

The following presentation was given at the 20th Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. In some cases, photos have been removed to avoid possible copyright infringement. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2326 - The Power of Cross-Consortia Collaboration

Partnerships and Collaboration, Leadership and Strategic Planning

The higher education consortium model is a strong model for cross-institutional collaboration, transfer mapping, and creating opportunities for shared innovation across member institutions. Cross-consortium collaboration multiplies the potential for shared innovation not only across institutions but across states and regions. This presentation features the cross-consortia collaboration between a time-tested consortium and a new consortium, and how their collaboration has unlocked new opportunities for innovation.

Christine Hubbard, *President*

North Texas Community College Consortium

Laura Latta, *Executive Director*

Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

The Power of Cross-Consortial Collaboration



Christine Hubbard, Ph.D., Laura Latta, Ph.D.

Introductions



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM



Christine Hubbard, Ph.D.

President

North Texas Community College
Consortium



Laura Latta, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

Session Overview



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

1. The higher education consortium model.
2. Consortia as a vehicle for cross-institutional collaboration, transfer mapping, and creating opportunities for shared innovation across member institutions.
3. Cross-consortial collaboration as a potential multiplier for shared innovation not only across institutions but across states and regions.
4. Case study of how a cross-consortial collaboration between a time-tested consortium (NTCCC) and a new consortium (THE Consortium) unlocks new opportunities for innovation.

Conversation Prompt 1



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

- What type of institution do you represent? (University, Community College, etc.)
- What is your role in the transfer space?



Consortia Across the Nation



TULSA HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM



- A **consortium** is an **association of institutions** for the purpose of **improved and expanded collaboration** to achieve mutually beneficial goals.
- 60+ Higher Education Consortia nationwide in nearly every state
- NTCCC and THE Consortium is part of the Association for Collaborative Leadership (ACL)



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT

Source: <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1881/Consortia-in-Higher-Education.html#ixzz70VLICG77>

Function of Consortia Across the Nation



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

- Shared resource and development pursuits
- Shared professional development
- Shared facilities
- Shared faculty and/or staff
- Cross-institutional research & shared research facilities
- Shared/alternate teaching of low enrollment courses
- Alignment of academic calendars
- Cross-registration for online courses
- Jointly operate Academic Centers
- Spouse/partner hiring initiatives
- Shared or coordinated study abroad programs
- Shared ESL programs for orientation/preparation of international students
- Creative and performing arts
- Joint recognition of student and/or faculty excellence

Conversation Prompt 2



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

What are some creative cross-institutional or cross-consortial collaborative efforts that you have seen or participated in?

How does your institution engage in cross-institutional collaboration?

North Texas Community College Consortium



The 14 North Texas Community College Consortium member colleges span the north Texas region and represent over 30% of all Texas community, junior, and technical college enrollments.



Mission:

1. To provide high quality, low cost, easily accessible professional development opportunities
2. To promote excellence and innovation in teaching and learning
3. To support and develop educational pathways
4. To further institutional planning, institutional research, and institutional effectiveness
5. To further diversity, equity, and inclusion
6. To support dual credit and early college high school collaboration
7. To further college readiness and success
8. To promote best practices in human resources
9. To promote communication, cooperation, and collaboration

Vision:

A premier regional network enabling member institutions to achieve more, improve quality, and reduce costs through collaboration.



Strategic Plan:

1. Enhance professional development to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
2. Promote communication, cooperation, and collaboration
3. Support stability and sustainability

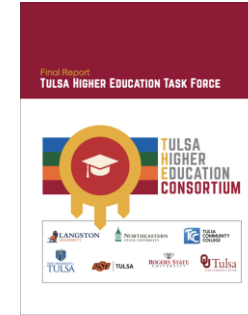
Tulsa Higher Education Consortium Formation



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM



Leadership from 7 Tulsa higher education institutions, business and industry, city, and non profit sectors formed a **formal task force to develop a plan for a consortium structure** to continue and expand on the TTP work.



July 2017- Tulsa Transfer Project

Goals:

1. **Increase transfer** to 4 year universities
2. **Reduce course credit loss** in transfer process
3. **Increase bachelor attainment rates**
4. Build a **sustainable model** for collaboration

January 2020- Tulsa Higher Education Task Force



Today: Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium was launched in June 2021. Mission:

1. **advance student learning**
2. **improve student success**
3. **achieve equity in outcomes**
4. **meet workforce needs**



Tulsa Higher Education Consortium: Strategy

Convener

The Consortium serves as a neutral convener, bringing together cross-sector and cross-institutional groups to share ideas, engage in professional development, and solve problems collaboratively.

Spring and Fall
Convenings

Communities of
Practice
(Cross-Institutional
Collaborative Groups)

Communicator

The Consortium will develop its brand as a collaborating entity, amplifying the successes of higher education, and sharing relevant information with all of its members.

Institutional News &
Innovation

Consortium Brand &
Cross-Institutional Info
Sharing

Connector

The Consortium connects member institutions and organizations with one another (internally) and with Tulsa-area stakeholders (externally).

Institutional Role-Alike
Groups

Alumni Advisory &
Faculty Corps Groups

Conversation Prompt 3



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

Considering your context, what are some benefits to cross-institutional collaboration? Potential challenges? How can the challenges be overcome?

