

May 2021

# Ohio TRANSFER TO DEGREE guarantee

News from the **Ohio Articulation & Transfer Network**

## IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Special Features. . . . .</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Progress Reports. . . . .</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Meetings of the Minds. . .</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>(CT)<sup>2</sup> Corner. . . . .</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Articulation &amp; Transfer Technology. . . . .</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Staff Feature. . . . .</i>	<i>11</i>

## WELCOME

Many exciting things have been happening in articulation and transfer since last fall. We are happy to be able to share with everyone all the work that has been accomplished. We could not create so many wonderful opportunities for the students of Ohio without the unwavering support of faculty, staff, and administrators from our colleges and universities. We sincerely appreciate every single one of you for all that you do every day.

*-Paula Compton and the  
OATN Team*

## Special Features

### Striving for Access within College Credit Plus

The purpose of the College Credit Plus program is to enhance students' career readiness and postsecondary success, while providing a wide variety of options to college-ready students, at no or limited costs to students and families. In 2014, the Ohio General Assembly charged the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), in consultation with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), to make recommendations for the future of Ohio's dual enrollment efforts. These efforts sought to increase the number of students who annually participate in such a program; under the previous

program about 5% of the total potential pool of public high school students participated

and minority and low-income students participated at substantially lower rates in relation to the percentage of their overall student populations<sup>1</sup>. One of the priorities included "improving the educational attainment of Ohio citizens [which] is key to ensuring the state's long-term success."<sup>2</sup> Another impact factor involved "providing students with dual credit opportunities [as] a proven educational strategy ... Effective dual credit systems have been linked to positive student impacts at both secondary and postsecondary levels."<sup>3</sup>

Since the fall of 2015, the College Credit Plus program has experienced great growth in participation. Starting with the 2015-2016 academic year, 54,053 students participated in the program and, in the most recently completed year, 2019-2020, 76,973 students participated. The demand for this educational choice of students and families is clear; however, there are still areas for improvement. African American students make up

**CollegeCredit**  
PLUS

- 1 Chancellor John Carey's recommendations for Ohio's dual credit program, 2013.
- 2 Chancellor John Carey's recommendations, 2013.
- 3 Chancellor John Carey's recommendations, 2013.

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## Special Features (cont.)

16.8% of the total high school population, but only 6.7% of the College Credit Plus participants identified as African American. Additionally, Hispanic students comprise 6.4% of the high school population and only 1.5% of the participants were Hispanic. In comparison, White students make up 68.1% of the population, and, of all participants, 71.8% were White. This difference in participation has been concerning and various efforts have been attempted to make in-roads; however, the numbers have held steady over the first five years of the program. Efforts to bridge this gap are in full force throughout the United States as other states are experiencing similar disparities. In Ohio, a multi-prong strategy is being employed: Innovative Programs, Student Eligibility, and Increased Communication are in the first wave of attempts.

### Innovative programs

Legislatively defined as “innovative programming proposed to exclusively address the needs of underrepresented student subgroups,” colleges and secondary schools can develop plans to serve students who traditionally encounter barriers with higher education.<sup>4</sup> Most often, the primary barrier cited has been the “student eligibility” requirements of College Credit Plus. In Ohio statute, students must demonstrate college readiness by earning minimum scores on standardized assessment exams. National research has shown that biases are experienced by students of color and low-income families when comparing standardized exam performance. If an innovative program has been

<sup>4</sup> Ohio Laws and Administrative Rules, Legislative Service Commission

## OATN Welcomes Dr. Thomas Sudkamp to ODHE

OATN would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Thomas Sudkamp. ODHE named Dr. Sudkamp as its new Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, effective January 11, 2021. In his new role, Dr. Sudkamp has administrative responsibility for numerous areas within ODHE, including articulation and transfer, program development and review, and student access and success.



Dr. Sudkamp has served ODHE since 2019 as the executive director of the Ohio Strong Start to Finish program, a collaboration of 30 public community colleges and universities designed to increase the number of students who complete gateway mathematics and English courses in their first year of study. Prior to that, he served in various academic

leadership roles over more than three decades in higher education, most recently as provost and vice president for curriculum and instruction at Wright State University.

