

FEBRUARY 2020

TRANSFER TUESDAY

***MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE ADVISING COMMUNITY ON
TRANSFER STUDENTS***

As we begin the month of February, I often think about what we are doing for transfer students on our campus. It seems as though vertical-transfer (or even lateral transfers) students who transfer campuses mid-year end up having less opportunities to connect on campus compared to the students who transfer in to begin at beginning of an academic year. Is that the case for your institution? If your campus has great programming for incoming transfer students at the mid-year point, that would be a great conversation piece for the listserv or social media.

That said, for those of you who are going the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students conference in Atlanta, Georgia that is starting tomorrow, we wish you safe travels and hope you will gain a lot of information that you can share back out with your campuses and our advising community.

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) New Steering Committee Members
- 2) Steering Committee Member Rotating Off
- 3) Listserv Threads this Month
- 4) NISTS Conference Award Winners
- 5) February Transfer Talk
- 6) Annual Conference 2020
- 7) National Transfer Student Week 2020
- 8) Resource/ Article Spotlight

New Steering Committee Members

We were overwhelmed by the positive response we had in recruiting new steering committee members. The current steering committee members had a difficult task of working to identify new members based on our current needs. As a committee, we looked at our current make-up with respect to demographics, geographic representation, work experience, and knowledge areas when making our final decisions. As we have had for the past few years, we look at our current goals and plans when deciding how many new members to bring on. As a board, we decided to bring on 5 during this recruitment cycle, rather than adding a few to reach our goal of 7 only to then send out another call as we neared the annual conference. Our goal is that we'll have a steady group of people who will rotate through on 2-year terms.

As such, we do want to extend our appreciation to everyone who expressed interest and hope that you will all continue to find ways to engage the advising community and share your excitement and passion for transfer-student issues. The members who will be coming on to the steering committee include:

Jessica Davis from Region 9- Lead College Advisor at California State University, San Bernardino

Marko Delic from Region 5- Project Coordinator for MICUP-BEAT at Eastern Michigan University

Holly Herrera from Region 5- Associate Provost for Transfer Initiatives and Academic Partnerships at Columbia College Chicago

Stacey Kardash from Region 1- Academic Advisor at Southern Maine Community College

Jacqui Rogers from Region 2- Coordinator of Transfer and Articulation at College of Southern Maryland

Over the next two newsletters, we'll be spotlighting each of the new steering committee members so you can get to know them a bit more.



Steering Committee Member Rotating Off

While we have some new members coming on, we do have a member who will be stepping down from the steering committee. We'd like to extend a huge thanks to **Amanda Cosenza** who has been on the Steering Committee for 3 years now. She's been a tireless advocate and active member of our advising community. We are grateful for all she's brought to our team and wish her well in all of her continued endeavors.

Listserv Threads This Month

We added a brief new spot to the newsletter this week. Starting in 2020, we'll be publishing a brief list of the subjects that were brought up in the listserv over the course of the past month. We realize that many may not read through listservs topics right away, so hopefully having a condensed subject view and summary might give you a reason to go back and dig through your inboxes.

- **"Survey in your inbox!"** – this e-mail went out to all members who officially have our Advising Community as one of your designed 4 that is allowed. A current survey is being conducted and this e-mail encouraged members to participate.
- **"Students Scheduling Late"** – This thread began some conversations regarding how to motivate and encourage students to schedule their courses early and in a timely fashion, particularly non-traditional and online learners.
- **"How are you collecting Transfer Student data?"** - A thread recently started that is seeking to gain member input on methods community colleges are "utilizing to collect data on students who have transferred out to four-year colleges. How are you collecting, storing, and reporting this data?"

If you have not had a chance to read through the threads or you have information to contribute, please find those in your inboxes and respond.

NISTS Conference

The National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) hosts an annual conference each February. As noted above, the conference begins tomorrow. We wanted to take a quick moment to recognize a few colleagues who are members of NACADA who are also being recognized for awards by NISTS at their conference. I should note that 4 out of the 8 award recipients at the conference are all members of NACADA! I'm including the notes that were provided in their conference booklet.

