



Within Our Sights: Toward National Leadership in Higher Education | October 18, 2013
Morning Panel Presentation
Transfers: CONNECT

Presenter Contact Information

Sandra Christoun, Director of Transfer Services
Bridgewater State University
Email: schristoun@bridgew.edu | Phone: 508-531-2625

Campus Project

CONNECT: Transfer Partners Creating a Seamless Transition

CONNECT is a Southeastern Massachusetts Public Higher Education Partnership, consisting of five institutions (Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit Community College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth). It was established in January 2003, and has two basic goals:

1. Improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of higher education; and
2. advance the economic, educational and cultural life of Southeastern Massachusetts.

The CONNECT partnership now serves as a model for cooperation among regional institutions of higher education. As a result of CONNECT, the Transfer Partners came together in 2006, and meet regularly throughout the academic year. The Transfer Partners were charged with creating a seamless transition among CONNECT institutions and focused on ways to enhance academic programs and ease the transfer of students from two-year to four-year, four-year to four-year, two-year to two-year, or four-year to two-year. Bridgewater State University is an institution that values the transfer population and recognizes that transferring is not a one size fits all process. Fifty percent of new students each year are transfer students, and almost half of those students come from one the three CONNECT Community Colleges. Bridgewater prides itself on being a transfer friendly institution, that is accessible, affordable and offer a high quality education. To help meet the needs of today's transfer population, Bridgewater has a dedicated Transfer Center, designed to help students navigate the transfer process. Working with the CONNECT institutions, Bridgewater State University was able to make significant changes in the way they service transfer students. Today's discussion will cover many of the new initiatives resulting from the CONNECT Transfer Partnership.

Vision Project Outcome Areas

- ✓ **College Participation**
- ✓ **College Completion**
- ✓ **Closing Achievement Gaps**

Research and Data

Project Duration: *Fall 2006 - present*

- Increased transfer enrollment from 2006 to 2013 from CONNECT institutions
- Average number of credits and GPA transferred
- Increase in Articulation Agreements with CONNECT institutions
- Increase in MassTransfer and Additional Agreements with CONNECT institutions
- Increase in majors resulting from Articulation and MassTransfer Agreements
- Transfer students graduating with honors



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Mary Olenick, Coordinator of Transfer and Articulation

Cape Cod Community College

Email: molenick@capecod.edu | Phone: 508-362-2131 x4316

Campus Project

CONNECT

CONNECT is a partnership of the five public higher education institutions in Southeastern Massachusetts: Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit Community College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. It was established in January 2003 and it has two basic goals: to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of higher education; to advance the economic, educational, and cultural life of Southeastern Massachusetts. Some CONNECT initiatives are College Readiness, Economic Development Summit, Summer of Science programs, Transfer coordination, Leadership Development Program, Southeast Regional STEM Network, Sustainability Initiative, Human Resource and Faculty collaboration, and Curriculum alignment. The top institutions that CCCC graduates transfer to are Bridgewater State University and UMass Dartmouth. Recent information also indicated that the 4th and 6th choice transfer institutions are Massasoit and Bristol Community Colleges (most likely for Allied Health Programs). This information confirms the importance of a close collaboration with our CONNECT partners. The transfer representatives from each campus meet at least twice a semester to discuss relevant transfer topics. Recent topics include reverse transfer, tuition waivers to qualified CONNECT students, articulations, transfer maps, UMass Dartmouth website updates, new BSU pre-registration and orientation program, transfer equivalencies, curriculum alignment and updates to programs on the each campus.

Vision Project Outcome Areas

- ✓ **College Completion**

Research and Data

Project Duration: *n/a*

- Transfer outreach –A transfer newsletter is e-mailed to students and staff at the beginning of every semester with an overview of transfer events on and off campus as well as other transfer information. Transfer e-mails are sent each week to remind students of transfer events on campus. Transfer, Career and Student success workshops were added to new student orientation this summer (186 students attended the transfer sessions). Over the last two years, there were at least 900 visits to the transfer office, September through June.
- Tracy Wallace at UMass Dartmouth is in the process of finalizing a document with 29 transfer maps/pathways from CCCC to UMass Dartmouth that will be posted on the UMass Dartmouth and CCCC website.
- In spring 2013 CONNECT finalized a process for Reverse Transfer among the institutions. One UMass Dartmouth student graduated from CCCC in August. Two students from BSU are on track to graduate in January. Five other students are in the pipeline to graduate from CCCC in the future.
- CCCC and Bristol Community College are developing a 2 to 2 Transfer pathway partnership for Health Information Management. This pathway outlines course equivalencies for general courses required for the Health Information Management Associate degree at Bristol Community College. This is the first transfer pathway CCCC has with another community college.
- CCCC currently has 192 students in Business Transfer programs. Up until 2011, there were two Business Transfer programs, one A.S. and one A.A. degree. This confused students, advisors and UMASS-Dartmouth and BSU. As the Coordinator of Transfer, I worked with the Business department to combine the two options so the students would have a clearer MassTransfer eligible pathway to a B.S. in Management.
- The CCCC Science department is working with BSU STREAMS program to align the curriculum for a smoother transfer in STEM, developing courses if necessary. The CCCC transfer website links to the STEM transfer advising information.



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Peter Johnston, Dean of Academic Advising, Assessment, and K-12 Outreach

Massasoit Community College

Email: pjohnston@massasoit.mass.edu | Phone: 508-588-9100 x1971

Campus Project

CONNECT Transfer Project

CONNECT is a partnership of public higher education institutions in Southeastern Massachusetts: Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit Community College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. One of CONNECT's main goals is to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of higher education in Southeastern Massachusetts. Transfer Coordinators from the various CONNECT Colleges meet monthly throughout the academic year to facilitate the transfer of college credit from one institution to another, or transfer from a two-year to a four-year degree program. The CONNECT Transfer Project has facilitated the Mass Transfer process, promoted curriculum alignment and transfer equivalency guides, initiated a Reverse Transfer program, and led to the development of new advising tools for students looking to transfer to other CONNECT institutions. Transfer staff at Massasoit have taken some of our generic program requirement sheets, starting with the Liberal Arts Transfer Science program, and created new advising guides specific to various science majors at Bridgewater State University and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. This has led to better preparation and smoother transfer alignment for our transfer students.

Vision Project Outcome Areas

- ✓ **College Completion**
- ✓ **Student Learning**
- ✓ **Closing Achievement Gaps**

Research and Data

Project Duration: *Ongoing*

- Curriculum Alignment among CONNECT institutions, especially in writing, mathematics, and the biological sciences.
- University and major-specific advising guides (transfer maps)
- New coursework in the biological sciences to enable Biology majors to transfer as full juniors
- Regular LAT Science advising events including faculty from BSU and UMD (among others) to educate MCC students about programs available at four year institutions
- Reverse Transfer program



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Presenter Contact Information

Tracy L. Wallace, Senior Coordinator for New Student Transfer
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Email: twallace1@umassd.edu | Phone: 508-999-8754

Campus Project

Transfer Handbook

For each of the feeder community colleges, we have created a transfer handbook with curriculum outlines for degrees in specific majors. The handbook outlines what a student would take at the community college and what the remaining two years would look like at UMass Dartmouth.

Vision Project Outcome Areas

- ✓ **College Participation**
- ✓ **College Completion**
- ✓ **Student Learning**

Research and Data

Project Duration: *October 2011 - Ongoing*