Dr. Sudkamp has always been a great supporter of articulation and transfer. The entire OATN team is looking forward to working with him in his new role.

developed for underrepresented students to participate in College Credit Plus and has requested waiving the student eligibility requirements, the Chancellor of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction have the authority to allow this program to commence if specific academic support services, course pathways, and guidance are in place. Most of the innovative programs are in their infancy, but initial performance outcomes are beginning to show that students have experienced academic success in the programs while building foundational skills to assist their academic preparation moving forward.

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## Special Features (cont.)

### Student eligibility

Stakeholders from secondary schools and colleges have been expressing their concern with the student eligibility requirements in Ohio statute. Some have taken the opportunity to develop innovative programs, but most indicate that a long-term solution should be established. The voices of these stakeholders are powerful and respected. Current legislation is being considered in the Ohio legislature to allow for a modification of student eligibility through the Ohio Administrative Code rule process. This could allow the Chancellor and Superintendent of Public Instruction to seek stakeholder feedback based on local, state, and national data to provide alternative measures for eligibility. Preliminary recommendations are currently being developed by a workgroup that convened in the winter months of 2020-2021. Depending on the process within the legislature, this workgroup may continue its work during the summer and fall of 2021.

### Increased communication

National research implores state and local leaders to connect and communicate directly with families of color and low-income. Meeting students and families “where they are” is imperative to spread the word of opportunities such as College Credit Plus. Churches, synagogues, community centers, public service agencies, and libraries are just a few locations to open the communication. Traditionally, many students of color face a challenge in “finding their niche” in communities that are often predominantly White and have “notions [that] are often fueled by both personal and collective historical experiences which lead to mistrust and uncertainty about members of other groups.”<sup>5</sup> To assist with overcoming those obstacles, colleges, universities, secondary schools, and state agencies can employ increased and innovative communication strategies within the communities. The types of communication need to be long-term, personal, and welcoming and must include individuals who “look like” those to whom they are speaking: “For many students of color, being in an environment in which most of the people are different from themselves is a new and challenging experience.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ball State University, “Common Experiences of Students of Color at Predominantly White Universities.”

<sup>6</sup> Ball State University, “Common Experiences of Students of Color at Predominantly White Universities.”

### Articulation and Transfer Policy Updates Due to COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on higher education, the OATN has been receiving many questions about transfer policies. Updates and clarifications have been made as a result. Please visit our website at [ohiohighered.org/transfer/covid-19-updates](https://ohiohighered.org/transfer/covid-19-updates) to access current information.

### Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network in the News

Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted wrote an opinion piece that was published on March 21, 2021 in *The Columbus Dispatch* on solutions for graduating with less debt or debt-free in Ohio. Initiatives from ODHE and the OATN were mentioned in the article, titled [Husted: Debt-free college is very possible in Ohio](#).

Ohio’s [529 College Advantage](#) program recently published an article on its blog titled [Stretch Your College Savings Further With Ohio’s Transfer Opportunities](#).

## Special Features (cont.)

The process to improve access opportunities for students of color and low-income families may take time to make a difference, may be challenging, and may experience setbacks. However, the effort must be sustained and at the forefront of the goals of all educators. ODHE and ODE are eager to work with stakeholders. The success of these students and thereby the state of Ohio depends on these efforts.

### Transfer Talk Tuesday

The OATN has been sponsoring a series of professional development webinars to provide information to faculty and staff on transfer-related topics and initiatives. Each talk is 20-30 minutes in length with additional time for questions and discussion.

Recordings from the previous sessions are available [on our website](#), or using the hyperlinks below:



[ohiohighered.org/transfer/Transfer\\_Talk\\_Tuesday](https://ohiohighered.org/transfer/Transfer_Talk_Tuesday)

