



#NISTSCON2018

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For Transfers by Transfers: Establishing a Statewide Transfer Student Leadership Summit
Orientation and Transition Programs, Academic Advising

Transfer students have the potential to be their own greatest advocates and change agents on campus. In Spring 2017, transfer students and administrators across Texas came together for the “Transfer Student Leadership Summit,” a venue to amplify student voices, share campus initiatives, and build peer networks in order to empower positive change at their home institutions. The presenters will discuss the Summit’s origins, their collaborative planning process, the assessment cycle, and key takeaways for replication elsewhere.

Jeffrey Mayo, Senior Academic Program Coordinator, *University of Texas at Austin*
Joe Oliver, Transfer Student Success Program Director, *Baylor University*
Brandy Carr, Transfer Coordinator, *West Texas A&M University*

Establishing a Statewide
Transfer Student Leadership Summit

For Transfers,
By Transfers

Agenda

- Why a student event?
- Purpose
- Getting started
- Participant Perspective
- Assessment
- Lessons Learned
- Growth & Collaboration



Inspiration, Purpose, and Goals

Why an event for students?



Students as Change Agents

- UT Austin has benefitted from transfer student action and advocacy
 - Transfer-Year Experience program
 - Texas Transfer Student organization
- Inter-institutional event needed to:
 - Share knowledge
 - Establish best practices
 - Narrow in on similar experiences, essence of transfer experience
 - Statewide peer support
 - Motivation

Objectives

- Amplify student voices
- Spread ideas and initiatives to new campuses
- Build a proud and informed statewide peer network
- Experience a professional and supportive conference environment

Front-load your work

Strategic Planning

First Steps: Benchmarking/Scanning

- Meeting with students
 - Desire to meet other students experiencing the same challenges
 - Recognition of transfer as a unique experience requiring unique leadership
 - Diversity of student leadership roles
- What is already offered? Who is doing similar work?
- Honest review of external and internal environments

Project Management

- Goals → Success Indicators
- Project Impact
- Scope
- Constraints/Dependencies
- Risks/Opportunities
- Deliverables

Project Management

- Timeline
- Project Team
- Resources
- Budget
- Sustainability/Maintenance
- Communication Plan

Building Inter-Institutional Partnerships

- Local and professional contacts
- ASTS membership database
- First communication
- Interested colleagues as motivators
- Meeting in person

“Creating a professional presentation and proposal was an exciting opportunity to learn a new skill and be open to constructive criticism. It gave me more practice learning how to phrase important thoughts concisely and in a way that engages and entices audiences to listen and participate in my conversation.”

“I found a confidence in myself professionally that I had not felt before and had so much fun meeting like-minded students and faculty from all across the state. I also felt deeply connected to the other attendees who encouraged me with their drive to better the transfer student experience and eagerness to share their work and ideas with myself and others.”

“I felt important and heard, and I found a new energy to bring back to my home campus and continue working with the campus Transfer Student Success department. “

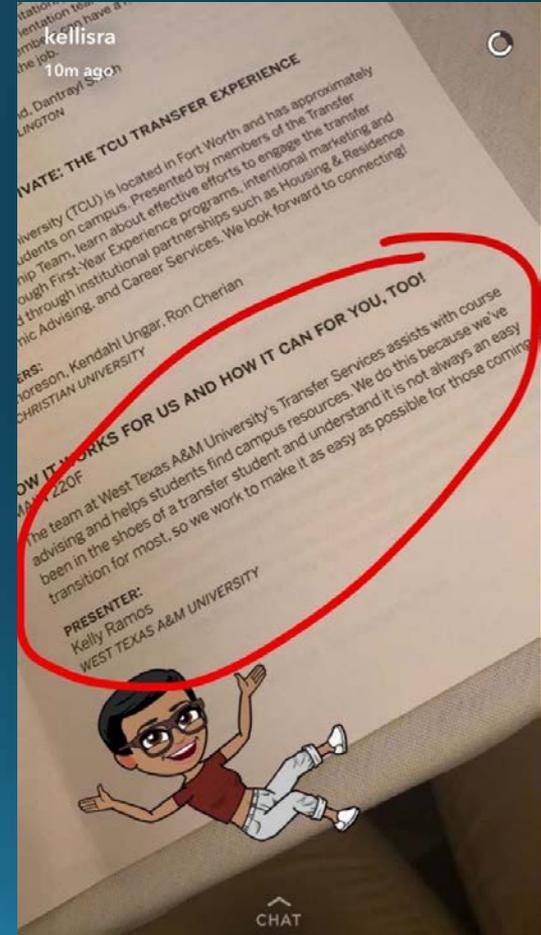
“Through the summit I realized that I should change my career path because higher education and student affairs might be a better fit than my previous plan. The Summit gave me access to the professional world in a challenging but less intimidating environment and instilled in me an excitement about a possible career that I had not yet considered.”

