to earn an AD-T but halt their transfer journey

## Students Near the Gate

- 92% needed to complete transfer math requirements
- Nearly half exited the system without a degree or credential
- Time is the enemy; students who did not transfer within a year of becoming transfer-ready were less likely to transition to university

# Examining Factors Determining Whether Students Achieve Transfer or Get Stuck At or Near the Gate

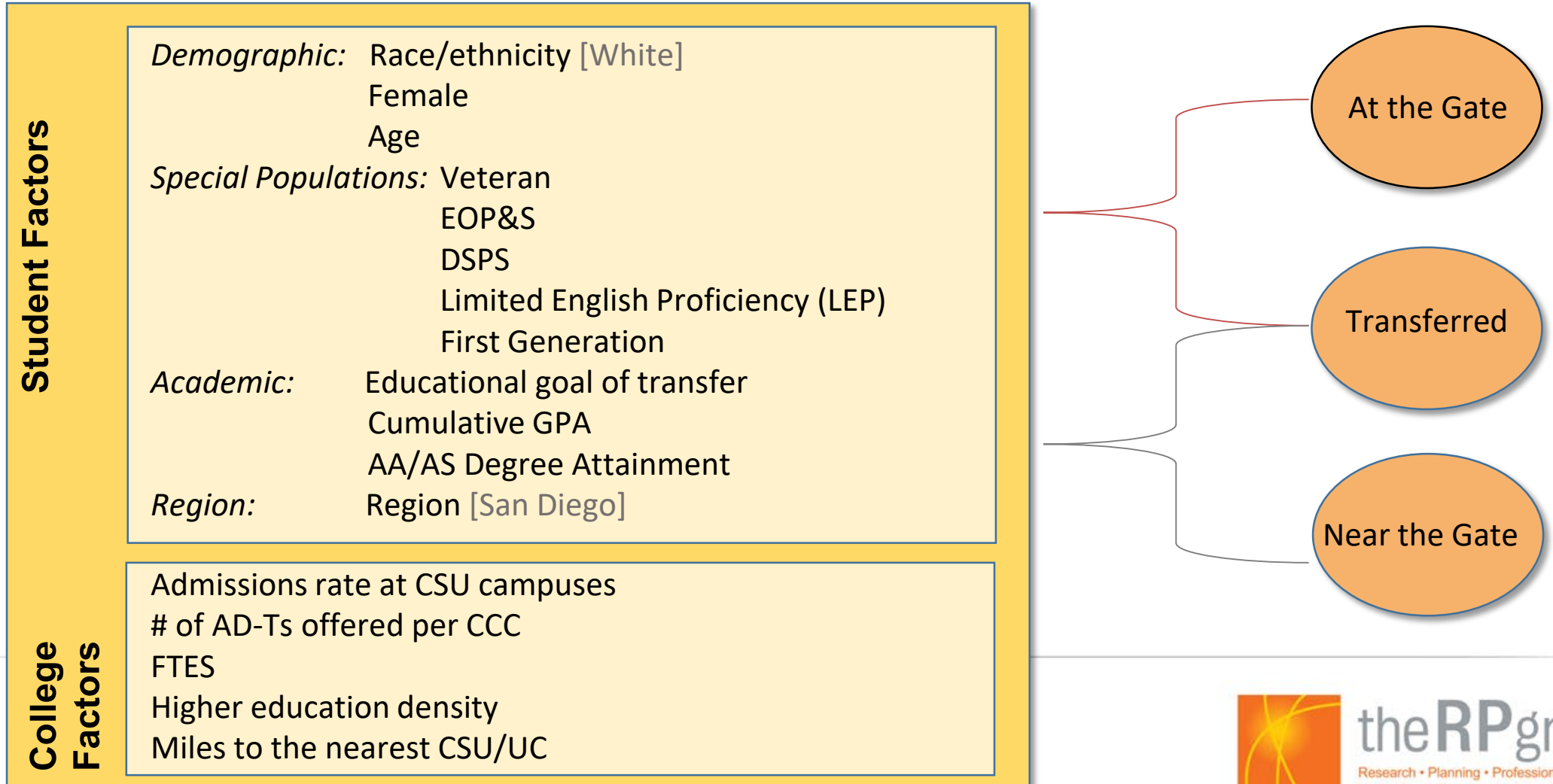
# Purpose

Further understand the connection between student and college factors and the odds of remaining near or at the gate rather than achieving transfer.

# Methodology: Multinomial Logistic Regression

## Predictor Variables

## Outcome Variable



# Shared Factors for Near and At the Gate

## Demographic

- (Higher) Age
- Hispanic



Near the Gate:  
Native American  
At the Gate:  
Male; Asian

## Special Populations

- Any Disability
- First Gen
- Limited Engl Proficiency
- EOP&S



Near the Gate:  
Native American  
At the Gate:  
Male; Asian

## Academic

- Transfer Educational Goal
- AA/AS Attainment



Near the Gate:  
Native American  
At the Gate:  
Male; Asian

## Region

- Central Valley



At the Gate:  
Inland Empire  
SF Bay Area



# Factors for Transfer Achievers

Characteristics of students more likely to transfer than to be At or Near the Gate:

- Higher GPAs
- Veterans
- African Americans

# Key Takeaways

- Challenges current assumptions about which students achieve transfer
- Underlying transfer barriers emerging from the analysis, which may relate to students' perceived:
  - Sense of belonging
  - College affordability
  - Geographic constraints
- Getting better directions by learning from students themselves

# Transfer Decision-Making Framework

## Student Factors

- Academic (e.g., GPA, transfer units completed)
- Demographics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity)
- Psychological (e.g., confidence, fear of unknown)
- Sociocultural (e.g., family expectations)
- Financial (e.g., college affordability)

## College Factors

- Transfer Support (e.g., robustness of Transfer Center)
- Culture (e.g., intersegmental alignment, messaging)
- Policy (e.g., # of AD-Ts available)
- Regional (e.g., proximity to university, population density)

# Group Discussion

- What about this framework resonates with you?
- What, if any, factors/concepts are missing/unclear/unnecessary?

# Getting Better Directions

## Phase II Research

# Phase II Research Questions

- **Why** do so many students who are close to achieving their transfer goal stop short of making this transition?
- **What can we do** to help students who are at or near the gate transfer?
- **What is holding back different student groups, and how can we help** them continue their journey?
- **What is impacting IE and CV students' transfer progress, and what strategies can be pursued to increase their success?**

# Phase II Methodology

- Study Sample:
  - 31 CCCs with statewide regional representation
  - Near and At the Gate students still enrolled and exited
- Online Student Survey:
  - Exploration of obstacles that prevented or dissuaded students from transferring, and the supports that could bring them back onto the transfer path
- Telephone Interviews:
  - In-depth look at students' non-transfer stories – what barriers emerged and how they faced them, what drove their decision-making at various exit points

# In the Meantime, Colleges Can...

- Figure out who these students are at your college
  - Identify how many students are at or near the gate
  - Analyze to see if certain student groups are more likely to be at or near the gate
- Reach out to these students to explore barriers and identify needs
- Develop plans to help address emerging barriers and needs



# Questions?

# For more information on the Through the Gate Study

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**THROUGH THE GATE**

[www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate](http://www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate)

#StudentsThroughtheGate

# Thank you!