- **[National Transfer Student Week Edition](#)** - Kent State University's Barbara Miller-Harris and North Central State College's Deb Hysell and Brian Wirick share how their campuses are celebrating National Transfer Student Week despite being distanced by COVID-19.
- **[4 C's of CCP](#)** – Dr. Larisa Harper, ODHE's Director of College Credit Plus, does a TransferTalk Takeover and covers everything you need to know about College Credit Plus for transfer students through a discussion about the 4 C's: Communication, Collaboration, Consistency, and Clarity.
- **[30 Years of OTM](#)** – Dr. Candice Grant, Senior Director of Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, and Jessi Spencer, Director of Articulation and Transfer Policy, Budget, and Constituent Relations from OATN talk about the history of the Ohio Transfer Module and its major milestones over the last 30 years.
- **[Mathematics Pathways](#)** – Anna Cannelongo from ODE and the four co-leads of the Ohio Mathematics Initiative **[Subgroup 5](#)** (subgroup on Secondary and Postsecondary Alignment) provide an overview of mathematics pathways.
- **[Credit When It's Due](#)** – The Ohio State University's Colin Lee and Lorain County Community College's Nora Burkholder join OATN's Mitch Wilson, Director of Articulation and Transfer Technology Initiatives, and Michelle Blaney, Assistant Director for Articulation and Transfer Policy, to share history and best practices for the Credit When It's Due Initiative.
- **[What's Up with FAFSA?](#)** – Carlos Bing, ODHE's State Director of GEAR UP, talks about important news and potential changes regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), at both the state and federal levels.



## Progress Reports

### Ohio Mathematics Initiative

#### Ohio Mathematics Initiative (OMI) Chairs/Leads Network Meeting

The Ohio Mathematics Chairs/Leads Network met virtually on Friday, October 30, 2020. Dr. Luis Casian from The Ohio State University opened the meeting with a welcome message for the network. Afterward, Subgroups One, Two, Three, and Five provided updates on their work. Anna Cannelongo from ODE and Dr. Krista Maxson from ODHE presented updates on Algebra 2 course equivalencies. Monica Delgado and Dr. Claire Merriman followed with an update on math outreach programs from The Ohio State University's Buckeye Aha! Math Moments (BAMM) outreach initiative. Dr. Thomas Sudkamp from ODHE provided an update on Strong Start to Finish. The meeting concluded with a discussion led by Dr. Lee Wayand from Columbus State Community College on informing campuses about mathematics changes statewide.

### Ohio Values Veterans

#### Military Transfer Assurance Guides (MTAGs)

As a result of work with business faculty to review numerous military courses, there is a possibility that a couple of new MTAGs will soon be announced. The Air Force's non-commissioned officer training course was recently submitted to two Business TAG panels for a potential MTAG match. One of those courses has been approved and the other is still under review. This particular Air Force course is a common course received in Ohio. With many veterans pursuing business programs, an equivalency will be of great benefit.

#### Other Military News

The American Council on Education (ACE) has recently

updated its military guide to give a smoother and more user-friendly feel. The Council has also created an option for institutions to create an account with ACE that shows which institutions have aligned coursework to a particular military course. In the future, the OATN may host some training regarding this option or see if ACE is planning any training webinars that can be shared with interested institutions.

### Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP)

#### Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Update

Two new Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways were approved by the Chancellor for implementation: Mechanical Engineering Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology. These are the first applied degree pathways to be finalized. Institutions have begun submitting their templates for these pathways.

OGTP faculty panels continue their work on pathways including Applied Business, Engineering, Health Information Management, and Exercise Science/Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy. A new panel began working on a pathway in Respiratory Therapy this winter.

Additionally, every three years each OGTP will be reviewed by its faculty panel. This spring, that process began with Business (AA/AS). This fall, the 21 OGTPs in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Math and Sciences will be reviewed.

On March 26, 2021 the OATN hosted a webinar on OGTP Implementation, which included presentations from three institutions on how they have implemented or are working to implement tracking of OGTP within their student information systems (SIS), recording OGTP completion on student transcripts, and disseminating information about the OGTP to advisors and students. Additional guidance on implementation will be forthcoming.

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## Progress Reports (cont.)

A number of finalized institutional templates have been posted. Please keep checking the website for updates: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ogtp>.

