

Bridging the Gap

*Supporting Transfer Students through
Faculty-Advisor Collaboration*

Delta College Winter Learning Days

February 23, 2024

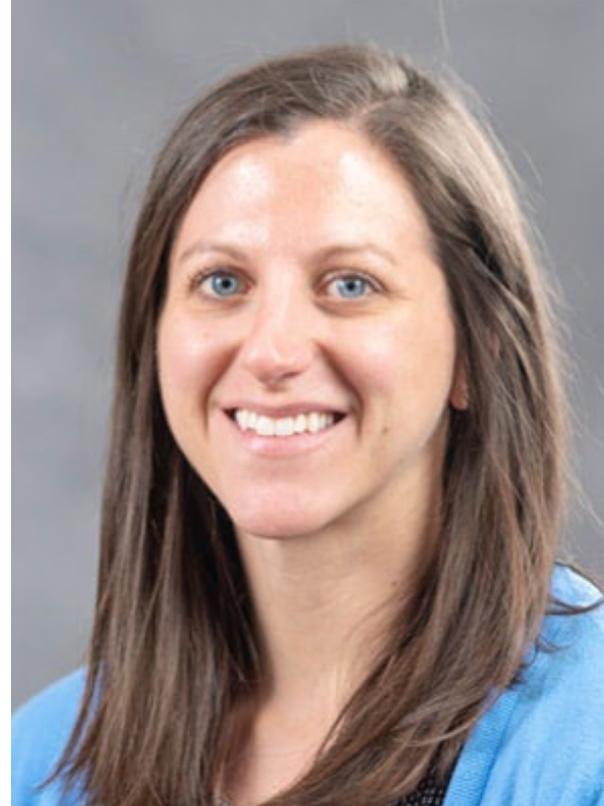
Ashleigh Begres, Stacy StremLOW



Introductions



Ashleigh Begres, M.Ed.
Student Success Advisor



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*Associate Director of
Academic Advising*

Presentation Learning Outcomes



Understand services offered by Delta College's advising team



Learn effective strategies for addressing common questions related to the transfer process