Transfer Champion- Catalysts

The Catalyst Award recognizes mid-career professionals who are game-changers in the transfer field and have worked over time to make a significant impact at the institutional, regional, and/or state level. Awardees demonstrate evidence of leadership, appropriate risk-taking and disrupting the status quo, along with using relevant research and theoretical frameworks to develop programs and services for transfer students. They ensure the sustainability of initiatives by developing staff and using data to make improvements.



Heather Adams

Director for College Learning Communities
University of California, Los Angeles

As the director of College Learning Communities at UCLA, Heather works collaboratively with departments campus-wide to establish robust academic and community-building support for underserved students. In her current and previous role as director of the UCLA Transfer Student Center, she focuses her work on advancing institutionalized receptivity and restructuring policy for underserved communities through strategic partnership and practice. Heather is currently working with the Transfer Success Team to develop and implement a transfer-student learning outcomes model for UCLA. She is enthusiastic about developing the nationwide transfer support network as the founder of Transfer Nation, a forum for professionals working with transfers.



Kerin Hillker- Balkissoon

Director of Educational and Career Pathways
George Mason University

Kerin brings nearly twenty years of experience in the design and implementation of transfer-focused initiatives that bridge post-secondary equity and completion with guided and career pathways. She was the founding director and operational designer of Northern Virginia's Pathway to the Baccalaureate initiative, a pioneering and award-winning K-16 holistic transfer success model. At George Mason, Kerin collaborates with Virginia community colleges to design and implement STEM programs that blend curricular, navigational, and career pathways, providing students with the information and resources they need to be successful at Mason from their first campus visit through their first year on campus.

Transfer Champion- Rising Stars

The Rising Star Award recognizes individuals who are making important contributions but are relatively new to the transfer field. Awardees create new programming or substantially improve programming that is responsive to the specific transfer student population and shows evidence of success. Rising Stars use best practices and theoretical frameworks to design, implement, and assess their efforts and use resulting data to guide future work. They use their strong communication and collaboration skills to educate others on their campus about transfer students, and they are not afraid to challenge the status quo.



Jennifer Brown

Transfer Specialist and Chair of the Mānoa Transfer Coordination Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Jenn splits her time between UH-Mānoa and Kapi'olani Community College, working with colleagues to support and advise students as they prepare for transfer. As a part of both the sending and receiving institutions, she bridges the gap between the two and has played a pivotal role in improving relationships and emphasizing shared goals. As one nominator noted, Jenn has "become the 'go-to' transfer problem solver" and has "helped everyone...embrace supporting transfer students." Her leadership, scholarship, and advocacy have fueled a growing focus on transfer within the UH system, and her student-focused initiatives have measurably simplified and improved the transfer process.



Alexandrea Deerr

Assistant Director of Academic Advising
Ivy Tech Community College, Sellersburg

As one nominator stated, Alex is "a force to be reckoned with." She serves as the single transfer advocate for a student body of approximately 3,000, where she has demystified transfer and transformed a very hands-off transfer culture into a "community of allies and practitioners." A "tireless advocate for transfer students and transfer initiatives," Alex has fostered partnerships with multiple four-year institutions, including a successful reverse transfer agreement with one of the campus's large neighboring institutions. In addition to this work, Alex serves on several statewide committees for transfer, where she is a crucial leader in developing advisor training materials.

February Transfer Talk



Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 27th at 3:00pm Central Time. Jennifer Brown, along with a few other colleagues who attended the NISTS conference, will help facilitate an open dialogue about some of the key take-aways from the conference. This will be a great opportunity for those of us who were unable to attend to get some ideas and spark great conversations on how to best assist transfer students in our own institutions.

