



March 1, 2024

COTA CONFERENCE

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

TRUMAN BUILDING

301 W HIGH ST

JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

2024 COTA CONFERENCE

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

EVENT SCHEDULE

7:45 – 9:00 am

REGISTRATION OPEN

4th Floor Harry S Truman Building

8:00-9:00 am

NETWORKING SESSION WITH COTA

Room 490/492

9:00-9:30 am

WELCOME SESSION

Room 490/492

Speakers: *Christy Seawall, Chair of COTA;
Samantha Dickey-Interim Assist. Commissioner
Dr. Bennett Boggs- Commissioner;*

9:30-10:30 am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**CREDIT AND CONTINUITY: CURRENT
EFFORTS TO STREAMLINE THE TRANSFER
EXPERIENCE IN THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Room 490/492

Speaker: *Dr. Casey Fraites-Chapes*

Moderator: *Christy Seawall, Western Governors University*

The landscape in higher education has been shifting over the past decade. Learners are coming to school with a variety of educational experiences including, but not limited to, previously earned traditional college credit, test credit, military credit, workplace training, and professional certifications. The State of Kansas has been working on ways to improve continuity amongst the state to help students with the variety of credit types that they are bringing to their institutions to help ensure there is not “phantom credit loss” in their educational transitions. Phantom credit loss is where credit evaluations/awards are inconsistent among institutions and as they move between schools their prior experiences are variable, therefore making the pathway to graduation unclear with additional steps being needed for degree completion. Join me as I share the current initiatives happening in Kansas to streamline educational success for students in the state.

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10:30-10:45 am

BREAK

10:45-11:45 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Follow up with Dr. Casey Fraites-Chapes

Room 490/492

Moderator: *Helen Hale, Crowder College*

Q&A Follow-up Session- Come and Join
Dr Fraites-Chapes for further discussion and Q&A.

**From Lost to Belonging: Rethinking Campus
Integration for Transfer Students**

Room 400

Speakers: *Campbell Keele*

Moderator: *Brooke Lockhart, Southeast MSU*

The experience of transfer students often involves challenges in campus integration and a struggle to find a sense of belonging. Studies show that students who report having a sense of belonging are more likely to be retained and earn a degree. Join me, a transfer student turned transfer advisor at Missouri State University, as I discuss the strategies and initiatives we've implemented to help transfer students feel connected to the University.

Topics covered include: 1) The research behind feeling connected to your University and degree completion, 2) Our "Coordinated Communication Plan" (how we communicate with transfer students as soon as they're admitted), 3) Our Transfer Student Ice Cream Social, to welcome students during the first week of the semester, 4) the implementation of National Transfer Student Week events, 5) Strategies for getting transfer students connected to campus resources, and 6) Plans for the future.

EVENT SCHEDULE

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10:45-11:45 am

Prospective Transfer Students and Unofficial Course Evaluation

Room 500

Speaker: *Nadia Irsheidat*

Moderator: *Mitzi Clayton, University of Missouri*

Prospective transfer students and unofficial course evaluations are designed to serve students from the UM system and all other existing institutions that are regionally accredited. The tools that we are working on is a way for the student to learn about their transfer credits and Mizzou equivalencies. This unofficial evaluation will help our staff be efficient with providing information about equivalencies; it will also map out a possible timeframe the student might need to graduate from the Mizzou major they are seeking admission to. This tool will allow our transfer center to collaborate with Academic units to assist possible courses to suggest for students to meet admission requirements. It will also provide students from other institutions to take an informed decision academically and financially. With this tool the transfer center is seeking to partner with Academic advising departments at other institutions as well as open a direct communication with the prospective students. Thus bridging the gap in the transfer process.

11:45 am-12:45 pm

LUNCH & NETWORKING

12:45-1:45 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Teaching your campus staff how to understand GPA Calculations

Room 400

Speaker: *Scott Fiedler*

Moderator: *Dr. Robyn Walter, East Central College*

Winner of the 2023 Missouri Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) Best of Conference.

