A recent blog by Steven Mintz in InsideHighEd (https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-gamma/number-1-student-success-challenge) provides a number of thoughts on making the transfer process more seamless and successful for students. As many institutions begin their fall semesters, I pose this question for us to ponder, “are we doing everything we can individually to make the transfer process seamless for our students?” Mintz pointed out that transfer students “are much more likely than “native” students to come from underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation backgrounds – and their graduation rate is significantly lower than those that arrived on campus as freshmen.” As you go through these first few weeks of your quarters and semesters working with students, I hope that you will be guided by the principle of doing what is within your power to make the process as seamless as possible for each student you meet with.

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 listserv, 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 with this listserv, our Facebook and Twitter accounts, or attending an event, this group is what you make of it.

This message will include:
1) Division Report Summary
2) September Transfer Talk
3) Annual Conference Updates
4) Resource/ Article Spotlight

Division Report Summary
Each year, advising communities are required to submit division reports. I want to be as transparent as possible to our membership. When the steering committee established outcomes, we outline how those desired outcomes tie to the NACADA strategic goals along with identifying actions and activities to reach those outcomes. While I won’t include all of the information in the report, I want to summarize some of the information from the past year:

**Desired Outcome #1**: Membership will gain knowledge and share information regarding best practices, programs, and policies that support work with transfer students at a wide range of institution types (e.g. private and public institutions, 2 and 4-year institutions, international transfer etc.)

**Progress Toward Outcomes**
Over the course of Nov 2018-Aug 2019, the Advising Community has hosted 4 Transfer Talks (ZOOM meetings).

- **Nov 30th** – Dr. Eileen Strempel and Dr. Steve Handel discussed relevant transfer research, which tied to the recently published NISTS book on Transition and Transformation. (Attendance 80)
- **Feb 20** – Had 2 different groups (U. of Michigan & Idaho St. U and College of Eastern Idaho) spotlight a little about their upcoming transfer-related sessions that were accepted for presentation at the regional conferences. (Attendance-25)
- **April 24** – Focus on Transfer Orientation Programs. Multiple people spotlighted their orientation programs. (Attendance 49)
- **June 26** – Focus on Transfer Seminars (Attendance – 20)

**Future Actions Based on Data**

- Will continue to host bi-monthly transfer talks with topics to be solicited by steering committee and membership. With the increased emphasis on dialogue, we are continuing to have to explore ways to be more engaging and interactive in the conversation, rather than relying on a speaker to drive the full conversation.

**Desired Outcome #2** - Steering Committee will become more informed of demographics, needs, strengths and areas for improvement for our advising community to ensure we serve the diverse range of members we strive to have participating in our AC.

**Progress Toward Outcomes**

- Survey was conducted and open between December 13 and closed Jan 24th. Had 88 members participate. Discussion occurred in steering committee meeting and using answers to help decide future transfer talks. We did not send survey to AC for Assessment, but did have EO member review to ensure it met their standards.

**Future Actions Based on Data**

- Review results of the survey again and utilize results to drive decisions and discussion for events to occur during the 2019-2020 calendar year.

**Desired Outcome #3** - AC will establish a document that outlines steering committee structure, responsibilities, time commitments, and goals for representation.

**Progress Toward Outcomes**

- Completed and approved a new Steering Committee Member description document in late November. This document was used to recruit member steering committee members this past spring. The form was transposed into a Google Doc that was used for members to read prior to filling out the interest form.

**Future Actions Based on Data**

- Will continue to use this form and update as needed when we work to recruit new steering committee members. At the moment, we’ve agreed to keep to 8 (7 members and current chair).
September Transfer Talk
The Steering Committee has finalized a plan for our next Transfer Talk. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 25th at 3:00pm Central Time. This year marks the 3rd year that the National Institute on the Study of Transfer Students is coordinating the National Transfer Student Week. We want to disseminate ideas and engage in dialogue on how campuses are working to recognize transfer students on your campuses, as well as provide ideas if you hadn’t finalized plans yet. Please come ready to share ideas and discuss with colleagues about this week of celebration. The link to access the Transfer Talk is https://ksu.zoom.us/j/563796607.

Previous transfer talks are available at https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities/Advising-Transfer-Students.aspx.
Annual Conference Updates
Hotels are filling up for the conference. If you are going and have not reserved your room yet, you will want to do so quickly. To see more details and also to book hotels, go to https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Annual-Conference/Registration-Information.aspx.

Mark your calendars for the social. The social will be held on Monday, October 21st from 5:30pm-7:00pm. The location will be at Gordon Biersch Louisville (400 S. 4th Street Louisville, KY 40202). Plan to reconnect with, or make new connections with, colleagues who are also interested in supporting transfer students.

To try to keep you informed, here is the tentative business meeting agenda for the annual conference advising community meeting.
- Introductions
- Updates
  - Annual Report of Activities
  - Efforts around resources webpage
  - Social Media
  - Zoom meetings into the spring
- Group Break-Outs and Report out
- Closing statement
- Group Photo

The business meeting provides the advising community a way to discuss a review of the past year, establish goals for the upcoming year, and also help connect members together to establish a stronger relationship among peers.

If you have any particular items that you feel would be valuable to discuss during our business meeting, please let me know at tlazarowicz2@unl.edu. I’ll share the tentative agenda of the business meeting in our next newsletter.

Resource/ Article Spotlight
An article by Maliszewski & Hayes was recently published in AACRAO’s quarterly journal, College and University (C&U) Journal, entitled “How to Recruit and Retain Transfer Students: Comparing the College Choice Decision Process among Two- and Four-Year Transfer Students.” I liked this article because it helps us continue to understand the reasons student choose to transfer and things we need to consider. UPDATED (the previous version had a misattributed source to Bean & Metzner’s (1985) work. The Iloh (2018) Model of College-Going Decisions centers the three main forces: information, time, and opportunity. Meanwhile, they highlight Bean and Metzner’s (1985) research positing that the decision to transfer from one institution to another is a dynamic process affected by a student’s context. They go on to indicate that the decision process differs greatly between two-year and four-year transfer students, yet all of the students utilized similar resources—including family, peers, and Websites—to navigate the transfer process. 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 on our listserv. If there is anything our advising community can do to help you with your role, please do not hesitate to reach out!