Annual Conference 2020

There is still time to submit proposals for the Annual Conference. We hosted 3 office hour sessions over the past two weeks and had a few people stop by. If you do have questions about submitting a proposal or want to brainstorm ideas, e-mail me at tlazarowicz2@unl.edu and I'd be happy to visit more with you and assist however I can.

Submit A Proposal – The proposal deadline is February 20th. Deadlines are strict and they do not extend them. As such, plan accordingly. You can submit a proposal and read through guidelines at <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Annual-Conference/Call-for-Proposals.aspx>.

We always appreciate having a lot of proposals to review, particularly those that touch on transfer-related issues. We have an opportunity to select 2 Advising-Community sponsored sessions. As an advising community, we have focused our efforts around 6 action areas, as outlined on our AC page. These include:

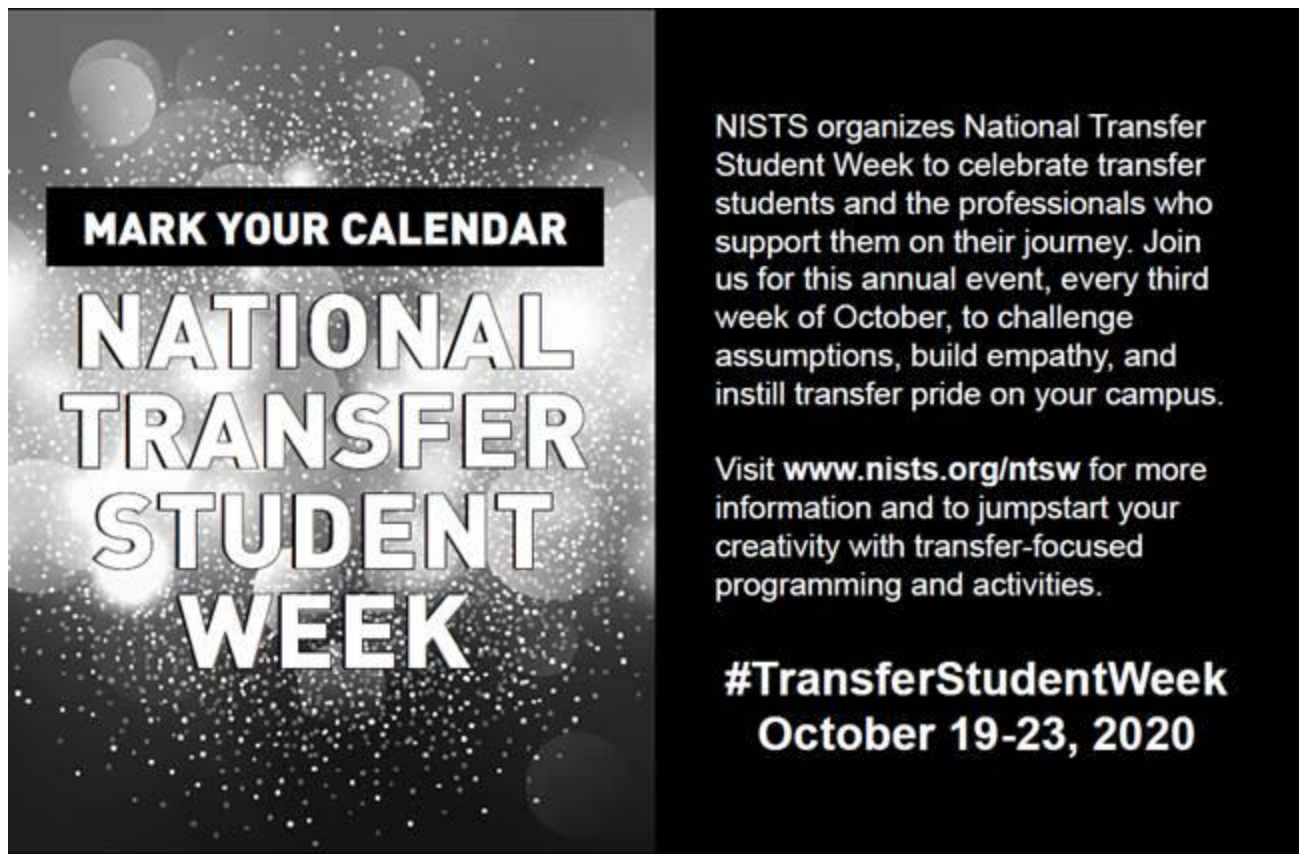
- Transfer Credit Issues
- Transfer Student Orientation/Transition Programs
- Technological Resources
- Transfer Student Groups with Special Needs
- Assessment of Transfer Student Issues
- Discipline-based Transfer Student Advising