### Ohio Transfer Module

#### OTM Revisions

In spring 2021, several announcements were made that reflect changes to the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM). Changes reflect statewide discussions that have occurred over the past two years to rethink the OTM and assess whether it meets the current needs of Ohio public institutions of higher education and students. As a result, OTM revisions focus around flexibility with certainty to allow students to choose different paths through the OTM based on their own unique situations, while at the same time assuring students that credits will transfer to their destination institution. OTM revisions have been sent to each Ohio public institution of higher education and focus around:

- Increased guidance for students through differentiation of pathway options.
- A new designation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) coursework within the OTM electives.
- Current discipline groups will shift from course guidelines to course learning outcomes.
- An OTM course review schedule has been developed detailing

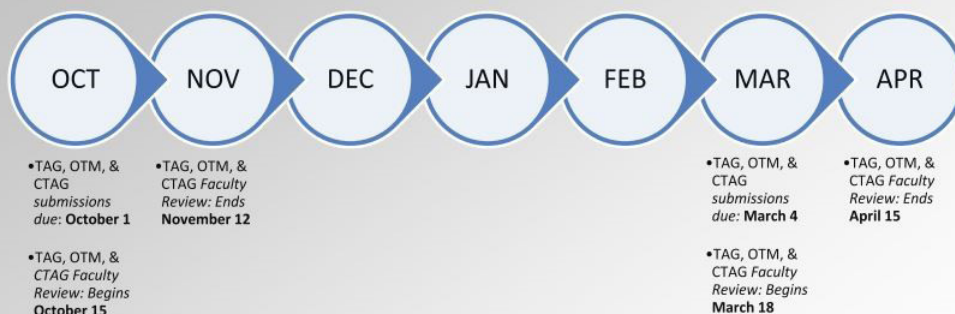
when Ohio public institutions of higher education can submit new course learning outcomes matches for review and a re-review schedule for previously approved OTM courses.

- A list of currently approved courses will be sent to institutions for consideration of retirement from the OTM.
- A renaming/rebranding of the OTM.
- Announcement of new institutional OTM grids, reformatted to assist with clarity.
- The Ohio Transfer Promise (OTP) statement reaffirms transfer commitment from all of Ohio's public institutions of higher education.

### OTM, TAG, and CTAG Submissions

#### Upcoming TAG Submission Deadlines

#### TAG, OTM, and CTAG Review Cycle Timeline 2021-2022



Note: The rolling review is limited and based on areas of high priority policy implementation (i.e. those with deadlines or requirements for the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, expirations, etc.). Panels may perform rolling reviews throughout the year by choice or as requested by Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network staff following the definition for rolling reviews. Submissions for the rolling review may be submitted until March 4, 2022.

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## Progress Reports (cont.)

The next submission deadline is October 1, 2021. For your convenience, submission preparation templates are available on our website at [www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/tag/courseDescriptions](http://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/tag/courseDescriptions).

Semester Due and Submission Deadline*	OAN	Name
Spring 2022 (Mid-March 2022)	OAH060	Critical Thinking
	OAH061	Introduction to Logic
Fall 2022 (Beginning of October 2022)	OAH062	Introduction to Literature
	OAH063	Multicultural Literature
Fall 2023 (Beginning of October 2023)	OSC028	Biology (Genetics)

*\*Please note that the semester due term is the expiration term for currently approved courses under former TAG course criteria.*

For questions regarding progress for the OTM/TAGs, contact Michelle Blaney at 614-644-9601 or [mblaney@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:mblaney@highered.ohio.gov).

Please direct questions on the CTAG review process to Nikki Wearly at [nwearly@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:nwearly@highered.ohio.gov).

## Meetings of the Minds

### OATN Advisory Council Meeting (November 19, 2020)

On November 19, 2020, Dr. Rodney Rogers opened the virtual OATN Advisory Council meeting by requesting a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Once the motion to approve the minutes passed, Dr. Carolyn Haynes provided updates on the status of potential OTM revisions. These included the OTM revisions conceptual model; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) learning outcomes; and institutional recommitment statement. Dr. Barbara Henry shared an update on the Finish For Your Future report and provided transfer recommendations. Jared Shank presented third-party

evaluator guidelines with the council. This was followed by a presentation from Mitch Wilson and Nikki Wearly on the status of Career Technical Articulation Verification (CTAV) implementation. Those on the council received a report on the findings of Credit When It's Due (CWID) by Michelle Blaney and Mitch Wilson. The meeting concluded with Revathi Kumaraswamy and Mitch Wilson presenting on the progress of the exploratory phase of the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse.