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12:45-1:45 pm

Teaching your campus staff how to understand GPA Calculations (*continued*)

Transfer Advisors, Admissions Counselors, and faculty/staff advisors all talk with students about their Grade Point Average (GPA). Transfer students often arrive on campus with questions about how their courses transferred but also how their overall combined GPA was calculated. With each institution having its own transfer credit policy, it can be very confusing for students. Transfer admission, scholarships and selective admission programs all have one thing in common – GPA. But how many faculty and staff understand how GPA really works? At OTC, admissions and advising staff regularly meet with students who need help determining how to improve their GPA for transfer admission, scholarships, or graduation eligibility. As part of a comprehensive training program, all staff are now trained to hand-calculate a semester, cumulative and overall combined GPA, including repeats. Being comfortable talking with transfer students about how GPA works has made a huge difference for both the students and our institution. Come ready to do some basic math and leave with a presentation you can adopt for your own campus based on your institution GPA policies. If you or your staff works with transfer students but isn't comfortable explaining to students how GPA really works, this session is for you!

Making AP Credit Policy Work for Students and Institutions

(Virtual) Room 493/494

Speaker: Janael Yowell

Moderator: Dr. Steve White, STLCC - Wildwood

The College Board's Advanced Placement program is a rigorous high school opportunity that offers AP students the potential to earn college credit if they score well on AP Exams. Student surveys show that one of the main reasons students take AP courses and exams is the ability to earn college credit. Having a fair and equitable AP credit policy has been the impetus for many states to adopt a statewide AP credit policies. This session will look at the process to ensure the majority of students can earn credit for AP. We will also explore ways institutions can make sure their AP credit policy is up to date and meeting the needs of not only students but institutional goals.

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12:45-1:45 pm

CORE 42 Panel - Core Curriculum Advisory Committee

Room 500

Speaker: *Paul Plummer, Leslie Buck
and Becky Blackaby*

Moderator: *Katelyn Wilson, Moberly Area Community College*

Join senior members of the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee in a panel discussion about the Missouri Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42). Come with questions, gain insight into the history and purpose of CORE 42, and learn more about the benefits of a core transfer curriculum.

1:45-1:55 pm

BREAK

1:55-2:55 pm

The Challenge: How do I Streamline and Grow my APL/CPL Program?

Room 490/492

Speakers: *Dr. Scott Campbell*

Moderator: *Dr. David Jones, Westminster College*

CAEL's Credit Predictor Pro allows institutions and state systems to streamline and monitor the entire prior learning assessment/credit for prior learning (PLA/CPL) lifecycle, providing faculty credential approval and insights into what types of credit recommendations your students are receiving. Join Dr. Scott Campbell, VP for Higher Education Partnerships, as he shares a demo and examples of how schools are using the Credit Predictor Pro to streamline their CPL process.

2:55-3:15 pm

CLOSING SESSION

Room 490/492

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Speaker Pictures & Bios



Dr. Casey Fraites-Chapes
Associate University Registrar

Casey Fraites-Chapes began her higher education career in 2008 at Northwest Missouri State University in the Housing department. In 2012, Casey transitioned to Metropolitan Community College, where she worked with students in a variety of capacities to create structural supports for student success. In 2017, Casey transitioned to the University of Kansas and continued pursuing her passion for reducing administrative barriers and streamlining structural supports for students within the Office of Admissions and, as of 2023, as the Associate University Registrar. In 2019, Casey began serving on the Kansas Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) and Credit for Prior Learning committee to connect campus level experiences with state initiatives, becoming the TAAC Co-Chair from 2020 to 2023. Casey grew up as an “Army brat” but considers Cincinnati to be home. She graduated from Hanover College with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature in 2008. In 2011, she completed a Master of Science of Recreation in Recreational Therapy from Northwest Missouri State University, and earned her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Kansas in 2018. Casey is passionate about higher education and the transfer-student experience. She has been honored to have the opportunity to work with students in the many phases of their lives and academic careers and strives every day to ensure that a student’s success is never hindered by administrative barriers. When not working, Casey spends her time with her partner, two children and five dogs. She enjoys listening to audiobooks, gardening, and volunteering with animal rescue organizations as a hospice foster home.