Structure, Lessons Learned,
Participants' Perspective, Impact, and Assessment

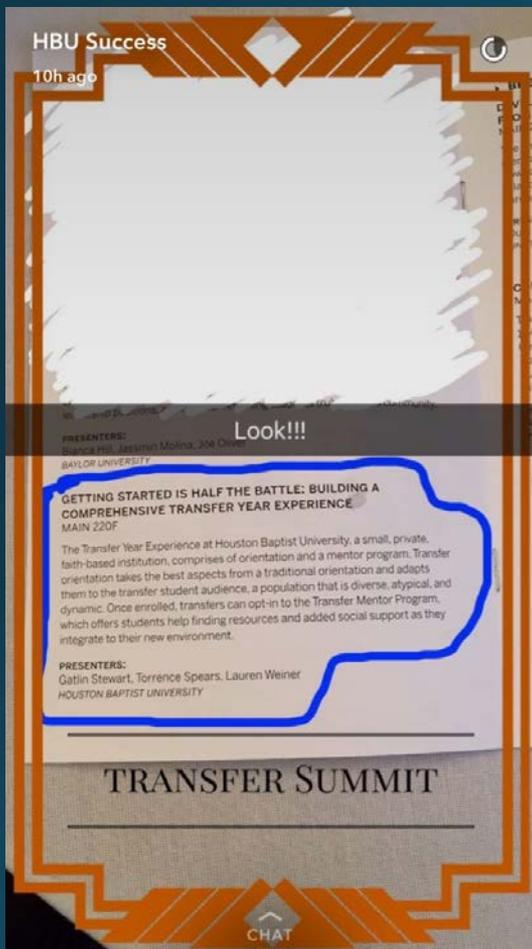
The Summit in Practice

Summit Structure: Day 1

- 12:30 Check-in
- 1:00 Welcome and Opening Session
- 1:30 Transfer Experience Discussion
- 2:30 Breakout Session #1
- 3:15 Afternoon Break
- 3:30 Breakout Session #2
- 4:15 Keynote Speaker
- 5:00 Networking Reception



Summit Structure: Day 2



9:00 Breakfast

9:30 Breakout Session #3

10:15 Morning Break

10:30 Breakout Session #4

11:15 Closing

The Summit Finally Arrived (Yay!)

- Students actually showed up!
- Meeting colleagues
- Seeing connections, finding shared experiences across institutions
- Sparked creativity



The Summit Finally Arrived (Eeek!)

- Underestimated the interest, commitment to the event
- Building in time for AV mishaps
- More structure for staff time



Participants' Perspective: Planning

- Initial contact
- Prioritize funds
- Identifying students
- Working on student session proposals
- Days of the summit
- Follow up & follow through



Informal Assessment



Formal Assessment: Presentations

Transfer Student Leadership Summit Session Evaluation Form

Session Title: _____

1) What is one new idea, perspective, or practice that you will take away from this session?

2) Would you be interested in learning more about this topic after the Summit? Yes No

Your responses to the following questions will be shared only with the Summit organizers and the lead presenters. Please consider all aspects of the presentation (public speaking skills, engaging the audience, visual aids, topics, etc.).

3) What did you most like about the presentation?

4) What aspect of this presentation could improve?

Formal Assessment: Closing Survey

Q3 - Did you connect with students from other institutions whom you now feel comfortable contacting after the Summit to discuss transfer issues or programs? If so, please identify the students or their institution.

Again, each college and university received mentions in this category. Special note for Kyle from TCU, Carol and Eleazar from ACC, Nyrie from UT Austin, Michael from TAMU, Bianca from Baylor, Tiffany from UT Arlington, Amanda from St. Edward's University, and India from UNT for their number of noted connections.

Q4 - Did you learn potential ways to improve a transfer program or service that your institution currently offers? If so, which program and what is the change?

