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Ohio Mathematics Initiative

Special Features

Quantitative Reasoning

On Monday, March 14, faculty from the Ohio public colleges and universities gathered in the conference center at Columbus State Community College to learn more about quantitative reasoning courses. Participants in the workshop had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Eric Gaze, director of the quantitative reasoning program at Bowdoin College in Maine and current president of the National Numeracy Network. Dr. Gaze discussed the basics of a quantitative reasoning course, effective pedagogy and teaching approaches to promote group work and use of oral and written communication.

Faculty from Ohio who have experience teaching quantitative reasoning courses and worked on the development of the endorsed learning outcomes provided the attendees with details about the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) Quantitative Reasoning Course (TMM011) learning outcomes. Numeracy was explained by Aaron Altose from Cuyahoga Community College. James Willis from Sinclair Community College talked about mathematical modeling. Dr. Ricardo Moena, the OTM Panel Lead for Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic from the University of Cincinnati discussed statistics and probability.

In the afternoon, participants worked in groups to identify potential obstacles and solutions in addition to developing activities for possible use in a quantitative reasoning course.

A Note from Paula

Thank you for reading the summer 2016 edition of the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the longer days and sunny warmth of the season. ’Tis the season to celebrate and we are celebrating all of your articulation and transfer accomplishments. Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

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Mathematics Pathways

On Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7, a two-day workshop was held at Columbus State Community College. Workshop facilitators visited Ohio from The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The Charles A. Dana Center has been working with colleges across the country through The New Mathways Project to implement pathways that enable students to learn meaningful and rigorous mathematics content and complete mathematics requirements more quickly. The workshop helped faculty and administrators plan for all aspects of designing and implementing mathematics pathways. Participants worked on defining the elements of pathways design, identifying key issues and milestones in the process of designing math pathways, defining action steps related to the identified key issues, and drafting a communication plan for their individual institutions. A couple weeks after the workshop on April 26, a follow-up webinar was offered, which answered lingering questions from the workshop, discussed messaging to engage and empower, and provided additional resources.

Bridges to Success

Ohio’s efforts to help more college students find success in mathematics courses that align with their desired degree have been bolstered by a grant of more than $400,000 to the Ohio Department of Higher Education from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. The grant is intended to build on the foundational work of the Ohio Mathematics Initiative by engaging faculty, advisors and administrators as they implement redesigned STEM, statistics and quantitative reasoning courses that are aligned with specific degrees.

Regional convenings were held on April 20 in Sharonville and on April 21 in Elyria to set the stage for the development of pilot grants that will help public colleges and universities improve student success by systematically linking three successful strategies: redesigned mathematics gateway courses, structured degree pathways and co-requisite remediation.

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Special Features (cont.)

Attendees at the convenings heard presentations from nationally recognized leaders in the application of all three strategies. They were also provided opportunities to discuss what would need to be done to allow each strategy to be implemented at their institutions. Details about the convenings and supporting materials can be found on the Bridges to Success webpage.

Progress Reports

Ohio Values Veterans

Since the last newsletter, more Military Transfer Assurance Guides (MTAGs) have been approved. They have been posted on the Transfer to Degree Guarantee (T2DG) webpage and mainly correspond with Civil/Construction and Electrical/Industrial Engineering Technology Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs). We have also worked with the Ohio Department of Public Safety related to military EMT (EMS) training and how it corresponds to Ohio's requirements. A new MTAG in this area has been approved and will be released soon.

The Military Strategic Implementation Team (MSIT) is starting to work on taking House Bill 488 to the next level. Now that the law has been implemented and all associated training has been created and conducted, further work can proceed. New working groups have been formed and will involve areas such as overlap with state licensing boards, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) issues, bridges/pathways for veterans and service members, and a potential medical summit to focus on recognizing students’ prior military nursing and EMT training.

The OATN also participated in the annual meeting for the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC). This year’s meeting took place on May 12-13 in Chicago. As luck would have it, the military’s Medical Education & Training Campus (METC) from Ft. Sam Houston gave a presentation at a workshop coordinated by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) in Chicago on May 11, so several OATN staff attended that session as well. Several institutions have asked about more information relating to the medical fields and military training.

Also, as a friendly reminder, please disseminate all of this information to your campus and local community. Ohio's public institutions are doing fantastic work assisting veterans and service members, and we are very proud of you all!

