Through the Gate:

Learning How to Increase Transfer for "High-Leverage" Students

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Darla Cooper, EdD
Executive Director

The RP Group

www.rpgroup.org

Mission
- Strengthen CCCs' ability to gather, analyze, and act on information in order to enhance student equity and success

Services
- Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

Organization
- 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization

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College Futures Foundation
www.collegefutures.org

Vision

- More graduates for a thriving California

Mission

- Removing barriers so more low-income and underrepresented students attain bachelor's degrees

Funder	Partner	Connector

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Today's Presentation Outcomes

Participants will…

- Recognize the existence of a student population who are completing all or most of their transfer requirements, but not advancing to the university.
- Learn what factors influence whether students transfer or stop at or near the transfer gate, and how these factors differ by region and student sub-group.
- Understand what colleges can do to identify these students on their own campus and how to support their transfer journey.
- Know next steps in this research that will inform practitioners and policymakers on how to address practices and policies hindering students' transition to a university.
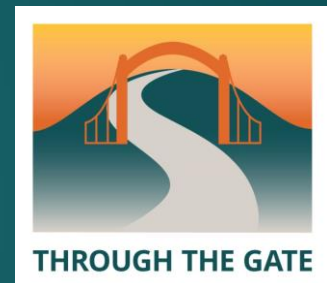
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Today's Presentation Outline

- Through the Gate Study Recap

- Examining Factors Determining Whether Students Achieve Transfer or Get Stuck At or Near the Gate

- Getting Better Directions: Phase II
  - Transfer Decision-Making Framework

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Through the Gate Transfer Study

A Fresh Take on the Transfer Challenge

THROUGH THE GATE

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Through the Gate Aims to…

Identify individuals who have **completed all or most of their transfer requirements, but who do not make it "through the gate"** to university

Identify strategies for increasing transfer, boosting baccalaureate production, and enhancing students' social and economic mobility--especially for underrepresented populations

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Research Approach

Phase I:

Mapping the Transfer Landscape

Quantitative research to better understand the transfer landscape focusing on students who met all or most of their requirements but have not transferred

Phase II:

Getting Better Directions

Mixed-methods research to understand what factors impact these students' journeys and how policy and practice might change to propel them through the gate

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A Fresh Take on the Transfer Continuum
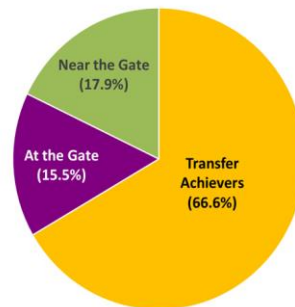

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Study Sample

- 875,630 CCC students
- Enrolled between 2010-2011 and 20 2015
- Outcomes through spring 2016

Three subgroups:

1. Transfer Achievers (583,074)
2. Students At the Gate (135,557)
3. Students Near the Gate (156,999)

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Phase I Key Findings

Transfer Achievers
- Majority transferred without a degree or certificate (68.5%, *n*=399,635)
- 75% of African-American students achieve transfer

Students At the Gate
- Over half of transfer-ready students left without a degree or credential
- Latino students most likely to earn an AD-T but halt their transfer journey

Students Near the Gate
- 92% needed to complete transfer math requirements
- Nearly half exited the system without a degree or credential
- Time is the enemy; students who did not transfer within a year of becoming transfer-ready were less likely to transition to university

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Examining Factors Determining Whether Students Achieve Transfer or Get Stuck At or Near the Gate

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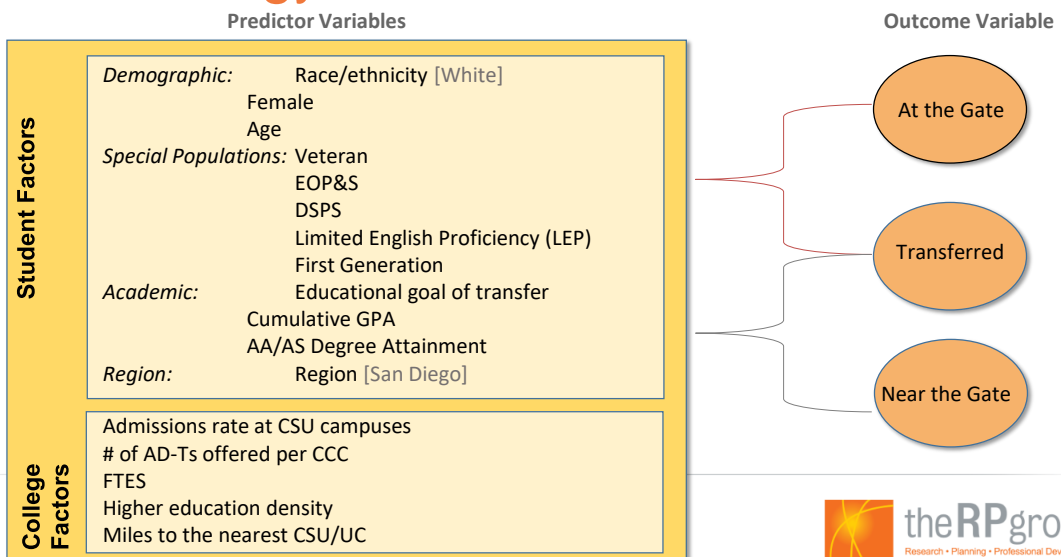for California Community Colleges

Purpose

Further understand the connection between student and college factors and the odds of remaining near or at the gate rather than achieving transfer.

