



ADVISING
COMMUNITIES

TRANSFER TUESDAY: MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE ADVISING COMMUNITY ON TRANSFER STUDENTS

APRIL 2021

Many thanks to all of you who volunteered to review proposals for this year's annual conference. Your time and efforts are much appreciated! I hope that as Spring has sprung you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

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 with our listserv (directions on how to join can be found by [clicking here](#)), our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, or attending an event, this group is what you make of it.

This message will include:

- 1) Transfer Talks
- 2) Listserv Threads this Month
- 3) Resource Spotlight

TRANSFER TALKS - SPRING 2021

On Thursday, March 25th, the Advising Community on Transfer Students hosted a Bring Your Own Topic session. 27 participants attended this session which was facilitated by two members of the Transfer Steering Committee: Jacqui Roger, College of Southern Maryland, and Jennifer Shendock, University of Delaware. Some of the topics that were discussed include: financial literacy and first-generation transfer students, equitable evaluation process for all transfer students, transparency of applicable credits, transferability of credits for STEM courses, and reverse transfer. The Steering

Committee will plan additional talks that dig deeper into these topics.
Many thanks to all who joined us!

Transfer Book Club on Thursday May 20th at 3pm CST

[Power to the Transfer: Critical Race Theory and a Transfer Receptive Culture](#) by
Alfred R. Herrera, Dimpal Jain, and Santiago N. Bernal Melendez

Join us at this exclusive event with the authors of Power to the Transfer! Why is creating a transfer receptive culture important? How can advisors make a difference in the transfer student experience? Read the book and bring all of your thoughts and questions to the experts!

[RSVP now](#) to receive zoom information!

Co-sponsored by the Advising Community on Theory, Philosophy, & History of Advising.

LISTSERV THREADS

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. March listserv threads:

- Transfer Center Survey - this thread began with a call for assistance in gathering information about transfer centers. A survey link was included in the original message on 3/22.
- Transcript Processing Fee - asked about fees charged to students for evaluating their transcripts. Most replies stated that their institution requires a fee to generate a transcript but not to evaluate incoming transcripts. Some responses highlighted the potential barrier that a fee for transcript evaluation would create, especially in light of the application fee most institutions already charge.
- Pre-Transfer Advising Survey - request to share intake survey questions for prospective transfer students.
- Transfer Advising Process - request for campuses to share their advising and registration process for transfer students each semester.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

This month we are highlighting a few different resources centered around college credits. Many thanks to community members Thomas Grites and Rose Rojas for sharing these resources.

The [Hechinger Report](#) recently featured a story on stranded credits, meaning transcripts that are not accessible by former students due to an unpaid balance. This overwhelmingly affects lower income students and can prevent them from obtaining employment or transfer to further their education. This report includes an audio clip of the radio story on this report.

The [Solving Stranded Credits](#) report released in October 2020 and referenced in the story above, found that this is a common practice in higher education and colleges often hold transcripts for minimal balances owed. “National estimates suggest there could be as much as \$15 billion in unpaid balances to colleges and universities, and roughly 6.6 million students may have stranded credits.” Further, despite placing the holds a surprisingly low amount of this debt is ever collected. The report includes sections on current state policy, debt forgiveness programs, and gap loans that may assist students facing this problem.

The American Council on Education released [Reimagining Transfer for Student Success: The National Task Force on the Transfer and Award of Credit](#) in late March 2021. The task force developed six recommendations for institutions to support more efficient transfer and our increasingly mobile student population. The pandemic and the economic fallout from the past year have increased existing equity gaps that must be addressed. The recommendations include prioritizing awarding of both transfer and prior learning credits, adjusting institutional policies on awarding credits, using technology to facilitate accessible and consistent review of credits, increasing transparency for how credits will apply to degree pathways, providing resources to support quality advising including a cross-institutional approach with transfer partners, and increasing partnerships with common sending and receiving institutions to improve transfer of credits.

The National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students ([NISTS](#)) [blog](#) March post on [Transfer Access](#) highlights the increase in campus closures and the importance of transfer credit decision making for a more equitable higher education system.