Interstate Passport Initiative

On April 4, members of the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) Faculty Subcommittee gathered for a special meeting on the Interstate Passport. A presentation about the passport was provided by Dr. Jane Sherman from the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE). The goals of the Interstate Passport are to shorten time to degree, save students money and improve graduation rates. The Initiative would allow students to transfer a “block” between institutions across and within the state borders. This “block” would be based on a guarantee that the Interstate Passport students have completed established learning outcomes from nine knowledge and skill areas through various courses at the lower-division general education level, which can be found here. The OTM Faculty Subcommittee members continued the discussion on the Interstate Passport in each of their panels during the afternoon, giving careful consideration to how it may fit with the Ohio Transfer Module. The panel leads reported ideas generated during the panel discussions to the entire group. A follow-up meeting with the panel leads was also held on May 25 to continue the discussion. Updates will be provided in future editions of the OATN News.

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Progress Reports (cont.)

Ohio Foreign Language Initiative

On March 4 and 7, the OATN held a professional development workshop for faculty subject matter experts and coordinators working with submissions for the American Sign Language TAG courses. Due to the positive feedback received about the workshop and the positive results on course submissions after the workshop, additional workshops are being planned for other language areas this upcoming fall. Please stay tuned for more details.

In addition, OATN has been working diligently on its upfront intelligence research in order to develop course learning outcomes for beginning and intermediate Ancient/Classical Greek and Latin courses I and II. We will be requesting faculty volunteers to help guide us in this effort as writing panel members. A request is forthcoming.

Advanced Placement (AP)

We would like to extend a thank you to everyone who has already submitted courses for the Advanced Placement (AP) Latin, Capstone Research, Capstone Seminar and Computer Science Principles exams.

For institutions still working on the course submissions, the deadline for submissions was June 30. Information about the types of courses that may be aligned to the exams is available in the recently updated Course Alignment Recommendations. Questions may be directed to Michelle Blaney at 614-644-9601 or mblaney@highered.ohio.gov.

OTM, TAG, and CTAG Submissions

Thank you to everyone who worked on TAG, OTM and CTAG submissions for the spring 2016 review cycle. The next OTM submissions are due on September 19, CTAG submissions due on September 26, and TAG submissions due on October 3. Click on the image to the right for a printable copy of the 2016-2017 timeline.

Questions regarding progress for the OTM/TAGs can be directed to Michelle Blaney (mblaney@highered.ohio.gov), and for CTAGs, to Ryan Cupp (rcupp@highered.ohio.gov). The institutional TAG progress documents will be sent to each TAG coordinator in July.
Credit When It’s Due

A statewide marketing campaign for Credit When It’s Due occurred from March 1 through May 31.

The campaign had a number of objectives, including educating those who are eligible about Credit When It’s Due; building awareness of Credit When It’s Due among individuals with some college credit; driving clicks to the Credit When It’s Due webpage on the Transfer to Degree Guarantee website so users can obtain more information; and increasing the number of leads among participating schools. Three media types were included in the marketing strategy: (1) Paid Search through Google Adwords; (2) Social Media through Facebook; and (3) Digital Audio through Spotify.

Meetings since January 2016

Oversight Board Meeting (March 10)

Discussion was opened with an update on the Military Initiative and the Military Credit program, with hope that the program is continuing to grow to help more veterans and service members. The Credit When It’s Due campaign ran from March 1 through May 31 with the objectives of building awareness and increasing the number of leads among participating schools. The 2016 Mid-Biennium Budget Review was presented to attendees as a way to revisit issues that may not have been addressed and to provide a targeted way of approach. With the goals of driving down the financing of college in mind, College Credit Plus (CCP) and 2+2 and 3+1 pathways were presented as low-cost ways for students to earn early college credit and begin at a two-year institution before transferring. Updates on the CLEP Policy, Apprenticeship and TAG Revisions were provided to members. The meeting ended with the announcement that there would be three meetings related to the Ohio Mathematics Initiative, March 14, April 4 and April 6-7.

Oversight Board Meeting (June 2)

An insightful Oversight Board Meeting was held on June 2. The meeting started off with an interactive discussion led by Mary McRury where board members reflected on and shared their experiences with the articulation and transfer process in Ohio, and the strengths they find with Ohio’s Transfer to Degree Guarantee program. This activity showcased the wonderful work that has been put into efforts in order to help students reach their highest level of academic attainment. Also, the board discussed what changes it would make to Ohio’s articulation and transfer initiatives if it had a “magic wand.” The second half of the meeting consisted of presentations on the Interstate Passport and Roadmaps to Career and Education Success. Members agreed that there are many pathways for a student to take in order to earn a meaningful education and succeed. The consensus among members is that they want to work toward making those paths easier to navigate for students.