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Methodology: Multinomial Logistic Regression

Predictor Variables

Outcome Variable

Student Factors

Demographic:	Race/ethnicity [White]
	Female
	Age
Special Populations:	Veteran
	EOP&S
	DSPS
	Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
	First Generation
Academic:	Educational goal of transfer
	Cumulative GPA
	AA/AS Degree Attainment
Region:	Region [San Diego]

College Factors

Admissions rate at CSU campuses
# of AD-Ts offered per CCC
FTES
Higher education density
Miles to the nearest CSU/UC

At the Gate

Transferred

Near the Gate

Shared Factors for Near and At the Gate

Demographic	Special Populations	Academic	Region
• (Higher) Age • Hispanic	• Any Disability • First Gen • Limited Engl Proficiency • EOP&S	• Transfer Educational Goal • AA/AS Attainment	• Central Valley

Near the Gate:
Native American
At the Gate:
Asian

At the Gate:
Inland Empire
SF Bay Area
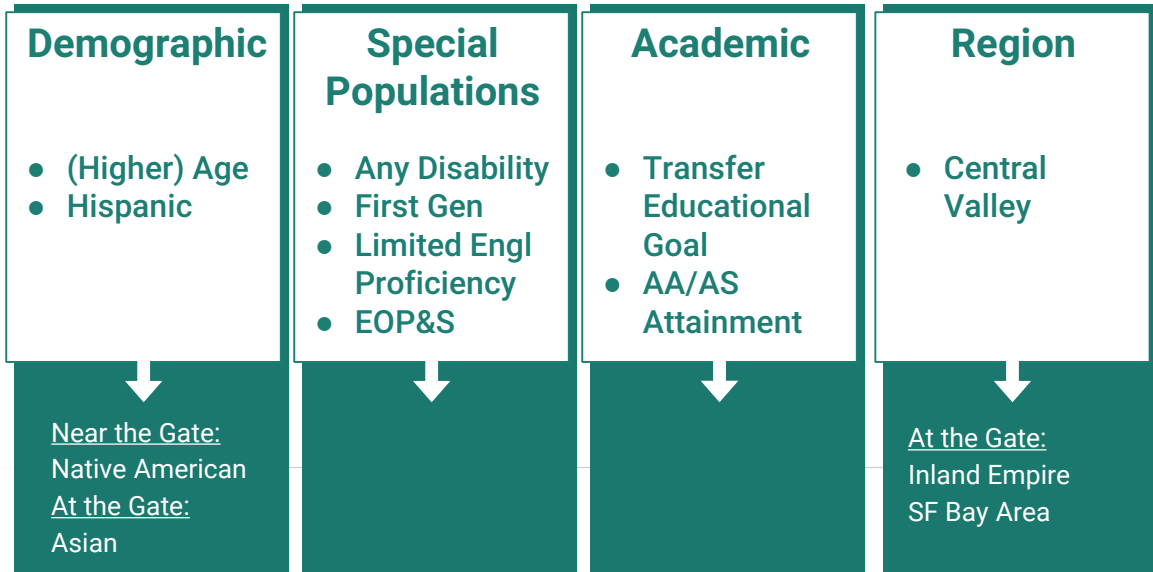
Factors for Transfer Achievers

Characteristics of students more likely to transfer than to be At or Near the Gate:

- Higher GPAs (near the gate)
- Females (at the gate)
- Veterans (both)
- African Americans (both)

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Key Takeaways

- Difficult to truly nail down which students (based on quantitative data) are truly transfer-seeking

- Challenges current assumptions about which student groups are more likely to transfer, and where our intervention points are located along their transfer path

- Need to learn from students themselves about what impacts their transfer progress and how to improve their success

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Transfer Decision-Making Framework

Student Factors	**College Factors**
☐ Academic (e.g., GPA, transfer units completed)	☐ Transfer Support (e.g., robustness of Transfer Center)
☐ Demographics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity)	☐ Culture (e.g., intersegmental alignment, messaging)
☐ Psychological (e.g., confidence, fear of unknown)	☐ Policy (e.g., # of AD-Ts available)
☐ Sociocultural (e.g., family expectations)	☐ Regional (e.g., proximity to university, population density)
☐ Financial (e.g., college affordability)	

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Group Discussion

- What about this framework resonates with you?
- What, if any, factors/concepts are missing/ unclear/unnecessary?

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Getting Better Directions

Phase II Research

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Phase II Research Questions

- **Why** do so many students who are close to achieving their transfer goal stop short of making this transition?

- **What can we do** to help students who are at or near the gate transfer?

- **What is holding back different student groups,** and **how can we help** them continue their journey?

- **What is impacting IE and CV students' transfer progress**, and what strategies can be pursued to increase their success?

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Phase II Methodology

- Study Sample:
  - 31 CCCs with statewide regional representation
  - Near and At the Gate students still enrolled and exited
- Online Student Survey:
  - Exploration of obstacles that prevented or dissuaded students from transferring, and the supports that could bring them back onto the transfer path
- Telephone Interviews:
  - In-depth look at students' non-transfer stories – what barriers emerged and how they faced them, what drove their decision-making at various exit points

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In the Meantime, Colleges Can...

- Figure out who these students are at your college
  - Identify how many students are at or near the gate
  - Analyze to see if certain student groups are more likely to be at or near the gate
- Reach out to these students to explore barriers and identify needs
- Develop plans to help address emerging barriers and needs

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Questions?

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For more information on the Through the Gate Study

Project Directors:
Dr. Darla Cooper
dcooper@rpgroup.org

www.rpgroup.org/through-the-gate
#StudentsThroughtheGate

Dr. Kristen Fong
kfong@rpgroup.org

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Thank you!

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