

#NISTS2019 CONFERENCE

WORKING TOGETHER TO SIMPLIFY TRANSFER

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2019 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The following presentation was given at the 17th Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Some photos have been removed in order to avoid possible copyright infringement. *Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).*

Utilizing Students' Funds of Knowledge to Remove Barriers and Promote Transfer Readiness and Success

Diversity & Inclusion, Partnerships and Collaboration

The University of Michigan's Community College and transfer based initiatives demonstrate how organizations utilize institutional agents, such as faculty, who possess human, cultural, and social capital, to create organizational change and empower transfer students to utilize their own self agency and funds of knowledge to be successful at a four year institution. Institutions will learn how to change the processes transfer students must navigate as they transfer to a research institution.

Michelle Ferrez, *Director, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)*
University of Michigan

Devon Keen, *Assistant Director for Outreach & Transfer Student Initiatives*
University of Michigan School of Information (UMSI)



Utilizing Students' Funds of Knowledge to Remove Barriers and Promote Transfer Readiness and Success

NISTS 2019 Annual Conference

Dr. Michelle D. Ferrez, Director
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

Devon Keen, Assistant Director
School of Information, Outreach & Transfer Initiatives

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Learning Objectives

- Learn how to view community college administrators and students as co-creators in program development at research institutions.
- Understand ways to identify and consult with institutional agents and leverage resources across units, departments and across colleges.
- Expand the traditional constructions of how we define “merit” .
- Define and provide examples of how to incorporate transfer students’ “funds of knowledge” in the curricular and co-curricular context.

Institutional Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives (DEI)

2015: Renewed commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

2016: Creation of a five-year DEI Strategic Plan; appointment of a DEI Officer; and the development of a centralized DEI Office.

In support of this mission, diversity.umich.edu provides transparency, timely updates, and resources for the University community and public.

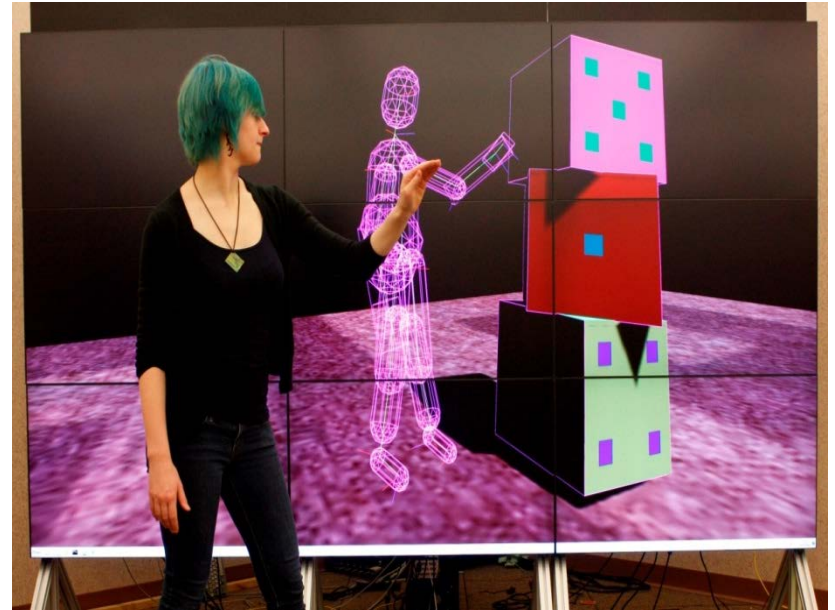
Recruit, Retain, Support Transfer Students

- Implement specific strategies for recruitment, retention, and support of diverse population of transfer students.
- Launch College-wide, department-based discussions with goal of creating departmental transfer-friendly cultures and making transfer students more visible as part of their undergraduate populations.
- Continue targeted commitment to recruiting community college students, and make commitment to work with tribal colleges to recruit and retain Native American students in particular.
- Increase the size of the current transfer student population in LSA to approximately 1,200-1,300 students per year and increase the attention to diversifying the transfer applicant pool.