Explore your role to strengthen support for transfer students

Presentation Learning Objectives

Explore

- Explore diversity of transfer student experiences

Debunk

- Debunk myths surrounding community college transfers

Highlight

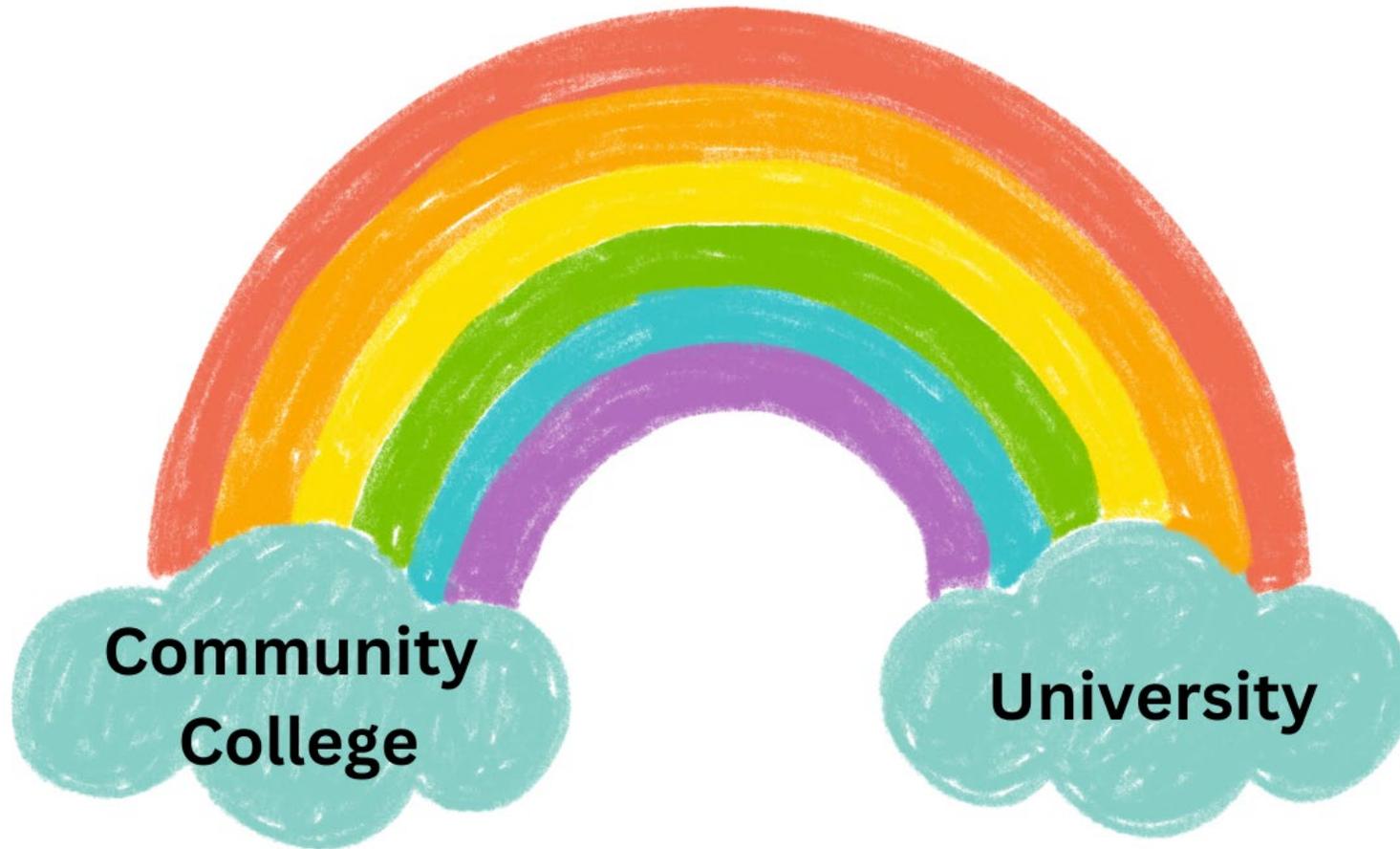
- Highlight the role of faculty in facilitating successful transitions

Understanding

▶ Transfer Students



Perception



**Community
College**

University

Reality



▶ What the Data Tells Us



Nationwide Trends

Black & Hispanic students are HALF as likely as white students to transfer

Only 8% of successful CC transfers follow 2+2 sequence

Transfer credits not applying to major

Self-advising

Running out of financial aid before completion



*"4 out of 5 students who start at a two-year college hope to complete a bachelor's degree, **fewer than 1 in 5 do.**"*

-Community College Research Center, Columbia University

▶ Advising Office
Services





Student Success Advisors assist with...

- ▶ Career & Major Exploration
- ▶ Course Planning & Degree Completion
- ▶ Transfer Exploration & Planning
- ▶ Resource Connections
- ▶ Navigating College Processes
- ▶ University Transfer Center Partnerships

Debunking

▶ Common Misconceptions



Busting Transfer Myths



"I'm at Delta to do my basics/general education classes."



"I can only transfer to nearby transfer partners if I cannot relocate."



"I don't need to talk to my transfer school until my final semester at Delta."

Busting Transfer Myths



"I can only take classes at Delta for two years (or 62 credits), then I have to transfer."

