



ATI Transfer Community of Practice Fact Sheet

ABOUT THE ATI TRANSFER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:

The Transfer Community of Practice (CoP) provides opportunities for interested members to work together in a dedicated group based on shared strategic priorities. The Transfer CoP includes more than 25 ATI members, which have committed to improving transfer student access and success at ATI institutions. If your institution does not currently participate in the Transfer CoP and would like more information, please contact Benjamin Fresquez (benjamin.fresquez@aspeninstitute.org).

WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT:

- **Expanding community college transfer represents a significant opportunity to reach historically underserved students.**
 - Community colleges enroll disproportionate numbers of lower-income students, with two-thirds of entering two-year students coming from families from the bottom half of the national income distribution.
 - Black, Hispanic, Native American, and lower-income student representation is higher in community colleges than in four-year public and not-for-profit schools.
- **Most community college students aspire to a bachelor's degree, but four-year institutions struggle to support them.**
 - Eighty percent of first-time community college students intend to attain a bachelor's degree, but only 14 percent actually do within six years of entering community college.
- **Even the highest achievers in community college are overlooked.**
 - Each year, 50,000 high-achieving, low-and moderate-income community colleges students do not transfer to a four-year institution.
 - Approximately 15,000 of these students have a GPA of 3.7 or above, which makes them attractive candidates for the nation's most selective schools.
- **ATI institutions have the ability to create substantially more opportunity for community college students.**
 - Across all ATI institutions, only 18 percent of new students are transfers, compared to 32 percent at all four-year institutions.
- **Modest change at individual institutions can have a substantial nationwide impact.**
 - If every ATI school enrolled an additional 20 low- and moderate-income community college students as juniors each year, ATI would be a quarter of the way to reaching its 50,000-by-2025 goal.

Statistics cited from [The Talent Blind Spot: The Case for Increasing Community College Transfer to High Graduation Rate Institutions.](#)



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FAST FACTS ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TRANSFER:

- Community college students represent 37 percent of all entering first-time degree-seeking undergraduates, with a total fall enrollment of 6.4 million students each year. Enrollments are expected to reach 7.4 million by 2025.
- Community college students who transfer to selective four-year institutions graduate at a higher rate (75 percent) than students who enter from high school (73 percent) ([Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#), 2019).
- In comparison to an equivalent cohort of traditional first-year students, the financial aid required to enroll and graduate an average cohort of community college transfer students is approximately \$1.3 million less at private ATI institutions and \$3.6 million less at public ATI institutions, because of transfer students' shorter time to degree.

Statistics cited from [The Talent Blind Spot: The Case for Increasing Community College Transfer to High Graduation Rate Institutions](#).

TRANSFER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE OBJECTIVES:

The Transfer Community of Practice follows the same theory of change as broader ATI efforts.

- Committing to visible goals:
 - Members set goals and track progress to goals.
 - Participants annually report common statistics on transfer enrollment and success.
- Research and knowledge-sharing:
 - Opportunities to meet in person (annual meeting, smaller working groups, site visits)
 - Opportunities to co-develop resources and tools that address specific guidance
 - Access to experts and technical support
- Communications:
 - Features and profiles of effective practices and opportunities to elevate leadership voices on key issues