What is UROP?



- ▶ The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) creates research partnerships between first, second year, and community college transfer students and U-M faculty in all fields and disciplines.



Established in

1988-1989

14

Students & Faculty

1,400

Students Currently

1,100

Faculty

UROP Community College Programs



2014: Program Updates- Received funding from a special donor (CC transfer and alumna!) to support and expand the programs.

2010: UROP Changing Gears was created to offer research opportunities for UM CC transfer students during the academic year.

2007: Michigan Community College Summer Research Fellowship (CCSFP) for students still enrolled at the Community College planning to transfer to UM-Ann Arbor.



Michigan Community College Summer Research Fellowship Program (CCSFP)



10 weeks of
full-time (40
hrs.) hands-on
research work.



Connect &
Work with UM
Faculty Mentor
or Scholar in
your field.



Join a network
of transfer
students in the
state.



Unique
opportunity for
students to be
on campus,
and gain
professional
experience.



Gain
Familiarity
with UM
campus and
resources.



Other activities include...



- Journal Clubs
- Brown Bag Meetings
- Skill Building Workshops
- Reunions for CCSFP Alumni
- Community Involvement Events

- Orientation
- Reflection Blogs
- Summer Research Symposium
- End of the summer Talent Show
- Networking opportunities

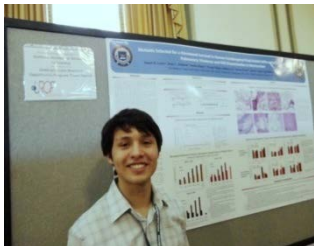




UROP

Changing Gears (CG)

Academic Year Program



What is CCSI?

- ▶ The Community College Summer Institute (CCSI) a 3-day fully funded outreach program designed to build long term relationships and remove barriers for prospective community college transfer students.



Created in
2017

18
Community Colleges

40+
Students

15
Professional Staff
& Faculty

Community College Summer Institute

THIS SUMMER, MAKE SOME BIG PLANS



Learn More!
umsi.info/ccsi



College Lectures

In-depth exposure to the field of information science.



Residence Housing

Experience dorm life by living in the North Quad dorms with roommates.



All Meals Provided

Accommodations for all food allergies or preferences are available.



Professional Development

Resume editing, professional headshots, and career advice from the UMSI Career Office.



College Admissions Support

Mentoring from UMSI Admissions team and guidance on UMSI program applications.



Program Transportation

Assistance with transportation to Ann Arbor available upon request.

3 days. Free. Fun.

Exclusively for Michigan community college students



- Learn the art of the online apology.
- Design a cell phone that works the way you want it to.
- Uncover your greatest personal strengths.*

Explore the University of Michigan campus and get a taste of life at the School of Information. Our Bachelor of Science in Information (BSI) degree could be your ticket to a rewarding new career. The Community College Summer Institute (CCSI) is a risk-free way to find out.

**No previous technology experience is required.
Fees, housing and meals are provided.
Let's do this.**

* Last year's activities; your adventures may be new and different!

