



Rethinking Policies, Practices, and Partnerships

2025 Annual COTA Conference

Camden on the Lake | March 7, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

7:45-9:00 AM REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

8:00 AM NETWORKING SESSION WITH COTA - Harbor Ballroom

9:00 AM WELCOME SESSION - Harbor Ballroom

Speakers: Commissioner Dr. Bennett Boggs, Gavin O'Conner - COTA Chair

9:30 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Harbor Ballroom

Dr. Maggie Segnitz
Enhancing Onboarding and Academic Advising for Transfer Students

Explore the essential strategies for enhancing onboarding practices and academic advising tailored specifically for transfer students. With their unique challenges and diverse backgrounds, transfer students require a comprehensive support system that addresses their unique needs. Expect to leave this session with actionable insights, innovative strategies, and a renewed commitment to ensuring that transfer students thrive in their academic journeys.

10:30 AM BREAK

10:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

- **Concurrent Session #1 - Niangua Room**

Q & A with Dr. Maggie Segnitz

Join Dr. Maggie Segnitz for further discussion and Q&A.

- **Concurrent Session #2 - Gravois Room**

Stephanie Ferguson - St. Louis Community College-
Pathways to Progress: Optimizing Transfer Programming in Community Colleges

This session highlights the evolution of transfer-related programming at St. Louis Community College (STLCC) over the past two years. Unlike traditional approaches limited to transfer fairs and college table visits, this initiative expanded student engagement with a series of innovative events. Starting with the introduction of "Donut Holes and Transfer Goals," the program provided resources for navigating transfer guides and applications, and it continued to evolve with scholarship workshops, monthly themed transfer workshops, and networking sessions. The culmination of these efforts led to improved student participation and engagement, setting a new standard for transfer support at STLCC.

- **Concurrent Session #3 - Lakeside Room**

Becky Blackaby, Leslie Buck, Leigh Kolb - CORE 42 Roundtable

Please join members of The Core Curriculum Advisor Committee to discuss the development, progress, and future direction of the CORE 42. While the goal of CORE 42 is to guarantee seamless transfer, the process is complex with many stakeholders involved. The Core Curriculum Advisor Committee depends on feedback to guide and improve the transfer process for all students at all institutions!

12:00 PM LUNCH & NETWORKING - Harbor Ballroom

12:05 PM Transfer and Articulation Officer meeting (working lunch)

1:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

- **Concurrent Session #1- Niangua Room**

Elizabeth Kirby, Director of Enrollment Solutions at EnrollML - *Partnering with AI: Empowering Enrollment, Retention, and Student Success through Innovative Tools*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming higher education, offering institutions new opportunities to streamline processes, enhance student support, and foster collaboration. However, with these opportunities come challenges, particularly in navigating administrative and ethical considerations. This session will explore how institutions can leverage AI to foster student-centered transfer practices while building strong vendor partnerships and ensuring alignment with ethical standards. This session will highlight real-world examples of institutions that have successfully implemented these initiatives, demonstrating impacts on retention and student success.

- **Concurrent Session #2 - Lakeside Room**

Jamie Stanley and Heather Flint, Crowder College-
Practical Strategies for Building Inter-Collegiate Relationships Between Community Colleges and Four-Year Universities

Successfully facilitating student transfer from community colleges to four-year universities requires intentional relationship building between institutions. In this session, presenters will share Crowder College's proven strategies for fostering strong inter-collegiate relationships, benefiting both students and partner institutions.

Presenters will also highlight challenges encountered in this process—such as navigating institutional differences and resource limitations—and the creative solutions that have allowed Crowder College to overcome these obstacles.

- **Concurrent Session #3 - Gravois Room**

Joanna Szewczak, Robert Halbach, Faustina Abrahams,
Missouri Southern State University NSC *Reverse Transfer Process: How to Begin the Journey Toward Successful Implementation*

This session highlights how collaboration between IT and the Office of the Registrar's departments ensured the successful setup of the NSC Reverse Transfer tool to facilitate the Missouri Reverse Transfer process. We'll demystify technical setup, share key lessons, and provide actionable tips to help others begin their own projects.

2:00 PM BREAK

2:15 PM AFTERNOON SESSION: Collaborative Connections-Harbor Ballroom

What can COTA and the State focus on to increase degree attainment for transfer students in Missouri? In this session, attendees will break out into smaller groups to interact with COTA and share needs, wants, and concerns surrounding transfer in the state and at your institutions.

3:00 PM CLOSING SESSION - Harbor Ballroom

COTA thanks the following individuals and organizations for their efforts to bring the 2025 COTA Conference to fruition:

MDHEWD Commissioner:

Dr. Bennett Boggs

MDHEWD Chief of Staff:

Rachelle Sharpe

MDHEWD Asst. Commissioner of Postsecondary Policy:

Samantha Dickey

MDHEWD Communications Team:

Director, LeAnn Powell; Lydia Linsenbardt; Gracie Hamrick; Heidi Lin; Jason Strickland; Marshall Franks

COTA Conference Committee:

Dr. Beth Kania-Gosche; Brooke Lockhart; Robyn Walter

MDHEWD Strategic Initiatives and Project Team

Office of Administration ITSD Team

Special thanks to our venue:

Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark, Missouri
Clint Warnica, Denise Pence

Conference Organizer:

Joie Hendricks