As we start the month of December, there is so much happening. Many of you are wrapping up your quarters and semesters and there are many deadlines to be met before we enter a new decade. We hope those of you in the United States enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday. I am personally thankful for all of you who continue to be members of our advising community. The participation and growth we have seen over the past year is not without your commitment. When we all are engaged in sharing information, we can all make the experience for transfer students everywhere better. Thanks for all you do in supporting transfer students wherever you are.

You see this particular part of the message every month, but I think it is important to continue to share the work we’re doing. If you know someone who would benefit from joining our community, please forward this message to them. For those of you who are new to the group this month, welcome! We have a lot of ways to engage members and we rely on you to help make this group as robust as possible. Whether it is engaging through the listserv (e-mail ADVTRANSFER@LISTSERV.KSU.EDU), our Facebook and Twitter accounts, or attending an event, this group is what you make of it.

This message will include:
1) Steering Committee Recruitment
2) NISTS Conference
3) November Transfer Talk and Future Transfer Talks
4) Start Preparing for Annual Conference 2020
5) Resource/ Article Spotlight
Steering Committee Recruitment

Last month I put out a call for people to consider submitting a self-nomination or recommendation for a peer to be considered for one of our available steering committee member spots. So far we have had 9 people express interest! We are really excited about that, but are also hoping to get a few more people, particularly from community colleges, that might want to consider joining the steering committee. In visiting with our current steering committee members, we thought it was important to dispel a few myths:

- **Myth**- I have to be able to attend the annual conference to serve on the steering committee
- **Fact**- This is not a requirement. While it is encouraged and we incorporate our steering committee members into the annual business meeting, a lot of the work that happens within the steering committee happens outside of the annual conference.

- **Myth**- There will be too many meetings and requirements to complete
- **Fact**- We meet monthly as a committee and work to identify a time that works best for all members of the steering committee. Beyond that, any additional projects and involvement are scheduled in times that work best for you. Some months you may not be as available, and that is fine. We work to be as flexible as we can.

- **Myth**- I have to be an expert in topics related to transfer students to be on the steering committee
- **Fact**- We are all continually learning new things to best support transfer students. We all bring our own talents and knowledge and no one is expected to be an expert, just willing to learn and participate in the dialogue.

Last year, our steering committee finalized a document that helps people understand roles and responsibilities of being a steering committee member. This can be found at [https://go.unl.edu/nacadatransferacsteeringcommittee](https://go.unl.edu/nacadatransferacsteeringcommittee). We are hoping to recruit a few additional members to join the steering committee.

If you have questions about the role, or would like to nominate someone you think would be a great addition, please e-mail me at tlazarowicz2@unl.edu with their name and e-mail. I will be sure to reach out directly to them. I also encourage you self-nominate and fill out this form if you are interested in serving on the committee. The form is located at [https://go.unl.edu/nacadatransferacsteeringcommittee](https://go.unl.edu/nacadatransferacsteeringcommittee).

NISTS Conference

The National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) hosts an annual conference each February. This year’s conference, in Atlanta GA, is entitled “Reimaging the Transfer Student Experience.” The early registration deadline is December 6th. Information about the conference can be found at [https://www.nists.org/conference](https://www.nists.org/conference). One of our steering committee members, Jennifer Brown, will be in attendance as well! She’ll be helping facilitate our next Transfer Talk.

November Transfer Talk and Future Transfer Talks

A sincere thanks to Rachel Fulton, Amy Wilson, and John Jordan who joined us in giving abbreviated versions of their advising-community sponsored presentations at our November Transfer Talks. Recordings of this Transfer talk as well as other previous Transfer Talks are available at [https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities/Advising-Transfer-Students.aspx](https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities/Advising-Transfer-Students.aspx). We are tentatively planning our next Transfer Talk for either Wednesday, February 26th or Thursday, February 27th from 3:00pm-4:00pm Central Standard Time. The topic will be covering some key take-aways from the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) Annual Conference that occurs Feb 5- Feb 7.
Start Preparing for Annual Conference 2020
I know this might feel a bit early, but we are already beginning to plan for the 2020 annual conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Later this month you will see a few e-mails come out from the Executive Office pertaining to the conference. One will be to announce the call for proposals to submit a presentation. A second will be soliciting members to be readers/reviewers of proposals. I encourage you all to consider participating as a reviewer, submitting a proposal, or both. The strength of the conference depends on strong presentation proposals, careful review and feedback, and effective presentation delivery. Being active throughout the process helps accomplish that.

As it relates to this, one suggested idea from the Executive Office was to host a zoom group (such as office hours) that would allow anyone interested to log-in and share ideas and get feedback about proposals you are thinking about submitting. I posted a quick poll on our Facebook group, and a vast majority of respondents had indicated an interest in this. In visiting with the executive committee, we decided we will look to host 2 sessions in January that members can come to as a way to share ideas, get feedback, and hear from others. Pay attention to the January newsletter for dates and links to join in on these sessions.

Resource/ Article Spotlight
Identities are complex, and seeing intersection of identities and the impact that can have on transition is important. A recent article in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice does just in an article by McKinnon-Crowley, Epstein, Jabbar, and Schudde entitled “Crossing the Shapeless River on a Government Craft: How Military-Affiliated Students Navigate Community College Transfer.”
The purpose of this study was to explore factors that contribute to successful transfer of military-affiliated students and to identify how those who receive veteran’s benefits use available resources to navigate the transfer process. A few of the findings are highlighted below:

- They discussed the impact that VA funding has regarding to course selection and degree planning. All courses completed need to be required by a degree plan and if they do not count toward a degree plan, this can impact aid. This was an important point that military transfer students were very cognizant of, and impacted how they pursued specific course selections and what resources they may use outside of military funding to take courses they were interested in.
- Many military students in this study did not need to work outside of the benefits they received through the VA. While this was the case, many of them felt strong obligations to ensure they were responsible with the money they were receiving, both for tuition as well as their additional financial benefits.
- In discussing identity characteristics, there were some who articulated how being a military veteran helped them in easing through the transfer (such as navigating the bureaucracies of higher education), while others expressed some areas where there posed challenges (such as delayed VA benefits impacting course registration).

In summary, a quote from their article highlights some valuable information

“Our findings suggest that military students’ mandatory interactions with community college staff members, use and commitment to a degree plan, course selection dictated by the demands of the degree plan, and required interactions of military-affiliated students with staff could contribute to their transfer success. (McKinnon-Crowley, Epstein, Jabbar, and Schudde, 2019, p. 766).

To access the full article, go to our resources page:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NLcHEKcECig5LZKOcjKdma08rISMIQUs9Zw5hxzpwhA/edit#gid=0 and then see it under the Journal Article tab.

If you believe you have a resource that is worth highlighting here, forward it to me at tlazarowicz2@unl.edu with a quick statement as to why you find that resource or article valuable.

As always, thank you so much for being a member of our advising community. If there is anything our advising community can do to help you with your role, please do not hesitate to reach out!