Community College to Four-Year Transfer Pathways and College Economic Outcomes

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Potential Benefits of Transfer

• Majority of cc students aspire to BA
• “2+2” potentially more affordable route to bachelor’s for students and taxpayers
• Critical route to upward mobility
• Strategy for meeting regional labor market needs
Transfer Path Net Benefits

Net Benefits of Community College by Outcome – Transfer Students:
Earnings Minus Total Cost
(Undiscounted 2010 dollars; 20-year window)

Source: Belfield, 2013
Unfulfilled Expectations

~1.5 million new cc students per year

80% intend to earn a bachelor’s

25% transfer to 4-year in 5 yrs

20% of transfers earn AA before transfer

17% earn BA 6 yrs after transfer

Source: NCES and NSC
Transfer Outcomes

Bachelor’s Completion by CC College Credits Earned

Source: Crosta & Kopko 2013
Transfer Timing

Proportion of Transfer Students by Number of College-Level Credits Completed

Source: Crosta & Kopko 2013
### Transfer Completion Rates

Share of CC Transfers and Completion Rates For CC Students 6 Years After Transfer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Year Institution Type</th>
<th>Share of Transfers</th>
<th>Transfer Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Non-Profit</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private For-Profit</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSC (Shapiro et al., 2013)
Transfer Inefficiencies

• Most bachelor’s wannabes don’t transfer
• Most students transfer early
• Many credits not accepted toward major
• Financial aid exhausted
• Nearly 40% of transfers fail to earn BA
• Increased time to degree
• Students not steered to lucrative majors
## Transfer Pathways Compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-Guided (Status Quo)</th>
<th>Guided Pathways</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paths unclear, too many choices</td>
<td>Clear, default roadmaps to transfer w/ junior standing in major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited transfer guidance</td>
<td>Built-in transfer guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaccurate, inaccessible info</td>
<td>Accurate, accessible info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students’ progress not monitored</td>
<td>Progress tracking, regular feedback &amp; support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited support for transfers by 4-years</td>
<td>Specialized intake and supports for transfer students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little communication between 2- and 4-years</td>
<td>Active collaboration between 2- and 4-years</td>
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