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Campbell Keele
Missouri State University

Campbell Keele serves as the Coordinator, Transfer Initiatives at Missouri State University. Campbell was a transfer student at Missouri State, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Finance and a master's degree in Business Administration. Campbell has been in the field of academic advising for five years. In her current role, she advises transfer students in the Bachelor of General Studies program, as well as Pre-Law students and students with an Undeclared major. Campbell also serves as a per-course faculty member for Missouri State University's College of Business and the chair of the Transfer Advising Committee. She administers programming for transfer students and professional development for advisors at Missouri State. Campbell is passionate about her advocacy for transfer students and academic advising at both the University and state level, through her involvement with the MACADA Executive Board.



Nadia Irsheidat
University of Missouri

Nadia Irsheidat is the Interim Director at the Transfer Center-University of Missouri. She earned a Master of Science in Management Information Systems, a Graduate Certificate in Multiculturalism, and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. Nadia is interested in processes and student success; she explores each factor in a student's journey at the university. Nadia has over ten years of experience in higher education; she started at the admissions office as an international and domestic transfer credit evaluator and moved up to add to her role evaluating admissions applications. Nadia moved to academic advising, where she set her mission to assist students in their growth and development by constructing meaningful educational plans compatible with their life goals. Nadia maintains strong communication and builds relationships with our partners at the community colleges to facilitate a seamless transfer process for all students interested in attending the University of Missouri. She is also interested in helping the university internationalize the campus's culture and better understand diversity and inclusion. Nadia uses and creates new and old systems and applications to the best of their abilities, managing projects with high efficiency and quality outcomes.

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Scott Fiedler
Registrar, Ozark Technical College

Scott has served as both the College Director of Admissions and the College Registrar at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) since 2016. In his current role as College Registrar, Scott works daily with students, navigators and admissions counselors on a wide range of issues, but is the go-to person on campus for any questions related to a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Scott also teaches OTC-101, the college's Introduction to College course where he helps incoming students learn how to thrive in a college environment. Prior to his time at OTC, Scott served in several roles at Missouri State University over 20 years including work in Residence Life, TRIO – Student Support Services, Teacher Certification and Student Services. In addition to his work on college campuses, he has been active at the state level serving on state-wide committees and as a board member of two state organizations.

Scott earned his Bachelor of Mass Communications and Sociology from Bemidji State University in Minnesota, and his Master of College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University. In his spare time, he and his wife Cindy love spending time with family and friends at the lake waterskiing and relaxing.



Janael Yowell
Director of Higher Education Policy, AP Higher Education Team, College Board

Janael Yowell serves as Director of Higher Education Policy within the AP Higher Education team at College Board. Her primary focus is on statewide and systemwide AP and CLEP credit policies, where she works to ensure that students are given the opportunity to receive credit for their successful AP exam scores. Prior to joining College Board, Janael worked over a decade in Higher Education and college access. Most recently, she led Academic Advising and Transfer Student Services at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. Janael holds a B.A. in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill, an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Louisiana State University and an Ed.S. in Higher Education from Appalachian State University with a concentration in University and Community College Leadership.

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Scott A. Campbell, Ph.D

Vice President, Partnership Development



Dr. Scott A. Campbell is the Vice President for Higher Education Partnerships at CAEL. He brings a well rounded background in academic and student affairs leadership as well as extensive experience in developing complex partnerships in the higher education arena. Scott rejoined CAEL after serving as the Vice President for Education & Adult Learning at Plectica where he spearheaded business development in higher education and corporate learning to help organizations become more effective and get better results through systems thinking, leadership, and mapping. Prior to Plectica, Scott was the Vice President for Higher Education at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), where he worked with higher education institutions to help them become more responsive to the unique and changing needs of learners. Campbell worked as the Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Edgewood School. He also served as the Executive Director for Partnership Development at Regis University, New Ventures, and as the Director of Student Activities at Regis University. Campbell completed his B.A. at the University of Oklahoma in 1991. He received his MA in Higher Education Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1996. In 2005, he completed his PhD in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at the University of Northern Colorado. In his prior life, Campbell was drafted by the Montreal Expos. He currently ranks fifth all-time at the University of Oklahoma in career batting average (.384).