### OATN Oversight Board Meeting (December 2, 2020)

The OATN Oversight Board met virtually on December 2, 2020. Dr. Paula Compton opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction. Dr. Carolyn Haynes, Dr. Larry Krissek, and Jessi Spencer provided updates on proposed OTM revisions. Updates included results from the OTM revisions endorsement survey, as well as results from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) learning outcomes endorsement survey. As a follow-up, Dr. Compton provided an update on the Ohio Transfer Promise recommitment statement. Jessi Spencer went on to provide a status update on Education Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG)

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## Meetings of the Minds (cont.)

research. This was followed by an update on the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways initiative by Dr. Marcia Ballinger and Dr. Randy Smith. The meeting concluded with a presentation on Industry-Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAGs) by Dr. Stephanie Davidson and Dr. Compton.

### **OATN Oversight Board Meeting** *(March 12, 2021)*

On March 12, 2021, Dr. Paula Compton opened the virtual OATN Oversight Board meeting by requesting a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Once the motion to approve the minutes passed, Nikki Wearly and Ryan Curtis presented on a One-Year-Option proposal for high school students. Dr. Gigi Escoe and Dr. Carolyn Haynes went on to provide an update on the revisions to the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM). This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Randy Smith announcing the new OTM learning outcomes. Jessi Spencer went on to provide updates on possible changes to the Natural Sciences OTM lab requirements. This was followed by a review of a recent Senate Bill 89 mandate on transfer policy. During the meeting the board discussed strategies to assist with meeting Senate Bill 89 requirements. Mitch Wilson and Jessi Spencer went on to present summer and fall 2020 appeals survey results to the board. This was followed by OATN budget updates by Jessi Spencer. The meeting concluded with the unveiling of the new OTM grid by Dr. Candice Grant and Mitch Wilson.

### **Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP) Steering Committee Meeting** *(April 20, 2021)*

The OGTP Steering Committee met virtually on April 20, 2021. Dr. Candice Grant and Holly Hall provided updates on pathways that are seeking endorsement, preparing to seek endorsement, or are under development. Dr. Grant discussed the pathway review cycle and revision process, as the business pathway was reviewed this spring and 21 pathways will be reviewed in the fall. Dr. Paula Compton and

Mitch Wilson reported recommendations from the OGTP Data Collection Working Group on how institutions should track and report OGTP completion and eventually enrollment. Revathi Kumaraswamy and Dr. Grant provided an update on institutional implementation of recording OGTP completion on transcripts and shared takeaways from the March 26 OGTP Implementation Webinar. The meeting concluded after an open discussion about advising and OGTP.

### **OTM Faculty Subcommittee Meeting** *(April 23, 2021)*

OTM Faculty Subcommittee met virtually on April 23, 2021. Dr. Randy Smith welcomed the subcommittee members. Dr. Smith provided an update on recently announced OTM revisions, as well as recently announced new OTM learning outcomes. The OTM Faculty Subcommittee went on to hear a review of faculty panel participation and expectations. This was followed by an unveiling of the new OTM grid by Dr. Candice Grant and Mitch Wilson. Those on the subcommittee were provided updates from each of the OTM faculty panel leads. The meeting concluded with discipline areas breaking out into individual groups to further discuss panel participation and future review processes.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Ohio Mathematics Initiative Chairs/Leads Network – May 7, 2021
- OATN Advisory Council Meeting – May 21, 2021
- OATN Oversight Board Meeting – June 18, 2021
- Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Steering Committee Meeting – November 16, 2021



## (CT)<sup>2</sup> Corner

### New and Updated CTAGs

The Health Sciences CTAGs are nearing completion, and the WebXam for each course is being created in an online format. Typically, this collaborative work takes place in person at the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) at The Ohio State University. With the pandemic precautions, CETE has been able to host online sessions with secondary and postsecondary subject matter experts. Instead of writing in one full-day session, three separate afternoon meetings occur where experts are separated into work groups and collaborate to create and edit test questions. So far with the new format, Baking and Pastry Arts, Medical Terminology, and Exercise Science exams have been written. Still on the calendar and soon to be written are exams for Biotechnology, Clinical Medical Lab and Health Information Management. In addition, two new CTAGs are in the

final steps of being created in Behavioral Health and Dental Assisting, with exam writing on the calendar as well.

