Ohio's Reverse Transfer Sustainability Recommendations

As we move closer to the culmination of the Credit When It's Due grant, Ohio needs to consider the best ways to sustain reverse transfer for the benefit of students, institutions, and the state. The following recommendations are proposed for sustainability:

1. **The Ohio Board of Regents should continue to provide direction and support for institutions involved in Ohio's "Reverse-Transfer" initiative.** Support may include program management and coordination, HEI data support, Articulation and Transfer Clearinghouse support, innovation funds, or any combination of these items. The degree of support given can be tailored based on resources available.

2. **Review incentive structure for colleges and universities in order to ensure participation throughout the entire Ohio higher education system.** Four year universities and two year colleges should see both a student benefit and institutional benefit to sustain the work. This recommendation should also be considered in concert with guidance on which institutions should offer a reverse transfer degree in particular situations (see Recommendation #8).

3. **Establish a "Universal" FERPA waiver that enables students to provide consent for sharing their college transcripts and contact information at the initial point of college enrollment or the initial point of transfer from the two-year institution into the four-year institution.** More than 60% of CWID eligible students do not respond to the request to participate in reverse transfer. If the FERPA waiver was addressed in the normal course of enrollment or transfer, many more students could benefit from a reverse transfer associate degree award.

4. **Expand the reverse transfer to Ohio's accredited, private institutions.** OBR is considering the use of National Student Clearinghouse data to track Ohio students throughout the country. With additional data from institutions outside the University System of Ohio, more students could be considered for reverse transfer.

5. **Ensure that the Higher Education Information System (HEI) and the Articulation & Transfer Clearinghouse (ATC) can provide the necessary student information and support for "Reverse-Transfer" to operate successfully at institutions.** OBR's information technology is one of the reasons Ohio has been able to effectively implement the grant. As the initiative evolves, OBR needs to make sure that additional technological needs can be addressed effectively.

6. **Expand the scope of "Reverse-Transfer" to include other options for student degree completion.** For example, students that dropped out of the university and have enough credits could be considered for an associate degree via reverse transfer.

7. **Develop and implement a marketing plan that promotes the value of associate degrees.** In order to get more students to participate in "reverse-transfer" OBR and individual schools must do more to promote the value of obtaining an associate degree.

8. **Establish regulations on how many degrees an institution or institutions can award "reverse-transfer" students.** Currently, it is possible for an institution to award multiple associate degrees to one student, or for multiple institutions to award associate degrees to a student. Discussions on how to maintain an even balance among institutions and keep student interest at the forefront must occur to avoid an over-proliferation of degrees.

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