More recently, Campbell was honored by the State of Wisconsin for his work supporting veterans at Edgewood College and served as a board member of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. Campbell lives in Arlington, TX with his wife of 30 years, Yvonne. They are empty-nesters.

Dr. Becky Blackaby

Moberly Area Community College



Dr. Becky Lee Blackaby is a distinguished professor of physical sciences at Moberly Area Community College. She has taught at MACC since 2011 and serves on the college's General Education Assessment Panel. She is one of the original members of the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee for Core 42 and serves as the Faculty Discipline Co-Chair for Natural Sciences. Becky is also a certified group exercise instructor with the YMCA.

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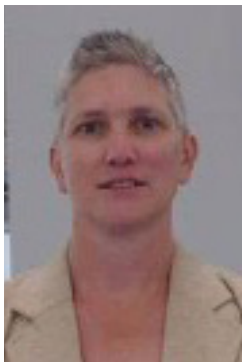


Dr. Paul Plummer

Senior Instructor of Statistics and General Education Assessment Coordinator, University of Central Missouri

Paul Plummer has served as General Education Assessment Coordinator and UCM's representative on the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee since July 1, 2022. He presently serves as the Chair of the Humanities and Fine Arts subcommittee. Paul also serves on the Missouri Mathematics Advisory Committee which oversees the Mathematics Pathways included in CORE 42. Paul has taught mathematics and statistics at the University of Central Missouri since 2001. He has served as lead faculty for the university's general education statistics course since its conception. He also has led the efforts to provide underprepared students with a corequisite for statistics which has culminated in a Basic Statistics with Review which is open to any incoming student. He has also actively been involved with general education at UCM for the past decade through involvement in both the university's general education committee and assessment council.

Paul earned his B.S.E in Mathematics and M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Central Missouri and a PhD in Mathematics/Economics with an emphasis in Statistics from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. Outside of work Paul is active in his church and spending time with his wife Cheryl and their family.



Leslie Buck

Professor of Psychology, Jefferson College

Leslie Buck earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Psychology from Southeast Missouri State University and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Community Counseling from the University of Oklahoma. She completed most of the requirements for her Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Oklahoma-Norman, except the dissertation. Prior to joining the Jefferson College Psychology department in 2007, Professor Buck was an instructor at McKendree University in the Masters in Counseling program. She has also taught undergraduates about career and life planning at the University of Oklahoma. In addition, Professor Buck has worked in a variety of applied psychology settings, including community and hospital-based centers, providing psychological treatment to both children and adults. She has supervised the training of Masters-level counseling students. Her most recent applied position was in the United States Air Force at a military medical treatment facility.

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COTA wishes to reach out to thank the following individuals and organizations for their efforts to bring this 2024 COTA Conference to fruition:

MDHEWD Commissioner: Dr. Bennett Boggs

MDHEWD Chief of Staff: Rachelle Sharpe

MDHEWD Interim Asst. Commissioner of Postsecondary Policy: Samantha Dickey

MDHEWD COMMS Team: LeAnn Powell, Director; Nat King;

Meghan Zeller-Warren; Jason Strickland

COTA Conference Committee: Christy Seawall Chair; Katelyn Wilson; Ross Hawkins,

Dr. Steven White; Dr. Phil Brdgmon; Helen Hale; Dr. David Jones; Mitzi Clayton;

Dr. Jacob Larson; Dr. Gavin O'Conner; Brooke Lockhart; Robyn Walter

MDHEWD Strategic Initiatives and Project Team

Office of Administration ITSD Team

Office of Administration Facilities Team

The Courtyard by Marriott, Jefferson City

Hy-Vee Catering, Jefferson City

Panera Catering, Jefferson City

High Rise Coffee, Jefferson City

Conference Organizer: Joie Hendricks

Thank you



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