TCU- top 10 tips for transfers Baylor- hand written letters to incoming transfers

We want to now mail personal letters to transfers from our organization

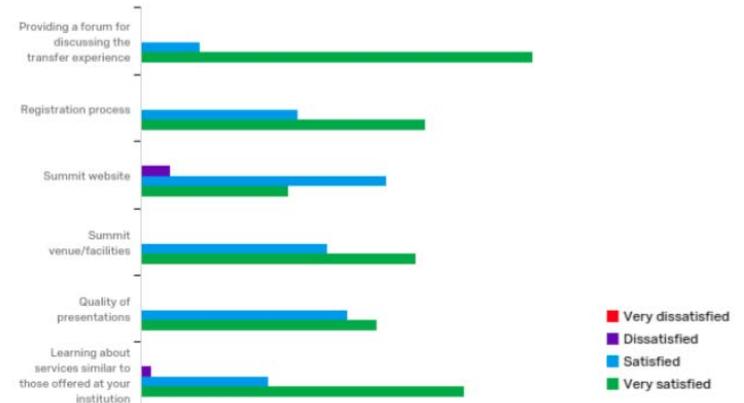
Peer mentors for transfer students

I learned about ways to improve our transfer mentor program & build relationships with students through mentor/mentees

Having a more dedicated transfer center. Maybe a transfer student call hotline.

Do more community service projects

Q1 - How satisfied were you with the following aspects of TSLS?



Bringing the Summit Home

- Lessons learned
- Refining best practices
- Adding new programs
 - Baylor's session on Transfer Housing → UT Austin Transfer Living Learning Community
 - Renewed confidence
 - Transfer Ambassador program



Planning for Year Two



- Inter-institutional Planning Committee
- Expanding the program
- Funding
- Change in date

Questions?



Interactive activity

Planning Your Summit



TRANSFER SUMMIT

FUTURE

- KYLE @ TCU
- support
- resources

community

- TIFFANY @ UT
- support
- resources

growth

- resources
- support
- resources

- support
- resources

FAMILY

- VICTORIA @ TAMU
- support
- resources

- support
- resources

- support
- resources

ease

- support
- resources

CHALLENGES

- support
- resources
- resources

OPPORTUNITY

- KATIE @ UT
- support
- resources

- support
- resources

- support
- resources

community

- support
- resources

Challenges

- TARA @ BAYLOR

- support
- resources



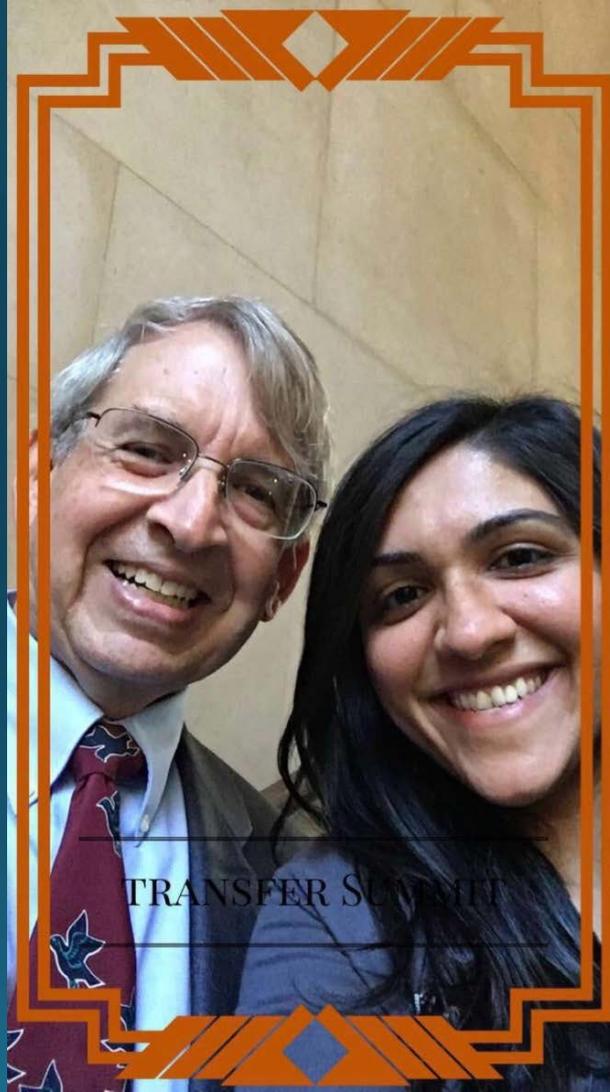
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TRANSFER SUMMIT