The Power of Cross-Consortial Collaboration



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

“Historical foundation, innovative ideas for the future”

- We are engaged in similar work, just different contexts
- Shared learning
 - NTXCCC supported the formalization of THE Consortium
- Interpersonal Collaboration & Network
 - Empathy
 - Thought partnership
- Event collaboration
- Grant collaboration
- Support for neutral facilitation

Collaborative Examples

- Bylaws and policies
- Dues structure
- Branding and Communications
- Governance Structure

TRANSFER COLLABORATIVE

Community College	University	Catalog Year	Degree Path
Central Texas College	Western Oklahoma State University	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Collin County College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Dallas County College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
East Texas Community College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
El Paso Community College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Grayson County College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
North Texas State University	North Texas State University	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Rockwall Community College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Tarrant County College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA
Wise County College	University of North Texas	2015-2016	AA-BBA

Texas's higher education strategic plan, *EXCITE*, calls for at least 60% of Texans aged 25-34 to hold a certificate or degree by 2030. This is a big goal. It will take a state-wide effort to meet the demands for a skilled workforce that will drive our economy and support our families. Today, Texas has over 11.2 million aged 25-34.

To achieve this goal, educational institutions must focus their attention on building strong partnerships that map a clear path from the environments that students and families embark upon in the 18th grade, to dual credit opportunities, to post-secondary education, to associate's degrees and beyond. The students who enter dual credit, early college high schools, collegiate academies and similar programs will have the opportunity to acquire level one and level two coursework as well as the AAS, AA, or AS degree as they simultaneously fulfill high school endorsement requirements and meet EXCITE's goals.

Because of these trends, Texas is likely to see a significant increase in the number of students who will earn academic and technical certificates and degrees in coming years.

Students who successfully earn AAS degrees have demonstrated their ability to succeed in college-level coursework and to finish what they start. These students' most often represent adult, first-generation, low-income, and minority students, and they possess clear aspirations of the marketplace skills they require through the AAS. A pathway that provides opportunities for "backable credentials" provides these students and their families a bridge into higher learning. Additionally, the attainment of a higher education into "academic" and "vocational" tracks can create a barrier that limits the long-term advancement of some students. Often, advancement into management and senior-level positions, or at least better candidates with a bachelor's degree. Most AAS graduates are unaware that there are degree programs that will honor their technical course hours and help them progress quickly toward a bachelor's degree and beyond.

The Transfer Collaborative was created to help address this problem. The North Texas Community College Consortium, representing 25,298 enrollees (21.5% of all 1-year community college and technical college enrollees), in conjunction with 14 universities representing 246,457 enrollees (36.8% of all Texas public, non-profit undergraduate enrollees), have built the Collaborative.

The first-year outcome of the Collaborative was the development of a "common template" that clearly shows how AAS degree align with BAAS degree across North Texas. The AAS-BAAS guided pathway is not intended to replace a degree audit, but to function as a guided pathway for students. Based on informed decision-making, the template does not create policy, but rather organizes already existing information at each college into a single readable and consistent form. It is structured as a full-time eight semester pathway, but can also be used as a checklist for part-time students.

The Transfer Collaborative has expanded to include academic gateway pathways for Agriculture, Architecture, Business, Communications, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Education, Engineering, Kinesthetics, Music, Nursing, Psychology, and Sociology, representing 82% of transfer majors.

The Collaborative is in eager to put these pathway into the hands of students and families and to get feedback from associate and baccalaureate programs, school districts, industry partners, and the community to continue to improve their usability.

BYLAWS of The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

ARTICLE I. PRINCIPAL OFFICE
Section 1. Name and Place of Business. The name of the entity shall be TULSA HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (the "Consortium"). The Consortium is a Designated Fund of Tulsa Community Foundation with its principal office in the County of Tulsa, in the State of Oklahoma, or at otherwise designated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE
Section 1. Specific Purpose. The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium is organized for the purpose of advancing student learning, improving student success and degree completion, achieving equity in outcomes, and meeting workforce needs by working collaboratively to increase higher education opportunities in the region.

Section 2. Tulsa Region Defined. As used in these Bylaws, "Tulsa Region" means Tulsa County and all contiguous counties.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1. Membership Composition. The Consortium shall consist of Full Members and Affiliate Members and governed by a Board of Directors as set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws.

Section 2. Membership Qualifications. All members must meet the Membership Qualifications.

- A. Full Member Qualifications:** A Full Member must satisfy the below qualifications. Except for Founding Members as set forth in this Section 2(C), Full Members must:
1. Be a regionally-accredited Institution of Higher Education ("IHE") in the Tulsa Region.
 2. Provide post-secondary education, leading to an Associate degree or Bachelor's degree, to students in the Tulsa Region;
 3. Have completed or be in the process of completing a transfer-focused self-study of the institution, leading to the creation of a campus-wide transfer improvement plan; and
 4. Pay annual membership dues to the Consortium by January 1 of each year.

Conversation Prompt 3



TULSA HIGHER
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM

What are some takeaways related to cross-institutional and cross-consortial collaboration that you will take with you following this presentation?

Dr. Christine Hubbard

christine.hubbard@ntxccc.org

Dr. Laura Latta

llatta@tulsahighered.com

Questions?