Advisory Council Meeting (May 26)

On May 26, the OATN Advisory Council met and heard many updates on various initiatives. Fundamentals of the Interstate Passport, including its goals, knowledge and

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skill areas, next steps and challenges, were presented to the Council members and met with positive remarks. Members believed that this would be a great way to open up discussions on general education. Results from the Credit When It’s Due marketing campaign were hot off the presses right before the meeting was held, and they showed a positive impact on the goals of the campaign to drive clicks to the website and to educate and build awareness of CWID. The Transferology website was presented to members to show the tools they can use in order to assist with updating equivalencies and identifying popular courses entered into Transferology by student users. Updates on the Military initiative showed that there are currently 54 MTAGs with 63 more almost ready to be released. For the Career-Technical Credit Transfer area, in the past year, 33 CTANs have been released. The meeting ended with an update on the CLEP policy revision with a plan to assess the course alignment policy on an exam-by-exam basis.

Ohio Mathematics Initiative

Mathematics Chairs/Leads Network (January 22)
The Ohio Public College and University Mathematics Chairs/Leads Network met at The Ohio State University. The agenda included information about revisions in the Ohio Transfer Module, a discussion on proposed Ohio Mathematics Pathways and a presentation and discussion on active learning in calculus courses. The chairs/leads also received an update on the progress of each subgroup and reviewed upcoming activities and events planned for the Ohio Mathematics Initiative.

Mathematics Pathways Workshop (April 6-7)
In a two-day event, mathematics faculty and institution administrators attended the Designing Math Pathways Workshop. The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin hosted this event and led discussions on topics including student experience and mathematics content in pathways, barriers and the development of implementation and communication plans. Attendees had the opportunity to work with colleagues from their own and other institutions to begin the process of improving the students’ experiences in math pathways that can lead to a new appreciation for the subject and improve the students’ performances. At the end of the two-day workshop, attendees left with tangible products they could use in moving forward with instituting changes to their own institution’s math pathways.

Mathematics Initiative Planning (May 5)
The co-leads for each of the Ohio Mathematics Initiative (OMI) subgroups met with Ohio Department of Higher Education staff to plan and set FY 17 goals for the OMI. The meeting started with a review and evaluation of the progress made during the last year. Co-leads then planned the coordination of activities, developed an updated timeline and identified needed resources.

Ohio Transfer Module

OTM Natural Sciences Virtual Lab Panel Discussion (April 15)
The Ohio Transfer Module Natural Sciences Faculty Panel met at the Riffe Building in downtown Columbus for a day long discussion on Natural Sciences Virtual Labs. The panel members discussed the information and feedback they received from statewide natural science faculty members both during the Natural Sciences Virtual Lab Summit and in the survey that was sent after the summit. As a result of the meeting, the panel has drafted a series of recommendations that are currently being reviewed by various groups.

OTM Faculty Subcommittee (April 22)
The OTM Faculty Subcommittee had its spring meeting at the Fawcett Center on the campus of The Ohio State University. The day began with the lead for each faculty panel providing a report on activities and issues encountered since the fall, followed by an update on the Ohio Mathematics Initiative and a discussion about the Interstate Passport Initiative. The panels met individually for the remainder of the afternoon and then reconvened as the larger subcommittee for a panel report-out session.
Meetings of the Minds (cont.)

Additional Meetings

Interstate Passport Initiative Meeting (April 4)
Faculty from the five OTM faculty panels gathered to learn more about the purpose and structure of the Interstate Passport Initiative. The goals of the Interstate Passport are to shorten time to degree, save students money and improve graduation rates. The Initiative would allow students to transfer a “block” between institutions across and within the state borders. This “block” would be based on a guarantee that the Interstate Passport students have completed established learning outcomes from nine knowledge and skill areas through various courses at the lower-division general education level.

Military Strategic Implementation Team (April 27)
During the Military Strategic Implementation Team meeting on April 27, there were discussions about new military pathways in the areas of nursing, flight and police. In order to better spread the message about the new and existing work benefiting veterans and service members, marketing was discussed, including having a coordinated outreach.

CLEP Workshop (May 31)
Representatives from some of the TAG faculty review panels met on May 31 to discuss and learn about the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). College Board representatives and faculty content experts involved in the test development process presented how CLEP is developed and benefits students from various backgrounds. Productive discussions were held among the TAG faculty review panels about how CLEP fits in with their discipline areas. The TAG panel members left the meeting with a better understanding of the program and the next steps to take the discussion to the remaining panel members in order to recommend a course alignment and threshold score.