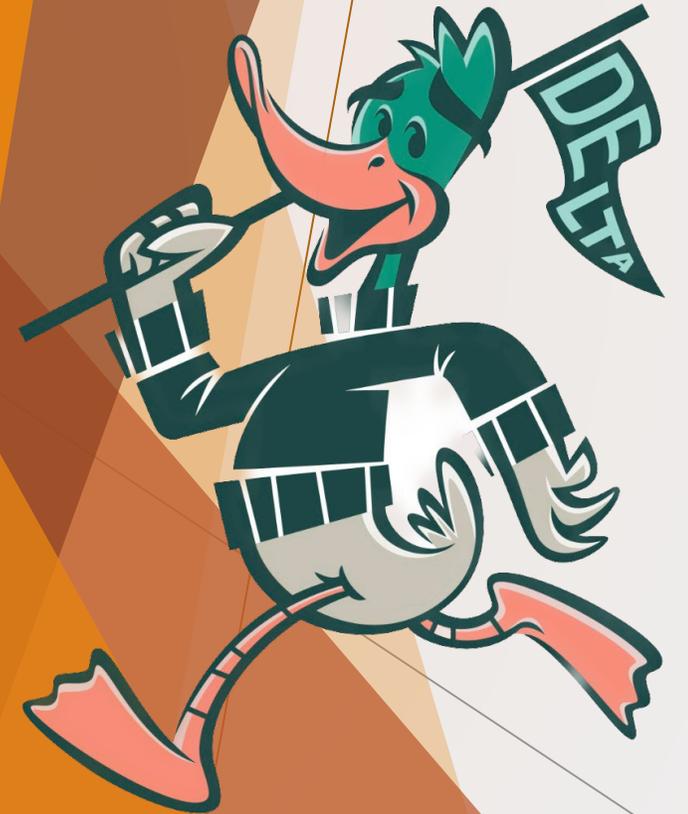


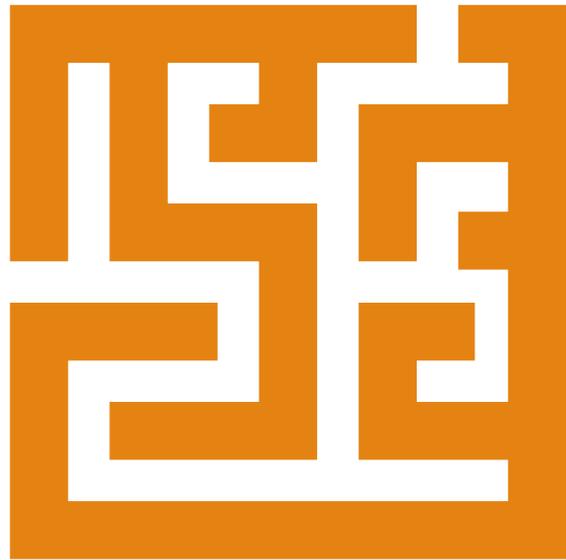
"I can't get my Delta degree because I need to transfer before I earn enough credits."



"Since I didn't start as a first-year student at my transfer university, I don't qualify for their scholarships."