The review of the Transportation Pathway had kicked off this year with reviews of CTANs occurring in both Automotive Transportation and Air Transportation. Currently, some initial research is happening to explore the possibility of the development of a new CTAN in drones. This is still very much in the early phases at this time, but our faculty experts are confident that this is a fast-growing field and worth the time to explore potential credit.

Next fiscal year, the Business Pathways will be under review for ODE with ODHE. All existing CTAGs in these areas will be reviewed, and several new disciplines will be explored for additional CTAG development.

## Articulation and Transfer Technology

### Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse

The redesign of the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC) is well under way. Interview-style meetings with our constituents have helped us tremendously to define the framework for the redesign. With help from a consulting firm and the Ohio Technology Consortium (OH-TECH), functional requirements have begun to be collected to design the ATC 2.0. Some of the functional requirements under consideration are:

- open the submission of transcripts to allow updated version of PESC Schema for College Transcript;
- develop a true supplement using information from the Course Equivalency Management System (CEMS) or any other sources that might be available;
- provide an enhanced experience to bulk send/receive, advanced reporting analytics;
- integration with OATN Knowledgebase; and
- provide more automation opportunities.

The redesign of the Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC) is well underway.

The ATC will eventually be opened to the graduate schools, Ohio Technical Centers, secondary, and even private/

## Articulation and Transfer Technology (cont.)

out-of-state institutions that could benefit from its usage. The team will resume meetings soon to create a functional timeline, identify challenges, resource allocation, and mitigation strategies to help ease pain points for the institutions during the redesign process.

### Articulation and Transfer Technology Steering Committee

The Technology Steering Committee met on April 6, 2021. This meeting included a great conversation regarding the ATC 2.0 development. The group provided valuable insight to the development team as preparations continue for moving forward.

Recent findings and upcoming plans for CTAV Phase III were shared with the committee. These included updates coming to the Higher Education Information (HEI) Alternative Credit (AC) file and the need to report the Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) into

The ATC will eventually be opened to the graduate schools, Ohio Technical Centers, secondary, and even private/out-of-state institutions that could benefit from its usage.

the HEI platform. Without that information, research cannot improve as desired.

Another topic of the meeting was an update on the Statewide Guaranteed Credit Transfer project (SGCT). With the help of David Sauter, recent findings were discussed on transfer credit from Academic Year 2020 and new research methods that should be considered. The group was informed that two codes

will officially be retired in the reporting for fall 2021.

Finally, the meeting included updates on the following: the OTM Grids, OGTP Transcription Implementation, an agreement with Parchment and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) to contract transcript processing, and changes that might be coming to our transfer website.

## Staff Feature

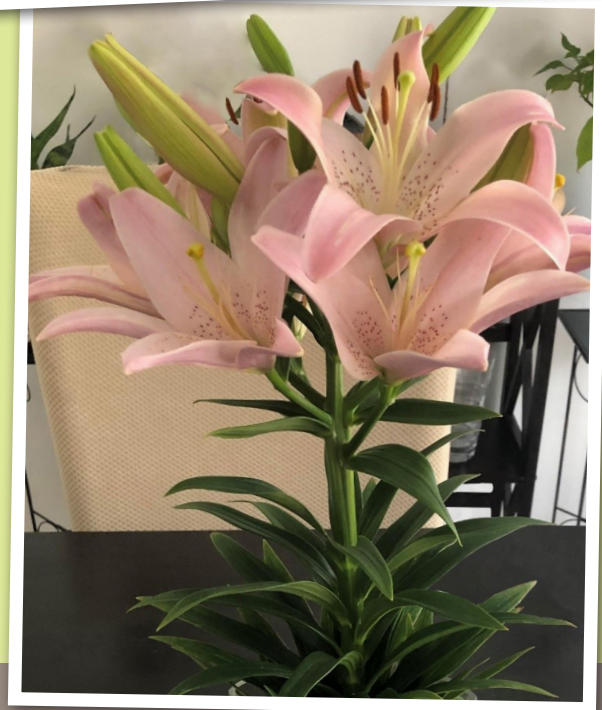
### Favorite Spring Flowers

Spring has finally arrived. OATN staff have been enjoying walking amongst the colorful spring flowers. Here are some of their favorite flowers and moments.





## Staff Feature (cont.)



1-800-AFFORD-IT (233-6734)  
<https://TransferCredit.ohio.gov>