

November 9, 2009

**Creating a Culture of Transfer in Arizona
The Arizona State University –Arizona Western College
Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program**

**A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE**

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") are Arizona Western College ("AWC"), a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University ("ASU") (collectively "Parties").

Introduction

ASU and AWC are fully committed to the statewide goals of increasing the number of baccalaureate and associate degrees awarded to students in Arizona. To assist in achieving these goals, the Parties will establish a formal Partnership designed to significantly increase the number of AWC students who obtain a baccalaureate degree from ASU. The Partnership will promote positive and seamless experiences for students transferring from AWC to ASU, and will maximize the Parties' efforts to create a student-centered "culture of transfer" in Arizona. The Partnership between the Parties is consistent with, and supports, the goals of the Arizona Transfer System, the Academic Program Articulation Steering Committee (APASC), and other statewide initiatives, which seek to increase the number of associate and bachelor degrees awarded in Arizona. The Partnership will implement innovative strategies designed to achieve these statewide goals.

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program

Academic preparation is the single most important determinant of transfer student success. Therefore, a key component of the Partnership will be to provide meaningful incentives for students to complete courses in the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) and obtain an associate's degree, or complete other appropriate transfer-eligible coursework, at AWC before transferring to ASU. The Partnership will establish the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program. TAG is an articulated degree-to-degree transfer program that will provide guaranteed admission into an ASU undergraduate degree program for AWC students who complete the requirements of a specific TAG. Each TAG will include an appropriate AGEC, lower division "major preparation" courses as designated by the ASU degree program, and electives required to complete the associate's degree. AWC students who are Arizona residents, successfully complete TAG requirements, and transfer to ASU within three years of entering the program will benefit from tuition incentives such as a cap on tuition increases during their matriculation at ASU.

The Parties recognize that for some ASU degree programs, obtaining an associate's degree is not the most beneficial pathway for a student to achieve the student's desired baccalaureate degree. In these cases, reverse awarding of the associate's degree will be implemented through a reverse transfer of credit system. The Parties also agree to develop, where appropriate, Associates of Applied Science-Bachelors of Applied Science (AAS-BAS) TAGs that will accept up to 75 lower division credit hours. In addition, the Parties will develop, where appropriate, programs for joint, deferred, and/or provisional admission of qualified students. Jointly admitted students would have full rights and privileges at both institutions.

Implementation

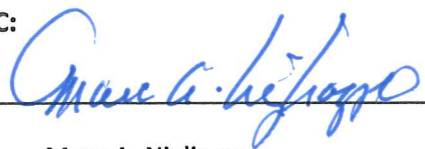
The Parties agree that successful implementation of the Partnership will require that the Parties collaborate on a number of issues, and the Parties will identify and secure the necessary resources to implement the Partnership.

The Parties will establish a Steering Committee with representatives from both institutions to oversee the implementation of this MOU. Specifically, the Steering Committee will ensure that the TAG program will be in place by the fall semester of 2010. Additional activities that the Steering Committee will oversee include, but are not limited to:

- Developing appropriate marketing and communication strategies for the Partnership;
- Developing and implementing appropriate joint professional development opportunities for student advisors from both institutions and increasing the availability of ASU advising for AWC students;
- Developing and implementing appropriate data systems to monitor and evaluate the TAG program and to ensure timely student progress through the programs;
- Implementing an electronic transcript system to enhance seamless transfer between the two institutions;
- Identifying opportunities to increase financial support for AWC students transferring to ASU.

Review

The Steering Committee will be responsible for reviewing the progress and effectiveness of the Partnership and will provide a written summary of the review to the Presidents of ASU and AWC on an annual basis.

AWC: 
By: _____
Marc A. Nigliazzo
President
Arizona Western College

ASU: 
By: _____
Michael M. Crow
President
Arizona State University

Date: 1-13-10

Date: 2/10/10