TENNESSEE SUMMARY

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Overview of Participants

The reverse transfer Credit When It's Due initiative is a collaborative of the higher education community in Tennessee. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), the state's higher education executive office; The University of Tennessee (UT), comprising four universities including a health science center; the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), comprising six universities, 13 community colleges, and 27 diploma- and certificate-granting colleges of applied technology; and the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA), comprising 34 non-profit institutions. All public institutions are participating in Reverse Transfer as are nine TICUA institutions.

CWID Goals

- Increase the educational attainment of Tennessee's citizens by 2,600 reverse transfer associate degrees during the grant period
- Development and implementation of an automated system for reverse transfer
    - Seamless access and user friendly interfaces at all public and participating private institutions across the state
    - Ability to exchange course completion data between multiple student information systems
    - Ability to solicit student opt in and run automated degree audits against preloaded degree pathways
    - Ability to extract course and credit level aggregate data and reports for research purposes

Status—Completed Activities

- Statewide Reverse Transfer Taskforce established—THEC, UT, TBR, TICUA, state government representatives
- Tennessee Transfer Pathways (40 most common transfer majors)—common courses for degree completion
- Initial set of policies, guidelines, and practices approved
- University of Tennessee Center for Business and Research to manage reverse transfer technology solutions along with current P-20 assessment at state level
- RFP for software vendor issued
- Pilot group identified—3 community colleges; 1 UT university; 1 TBR university; 1 TICUA college

Status—Activities Underway

- Project team under development—Director, Co-Director, Coordinator, and Community College Liaison
- Contract negotiations underway with software vendor

Challenges

- FERPA compliance guidelines
- Sharing course and credit data across systems
    - Data flow that balances institution polices with technology requirements and is secure, reliable, efficient, and sustainable
    - All transfer student data or only data for those eligible for reverse transfer
    - Access and use of data for academic research purposes
- Non-Banner SIS schools (UT and TBR schools all use Banner; not all TICUA schools do)
- Marketing the value of reverse transfer across the state
- Buy-in from 4-year institutions—performance based funding formula
    - Share of performance based funding formula versus and "unfunded mandate"
- Campus resources to "work out the bugs" in setting up the program—competing priorities
- Sustainability post-grant period

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