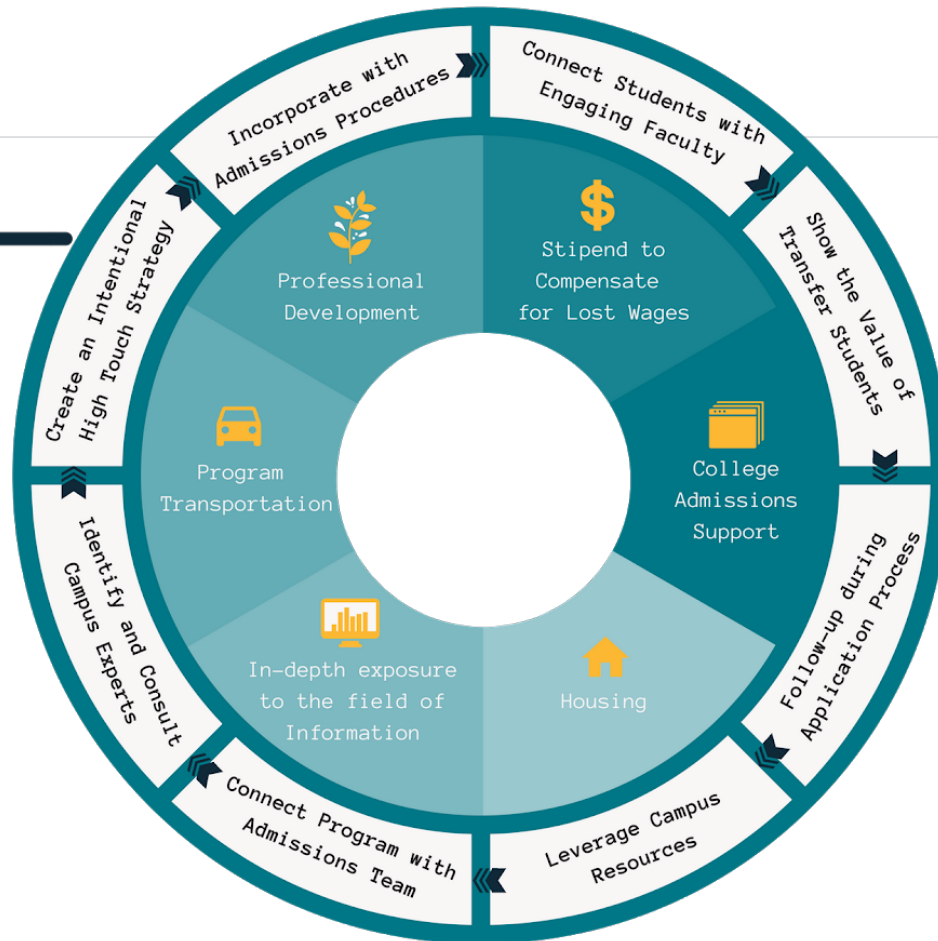
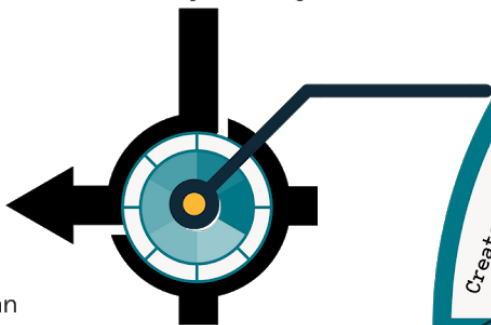




Community College



University of Michigan
School of Information



**When
Institutional
Goals meet
Students Needs**

CCSI Origin Story

Institutional Agents



Individuals who occupy high-status positions within their institution or organization and who know how to access high-value resources, navigate complex systems and take effective action, have the potential to be institutional agents

They possess human, cultural and social capital.

It is only when these individuals use their capital to transmit high-value resources- opportunities, privileges and services-to underserved students that they become institutional agents. Because every potential institutional agent possesses different resources the actions they take to use those resources on behalf of their students will be different. Potential agents might not be aware of how they can use their resources to aid students if they occupy a position not normally associated with direct student support.

Source: Bensimon, E. (2007); Stanton-Salazar, R. (2011)



