

Texas Transfer Summit

Marc Cutright, EdD
University of North Texas
Students in Transition Conference
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Outline

- What the Summit was
- Background
- Details on the Summit
- Presidential findings and recommendations
- Recommendations for further research
- The sequel: “Transferpalooza”
- Applications for others
- Discussion

The Event

- February 2008 in Austin
- THECB and the University of Texas
- THECB coordinated
- Contracted research and organization by the University of North Texas and the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students
- For college and university presidents and chancellors in Texas
- Objectives: Share info, identify issues, recommend solutions
- 150+ in attendance

Background

- Closing the Gaps 2015
- Initial gains, driven to some degree by demographics, but trends are slowing
- 2-to-4 year transfer seen as the “low hanging fruit”
- Rates are not currently acceptable. How to improve

The program

- Edwin Massey, President, Indian River Community College (FL)
- Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor, State University System of Florida
- Rep. Geanie W. Morrison, Chair, Texas House Higher Education Committee
- John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot, Policy Center on the First Year of College

Resource binder

- Surveys of institutions on transfer policies and practices (UNT)
- Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit
- THECB 2001 and 2006 reports
- SREB report on transfer policies
- Three journal articles
- IPKIT
- Annotated bibliography of transfer research
- Texas comparison to national data
- Info on NISTS
- Texas Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors draft reports on transfer practices survey

Break-out sessions

- Advising and Counseling
- Assuring Rigor in Undergrad Courses
- Student Engagement and Success
- Financial Aid
- Developmental Education and College Readiness
- Institutional Opportunities and Student Retention
 - Each group led by two presidents (CC and U)

Themes across groups

- Data collection and usability
- Advising and counseling
- Financial aid
- Accountability and performance
- Inter-institutional relationships
- Adult and non-traditional students
- Dual credit concerns

Select individual findings (among many)

- Regional articulation councils or conferences
- Financial aid should follow the student across institutions
- Accelerated degree completion for adult learners
- Conduct study of efficacy of dual-credit programs
- Facilitate post-transfer awarding of associate degrees

Immediate THECB actions

- Reviving Transfer Success Advisory Committee
- Creating “Tips for Transfer” pop-up for the online ApplyTexas website
- Creating a handbook for transfer students
- Considering a special, annual award for outstanding student transfer programs

UNT recommendations for research to inform policy

- Target “intentionality”
 - Qualitative inquiries into policy effectiveness
 - Get student voice
 - Special focus on African American and Hispanic students
 - ID and disseminate best practices

The Sequel

- Eight cities, one day, one conference for campus level officials. April 2009
- 1500 people
- National, state, and local data and information
- Emerge with action plans
- Barbara Townsend and Gardner & Barefoot
- Website 4 months before, and indefinitely thereafter
- UNT contract to execute (National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students & The Center for Higher Education)
- “Transferpalooza” or “T-Rex.” Gotta get a better name....

Implications for others

- Conferences and “summits” to bring attention to issues and solutions
- Work at both executive and “real” worker levels
- Bring select research, key data, and best practices to attention
- Don’t leave without action plans

You can look it up

- The Texas Transfer Summit
 - www.thecb.state.tx.us/events/transfersuccesssummit
- The National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students
 - transferinstitute.unt.edu
 - Annual conference in Dallas January 21-23
- Me!
 - Marc.Cutright@unt.edu