

# Work Plan and MOU for Arkansas *Credit When It's Due*

Revised April 22, 2014

## Project Overview

The Arkansas *Credit When It's Due* project is funded by the Kresge Foundation and is a partnership between the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, and the Arkansas Research Center. The goals are to develop an automated "reverse transfer" system, increase the number of Arkansans with Associate Degrees, and promote the value of Associate Degrees. Arkansas is one of twelve states participating in this project.

## Review of Phase 1 "PILOT" = 240 students (November 2013 to March 2014)

- Pilot criteria: Transferred from a college to a university in the fall of 2008, still enrolled in fall 2013, no credential recorded by ADHE
- Colleges and universities identified as the "majority institution" sent letters to students requesting consent to exchange transcripts and complete degree audit
- 17 degrees awarded to date
- Challenges: varying FERPA interpretations, bad addresses, communication between campuses

## Phase 2 "DEGREE MATTERS" = 5,913 students (May 2014 to December 2014)

- 4,356 have 15 to 17 ACTS courses
- 1,557 have 18 or more ACTS courses
- Enrolled at any Arkansas public college or university between fall 1994 and fall 2013
- No credential recorded by ADHE as of Fall 2013
- 5,483 addresses and 2,752 phone numbers identified by LexisNexis

## ADHE and AATYC Responsibilities

- Conduct statewide webinar for campus administrators and staff regarding details and process
- Provide campuses with information packets and frequently asked questions
- Coordinate media campaign to promote the value of Associate Degrees and encourage fall enrollment (television, radio, social media)
- Coordinate "DegreeMatters.org" website with two purposes: 1) Promote the value of Associate Degrees and link to institutions' websites; 2) Serve as a hub for Phase 2 students to submit online consent to share transcripts and to update contact information
- Coordinate first class mail and text messages to Phase 2 students
- Communicate regularly with institutional contacts to answer questions and share progress
- Communicate with stakeholders (Governor's Workforce Cabinet, STEM Coalition, Veteran's Department, Arkansas State Chamber, Council on Postsecondary Education )

## Institution Responsibilities

- Identify contact person(s) to receive student consent updates from web manager, process transcript requests from institutions, and communicate with ADHE and AATYC
- Participate in statewide webinar
- Share information packets with administrators and staff
- Link to "DegreeMatters.org" website and share content via social media

*\*After student consent is obtained, "majority institutions" will:*

- Send acknowledgement letter or email to student within five business days
- Request transcripts
- Conduct degree audits
- Award degrees OR encourage completion
- Report data to ADHE monthly

