

PolyTransfer Peer Mentoring: Expanding HIPs to Support Transfer Student Success

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$40,000

Project Director

Name: S. Terri Gomez
Title: Associate Professor
College: Education and Integrative Studies

Co-Project Director

Name: Deborah Brandon
Title: Executive Director
Department: Admissions and Outreach

Co-Project Director

Name: Cecilia Santiago Gonzalez
Title: Director
Department: One Stop and Enrollment Services

Project Description

The goal of this Kellogg request is to implement a pilot program that examines the impact of expanding the PolyTransfer Program to include a comprehensive Peer Mentoring Program to support the transition and persistence of CPP transfer students. PolyTransfer receives \$80,000 CSU Chancellor's Academic and Student Success Program annual grant, and the majority of those funds are used for: 1) support staff, 2) Summer Program, and 3) Quarterly transfer academies throughout the academic year. This cross-divisional Academic and Student Affairs collaboration focuses on the development of a transfer first year experience program, which targets first generation underrepresented students, and is supported through CEIS, Office of Admissions & Outreach, Orientation Services (now One Stop), and SSEP. Peer Mentoring is one of the central high impact practices (HIPs) in our program, and features prominently in the Summer Program and quarterly workshops. However, PolyTransfer does not have the budget to offer a comprehensive, campus wide, yearlong transfer peer-mentoring program. Transfer Peer Mentoring actually embeds two HIPs – peer mentoring for new transfer students, and on-campus employment for continuing transfer students (many of whom are former participants in the PolyTransfer First Year Experience Program) who will now serve as peer mentors. We are proposing to hire 15 peer mentors; 1 peer mentor per college, with the larger colleges having at least 2. Mentors will work 8-10 hours a week with transfer students from their respective college and will also assist with outreach efforts to our local community colleges, specifically the first year experience programs. We expect to secure funding to sustain and institutionalize comprehensive transfer peer mentoring through federal grants, private foundations, and other permanent on-campus funding.