You might consider framing a proposal around one of these areas. We are certainly hoping to increase the number of proposals from those of you who work within community colleges.



National Transfer Student Week 2020

While it is early, NISTS has sent out a notification that National Transfer Student Week will be October 19- 23, 2020. This a great way for campuses to recognize the value that transfer students and transfer staff play within higher education. Start planning events now and get ideas at their website: <https://www.nists.org/national-transfer-student-week>. Transfer students, as you know, are a huge part of higher education, and this is a great way to recognize them in a public way!

A promotional graphic for National Transfer Student Week 2020. The left side features a dark background with a starry, bokeh effect. A black rectangular box contains the text "MARK YOUR CALENDAR" in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below this, the words "NATIONAL TRANSFER STUDENT WEEK" are written in large, white, bold, uppercase letters with a slight shadow effect. The right side of the graphic has a solid black background with white text. It reads: "NISTS organizes National Transfer Student Week to celebrate transfer students and the professionals who support them on their journey. Join us for this annual event, every third week of October, to challenge assumptions, build empathy, and instill transfer pride on your campus." Below this is the text: "Visit www.nists.org/ntsw for more information and to jumpstart your creativity with transfer-focused programming and activities." At the bottom right, the hashtag "#TransferStudentWeek" and the dates "October 19-23, 2020" are displayed in white, bold, uppercase letters.

Resource/ Article Spotlight

Mooring & Mooring (2016) published an article in the **Community College Journal of Research and Practice** entitled "Predictors of Timely Baccalaureate Attainment for Underrepresented Minority Community College Transfer Students." This study incorporates the intersection of identities as both a minority as well as a transfer student when looking at predictors of attaining a baccalaureate degree.

A powerful fact that they pointed out was the percentage of students who start at a 2-year institution with the intention of attaining a bachelor's degree that actually do complete a bachelor's degree within 6 years is extremely small (10.2%). Citing a study from Radford, Berkner, Wheelless & Shepherd from 2010) they point out that nearly half of the students who start at a community college with the intention to then attain a bachelor's degree never earn a degree from any institution and were no longer enrolled anywhere 6 years later.

This study had a few findings worth mentioning. For Hispanic students, they found that those who had obtained some type of credential prior to transferring was the most predictive variable of earning a baccalaureate degree, followed closely by their GPA at the 4-year institution. One recommendation made for campuses who work with a significant population of Hispanic students was having the 4-year institutions engage with their 2-year feeder schools to encourage students to complete their associates degree before transferring. Hispanic students in this study were 11 times more likely to graduate on time than those who did not earn any credential.

Meanwhile, the highest predictive variable for baccalaureate degree attainment for Black community college students was enrollment in a transfer program that was specifically designed to prepare them to transfer to a 4-year institution. As such, a recommendation by the authors was for 4-year institutions to know which students did not enroll in a transfer program at the 2-year institutions and provide mentors and additional academic support to these specific students.

In summary, one important take-away is that transfer students are not a homogeneous group. Transfer students from different ethnic backgrounds have varying rates of transfer success and different predictors of their success at the new institution. Looking at some of the key findings might allow readers to review their own institutional transfer student profile and begin to identify some areas where they can positive influence baccalaureate attainment for their transfer students from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

To access the full article, go to our resources page:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NLcHEKcECig5LZKOcjKdma08rISMIQUs9Zw5hxzpwA/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!