Common ▶ Questions in the Transfer Process



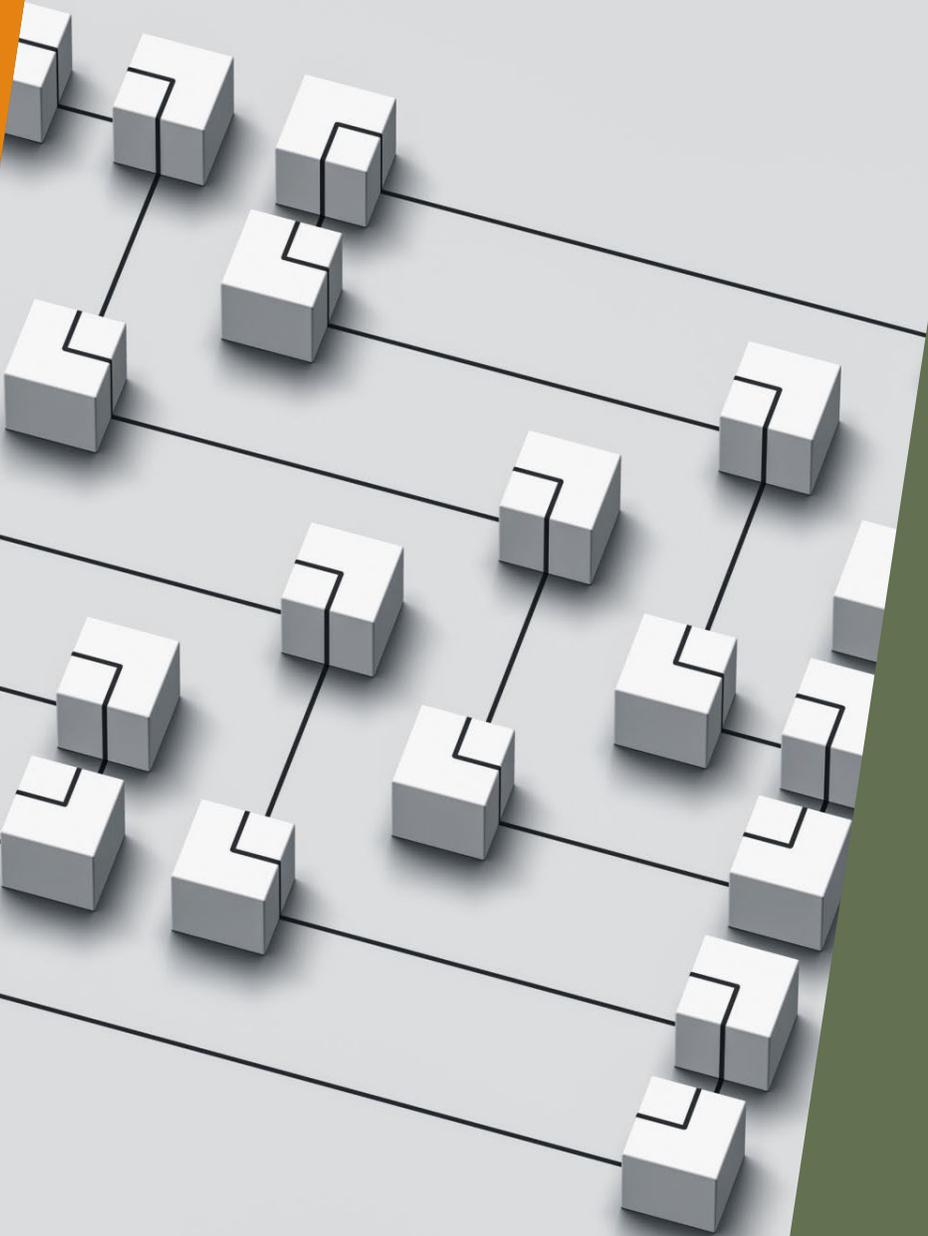


Navigating the Transfer Maze

- ▶ What classes should I take?
- ▶ Where should I transfer?
- ▶ How much does it actually cost?

Navigating the Transfer Maze

- ▶ Normalize transfer conversations
- ▶ Encourage ongoing conversation
- ▶ Model using referrals
- ▶ Relieve yourself of the burden to have all the answers



Faculty are Key
▶ in the Transfer
Journey



Students who work closely with faculty at both the transfer-sending and the transfer-receiving institutions have the advantage of receiving support in academic and career pursuits, in addition to increased guidance and validation.

(Wang et al. 2021)



Key Players with Key Skillsets

Inside the Classroom

- Encourage advising, course planning, and degree completion
- Explore practical transfer major options

Outside the Classroom

- Subject matter experts
- Mentoring relationship

Beyond the Classroom

- Transfer program development
- Ensure course offerings transfer

▶ What's Next?



Goal: Degree Completion & Seamless Transfers



- ▶ Grow collaboration between faculty and advisors in supporting transfer students
- ▶ Commit to enhancing transfer processes for student success
- ▶ Increase degree completion before transfer

Questions & Share Out



**BEST PRACTICES AND
STRATEGIES**



**ANY SPECIFIC CONCERNS
AND QUERIES**

Be a Transfer Champion!



- ▶ If you are interested to have conversations with students, please share your details with Advising by completing this survey.
- ▶ This is on a voluntary-basis and participation is not mandated.

Faculty Connections



References

- Center for Community College Student Engagement. (2018). *Show me the way: The power of advising in community colleges*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, Program in Higher Education Leadership. https://www.ccsse.org/nr2018/Show_Me_The_Way.pdf
- Community College Research Center. Columbia University. (2021, July). *Community college transfer policy fact sheet*. <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/community-college-transfer.pdf>
- Mangan, K. (2023, August 22). Why fixing the transfer process is an equity issue for colleges. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-fixing-the-transfer-process-is-an-equity-issue-for-colleges>
- Wang, X., Lee, S. Y., Nachman, B. R., & Zhu, X. (2021). It matters long before: How early exposure to faculty and advisors at baccalaureate institutions relates to upward transfer. *Educational Researcher*, 50(2), 105-114. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X20956659>