Upcoming Meetings

- Organic Chemistry TAG Faculty Review Panel – July 12
- OATN Oversight Board – September 1
- OTM Faculty Subcommittee - September 9
- Studio/Fine Arts TAG Review Panel Training – September 16
- OATN Technology Steering Committee – October 11
- OATN Advisory Council – November 17
- OATN Oversight Board – December 1

Transfer Technology

OATN Technology Steering Committee

The most recent OATN Technology Steering Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, June 7. Committee members’ discussion items included the reviews of both House Bill 64 and the Roadmap to Career and Education Pathways Initiative. An update was provided on the Higher Education Information System re-design, while new information on College Credit Plus was provided. The next meeting is scheduled for October 11.

Course Equivalency Management System

We are currently in the process of developing our module to add Military Transfer Assurance Guide (MTAG) statewide guarantees to our Course Equivalency Management System (CEMS). This enhancement will provide an efficient channel for new MTAGs and facilitate easy reporting for both faculty and students. The upgrade will reflect the equivalency information on the Transfer to Degree Guarantee (T2DG) website.

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Ohio Technical Centers Adult Standardized Transcript

Steady progress has been made to help launch the Ohio Technical Centers (OTC) standardized transcripts. Over the first two weeks in April, two webinars were conducted for OTCs to give them an overview of the background for creating the transcript and to discuss the process in order to implement this version of the standardized transcript at each of their centers. The webinars were recorded and are available online for streaming or download. In addition, consultants are reaching out to gather feedback from the OTCs and help with the rollout process. The rollout is expected to be completed later this year.

Faculty lead experts for the CTAG Writing Panels gathered in Columbus to review the Ohio Department of Education Standards for the Teaching Professions and Early Childhood Education Pathways.

(CT)² Corner

Education Update

The Career-Technical Corner is bursting at the seams these days. Ohio’s secondary and adult career-technical students now have access to 16 career fields, from nursing to manufacturing and from agriculture to hospitality throughout Ohio. Each career field has a number of different career pathways connected directly to business and industry needs. Ohio’s strong economy is dependent upon secondary students engaging early in their career vision and planning. It also relies upon adult students retooling and retraining in in-demand jobs. Career-technical education is the sewing machine that puts it all together.

The work of creating a stellar career-technical education pipeline starts with aligning secondary and postsecondary education so that students have entry points, exit points at credentials or with credit options, and re-entry points that lead to degrees with industry values. This is precisely what is being done in the education career field, thanks to a group of dedicated postsecondary faculty leads such as Kelly Coffey, Dr. Sandra Pech, Dr. Erica Brownstein, and Bree Frick, all of whom have been working on alignments within the teaching professions and early childhood education professions. This work, which will be forthcoming in academic year 2016/2017, will provide additional opportunities for students in secondary career-technical education programs to earn college credit in these pathways.

But the work of these lead experts wasn’t isolated to just looking at future college credit opportunities. During the research phase of the CTAG development in these pathways, the faculty panel raised concerns about the changes in the Postsecondary Teacher Education Preparation program standards for Resident Educator Licensure programs at the state level. In particular, they questioned the transfer applicability of statewide guaranteed (TAG and CTAG) courses that have undergone or are undergoing a revision. These revisions resulted in a new Introduction to Education TAG course. Unfortunately with the pace of change, some college graduates and secondary students could have been disadvantaged in credit transfer. Working with all of our two-year and four-year education deans, the OATN sought policy directives that would honor the older version of the Introduction to Education course during the gap of time when institutions transition to the new course learning outcomes and in anticipation of the 2017 release of the new Career Field Technical Content Standards (CFTCS) and aligned CTAG. We are grateful for the understanding and cooperation of all of the education deans who agreed to this policy.

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Newly Announced CTAGs

This spring the Secondary Career-Technical Alignment Initiative (SCTAI) team announced four new CTAGs in construction technology; visual design and imaging; programming; and media arts. Among these four CTAGs are 15 CTANs. After each CTAG was announced, a statewide webinar was held to address institutional participation and to share information on the new CTAG. Lead experts in each related field of study participated in the webinars, as did postsecondary faculty from around the state. More statewide webinars are planned for this coming fall as new CTAGs are announced. Visit our website for a full list of CTAGs, including the date of release.

A new faculty review panel for the Supply Chain Management Technology CTAG was trained in June to review courses submitted by postsecondary institutions. Review panelists volunteer their time and are an essential part of implementing CTAGs. When a panel reviews and approves a course, it provides an additional transfer option for career-technical students in Ohio!

The panel members are (seated left to right): Lee Blyth, Columbus State Community College; Oya Tukel, Cleveland State University; and Ned Young, Sinclair Community College. Everyone was working so hard that you’ll notice Lee had to borrow Oya’s glasses for a moment to read the computer screen! The training was a success, with several courses being reviewed by the panel that day. Also pictured from the Ohio Department of Higher Education are, standing from left to right, Monique Menefee-Profttt, Nikki Lewis and Ryan Cupp.

