

# Strengthening Our Institutional Collaborations to Expand Postsecondary Access & Support Student Success

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# Our Agenda

- ① **Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks**
- ② **Transfer Partnerships: Vision and Commitments**  
Student-centered approaches and collaboration
- ③ **Activities Underway and Planned**  
Consideration of curricular fit and what the partnership will provide students
- ④ **Q&A and Dialogue**  
Attendees share experiences regarding cross-institutional pathways

## **Our Goal:**

Strengthen collaboration and advance innovative solutions that expand access to postsecondary education, enhance student success, and better align learning with the demands of a changing economy.

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While this legislation is helpful in many ways, two gaps impact transfer from two- to a four-year college for many students:

1. **Limited Alignment with Major-Specific Curricula:** Standard mappings and articulation agreements focus primarily on general education, not major requirements.
2. **Lack of Advising Across Institutions:** A lack of cross-institutional advising leads to confusion and frustration for students.

These limitations often result in students paying for excess credits unnecessary to complete their degree upon transfer.

## Envisioning a New Kind of Partnership

Montclair State University aims to foster institutional collaborations built upon **student-centered partnerships and faculty guidance** prior to, throughout, and following transfer.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other schools focused on **breaking barriers for students and making the navigation between institutions as seamless as possible.**

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1. **Program mapping that protects curricular continuity** by addressing both general education and major requirements.
2. **Dual enrollment** in both institutions so students benefit from the resources and environment from both institutions.
3. **Faculty review of course sequences and syllabi** to reduce excess credits and ensure students can immediately enroll in upper-level major courses
4. **Immediate advisement starting the first year.** Transfer support will be provided from the moment of matriculation at the Community College, providing tailored guidance focused on our students' long-term goals.

## Some Questions for Discussion

1. Where have credits been lost in your transfer pathways, and what fixed it?
2. What transfer friction do students still hit that the statewide agreement does not solve?
3. What has made a partnership endure after its original champions moved on?
4. Given complexities, how can we collectively navigate these challenges as peers in NJ?
5. Other reflections or experiences in this area?

## Conclusion

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Through **reciprocal collaboration between institutions sharing a commitment to breaking access barriers**, we can make navigating between institutions as seamless as possible for our students.

By focusing on **proactive advisement**—starting the first year at a Community College—and seeking **ongoing curricular guidance from faculty**, we can ensure that students are only taking courses that support their financial and educational goals.

# Thank you!

We're happy to answer any questions you might have.

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