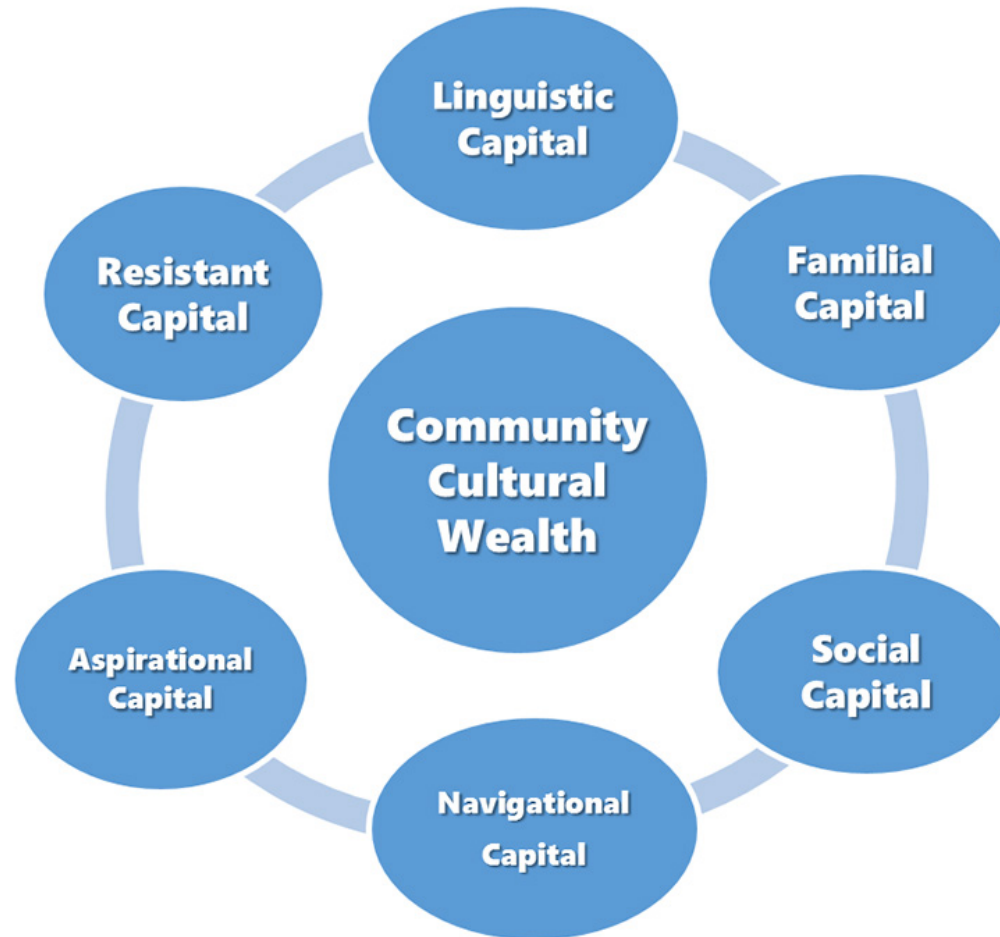
Activity & Discussion of Vignette

- Use the chart to check off the Institutional Agent characteristics Armando possesses and actions he takes.

Questions from Vignette?

- What specific knowledge does Armando have about Latinx students in STEM fields?
- What institutional connections and resources does Armando draw upon to increase his support of Latinx STEM students at his institution?
- In what ways does Armando move beyond the role of a bridge agent into an institutional broker for Latinx STEM students?

Funds of Knowledge: Community Cultural Wealth (Yosso, 2005)



Operationalizing the Role of Institutional Agents at Community Colleges and UofM



- Unique opportunity to connect with UM faculty and gain a mentor!
- Culture, norms, language, and values of majors/departments/university.
- Negotiate Institutional Gatekeepers, including University structures/systems.
- Align research opportunities with community college curriculum and faculty projects.
- Learn about key resources at UofM.
- Research embraces students' funds of knowledge.
- UROP transfer student peer facilitators and mentors.
- Gives students a sense of community.



UROP Research Mentor Award Ceremony

References

- Bensimon, E. (2007). The underestimated significance of practitioner knowledge in the scholarship of student success. *The Review of Higher Education, 30*(4), 441-449.
- Dowd, A.C., Cheslock, J., & Melguizo, T. (2008). Transfer access from community colleges and the distribution of elite colleges. *Journal of Higher Education, 79*(4), 1-31.
- Melguizo, T., & Dowd, A.C. (2009). Baccalaureate success of transfers and rising four-year college juniors. *Teachers College Record, 111*(1), 55-89.
- Stanton-Salazar, R. (2011). A social capital framework for the study of institutional agents and their role in empowerment of low-status students and youth. *Youth and Society, 43*(3), 1066-1109.
- Yosso, T.J. (2005). Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth. *Race, Ethnicity, & Education, 8* (1), 69-91.