A Tribute to (CT)² Warriors

(CT)² Road Warriors – The Role of the Regional Manager

Career-Technical Credit Transfer (CT)² Initiatives bring together public secondary, adult and postsecondary educational partners that offer similar career-technical programming. The goal is to ensure that students have articulation opportunities from one educational sector to the next, saving them time and money to degree and reducing the likelihood that they will repeat content where they can demonstrate proficiency.

The work of ensuring support to the numerous educational institutions that are required to comply with (CT)² submissions often requires strategic communication and a personal touch. The Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network’s Career-Technical Transfer Initiatives Regional Managers serve four quadrants of the state and provide support to individual public institutions. Regional managers this year served 25 institutions in “on the road workshops” and distance conferencing. Many times this personal connection, including travel to the institution to assist faculty and administrators, has provided the critical link between policy and field understanding and policy adoption.
(CT)² Corner (cont.)

Recently the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network hired Anthony Pisano to fill the Northwest Ohio Regional Manager vacancy. Anthony has added value to the landscape of Ohio higher education, having previously worked at Lourdes University (Sylvania, Ohio) for more than 10 years conducting assessments of prior learning, directing the individualized studies bachelor’s degree program and forming articulation agreements for the institution. Anthony, or Tony as he prefers to be called, has both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in philosophy, but admits to having an affinity for technology. His love of technology led him to work several years with E-TECH Ohio, serving locally in Northwest Ohio at WGTE Public Broadcasting as the Director of Educational Technology Services.

Tony is eager to load up his trunk with CTAG information and hit the roads in Northwest Ohio. If you are an administrator or instructor struggling with a CTAG submission, need information about your institutional compliance or would like a general CTAG presentation for an interested group, please contact Tony at appisano@sbcglobal.com or 419-309-2135. He is here to serve! We welcome this road warrior!

Penta Career Center Warrior

Jamilah Tucker, Director of Career-Technical Transfer Initiatives, and Nikki Lewis, Implementation Consultant, ventured to Penta Career Center to watch Visual Multimedia, a contracted instructional design firm, as it captured video for forthcoming learning modules that will address the many options career-technical students have in order to earn college credit while still in high school. Look for the modules in the fall.

OATN wants to send a special thanks to Superintendent Ronald Matter and Christina Kerns for their hospitality and allowing us to use the location to feature so many of the wonderful programs at Penta Career Center.

Apprenticeships

The Plumbers & Pipefitters apprenticeship program pathways from Lorain County Community College, Owens Community College and Cuyahoga Community College have been reviewed by the Apprenticeship Statewide Partnership Panel (ASPP). We are currently finishing work on the submission packet for the Higher Learning Commission to get those programs approved as official statewide apprenticeship pathways and should be able to submit in late June or early July.
Staff Feature

Giving Back to Our Community

One area on which the staff of OATN wholeheartedly agrees is the importance of helping others. In the spirit of finding ways to give back to the community, we are often participating in fundraisers or looking for ways that we can contribute. Anyone who has attended one of our meetings and purchased a lunch in advance may have encountered one of the ways we try to benefit the community. Whenever possible, we try to place lunch orders with a local caterer called Freshbox. In fact, if you have had one of the chocolate-covered Oreo cookies that are so popular around here, your lunch was catered by Freshbox. We have chosen Freshbox because of its goal to have a positive impact on the lives of central Ohio community members who are affected by poverty, employment barriers and homelessness. Freshbox provides meaningful employment opportunities that incorporate life and job skills training into the workplace.

OATN staff, along with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) staff, donated to the annual Operation Feed campaign at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Donation boxes were placed in high-traffic areas throughout the building to collect food items. Everyone had fun participating in teams on the Asparagus Challenge, where a member could donate $5 to then have a bunny “eat” five bunches of asparagus from another team. The competition was fierce, and the bunnies were plentiful. In addition, every Friday, employees could donate $5 to wear their favorite work-appropriate jeans. To wrap up the campaign, a fund-raising breakfast and golf putting challenge were held. Through all the amazing efforts and giving nature of staff, ODHE was able to raise six times its original goal!

May 26 was Red Nose Day. People are encouraged to wear red flair and red noses to raise awareness and money to help children living in poverty. Over the past 25 years, $1 billion has been raised globally and has been distributed to communities in the U.S., Latin America, Asia and Africa. OATN participated in the event by wearing their red noses to show off their Red Nose pride, and took some funny pictures to celebrate the day.