As a result of the coronavirus' impact on higher education and the economy, thousands more students are expected to transfer or to stop or drop out in the next year and beyond. Many will be crossing state lines. They need our help and they need it now.

For years transfer has been a problem in this country, contributing to some of the historic equity gaps in higher education. Although there is more to learn about the extent of credit loss in transfer and the reasons for it, we do know that for many students this loss can be significant, costing them extra time and money that they cannot afford. This loss of credit disproportionately affects low-income, first-generation, and students of color who are more likely to enroll initially in less expensive community colleges, and military students who often transfer when reassigned. Some will persist, but many will drop out of the pipeline permanently. University students suffer too—nearly four out of ten transfer and their credits need to go with them.

In response to the pandemic, campuses have sent most students home, transitioned courses to online, changed grading and financial aid policies and so much more. It's imperative that we streamline the transfer process as the statistics, researchers, and higher education media have urged.

There is an existing, proven, faculty-driven and student-centered way to do this. The Interstate Passport Network, based at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, is growing nationwide to enable block transfer of lower-division general education based on a set of learning outcomes rather than specific courses and credits. It focuses on students achieving outcomes regardless of the courses in which they learned them. Isn't what students know and can do what we really care about?

When students achieve these learning outcomes, they earn a Passport at their institution. If they transfer to another Network member institution, their lower-division general education requirements will be met, and they can advance in their studies.

Already 60 regionally accredited public and private non-profit institutions in 17 states have put Interstate Passport in place or are in the process of doing so. Their faculties have mapped the system’s or institution’s learning outcomes to the 63 Passport Learning Outcomes and determined that they are congruent with and cover the same range of learning. They have identified a Passport Block—a menu of courses (often the same as their Gen Ed program or

---

**KEY STATISTICS**

- **38%** of the 2.8 million students entering in fall 2011 transferred at least once in six years
- **27.2%** of the transfer population in the fall 2011 cohort crossed state lines
- **43%** is average credit loss upon transfer
- **48.5%** of Black and **51.4%** of Hispanic students first enrolled in a community college compared to **34.6%** of White and **34.2%** of Asian students
- **80%** of community college students who transfer do so before earning a two-year degree
- **3.48** is average GPA post-transfer for students transferring with a Passport vs. **2.93** for those transferring without

---

**July 8, 2020**

*interstatepassport.wiche.edu*
with minor changes) by which a student can achieve the learning outcomes. Typically, students earn a Passport with 30-38 semester hours (45-54 quarter credits); they must achieve a minimum grade of “C” or its equivalent in every course counted toward a Passport. So far, 38,800 students have earned a Passport.

As a built-in quality assurance mechanism, Network member institutions agree to report privacy-protected student academic progress data to the National Student Clearinghouse at the end of each term so that Passport earners can be tracked at least two terms post-transfer. Early data is very encouraging. Passport earners have higher GPAs and take a heavier credit load than students transferring without a Passport. The GPA Passport advantage for low-income and Latino transfer students is even greater than for white and Asian transfer students. We are hopeful that we’ll see this same trend in other segments of the population as more schools come aboard and more data is collected.

We've learned from the coronavirus crisis that there are advantages of states and organizations working together. Interstate Passport provides states, systems, and institutions with a way to collaborate on a solution for transfer, while also incentivizing students to reach this milestone of general education completion whether they transfer or not. It also can provide a common foundational credential to use in the workforce if students have to stop out in these challenging times.

Becoming a member of the Interstate Passport Network is a win-win for states and institutions and their students. Let's build this interstate highway together for our collective pool of students. They are hurting… they need us. We can do this together!

Call to Action Task Force

Sam Gingerich (Co-chair)
Former Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage

Francisco Rodriguez (Co-chair)
Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District

R. Joel Farrell
Chief, Institutional Analytics, Air University / Community College of the Air Force

Debora Halbert
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy, University of Hawai’i System

Dianne Harrison
President, California State University, Northridge

Adena W. Loston
President, St. Philip’s College, Texas

George Mehaffy
Senior Advisor, Sova Solutions

Diana Natalicio
President Emerita, University of Texas at El Paso

Laurie Nichols
President, Black Hills State University

Paul Turman
Chancellor, Nebraska State College System

Belle Wheelan
President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

David Woolstenhulme*
Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education

* WICHE Commissioner

Join the Interstate Passport Network today and help us fix transfer for students nationwide!

Contact: interstatepassport@wiche.edu

interstatepassport.wiche.edu
Supporters
(Representatives of Interstate Passport Network member institutions, non-member institutions, and regional and national higher education organizations and associations)

Javaune Adams-Gaston
President, Norfolk State University (VA)

William Aiken
Interim President, Southeastern Community College (NC)

Anne Alexander
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Wyoming

Jon Anderson
Provost, Southern Utah University

Seher Awan
President, Los Angeles Southwest College

Jack Bagwell
President, College of The Albermarle (NC)

Irma Becerra
President, Marymount University (VA)

Susan Beck*
Professor and Head of Library Access Services, New Mexico State University

Ray Belton
President-Chancellor, Southern University System (LA)

Neeli Bendapudi
President, University of Louisville

Jonathan Bodroero*
Associate Professor, Snow College (UT)

Rick Brewer
President and CEO, Louisiana College

L. Ray Brooks
President, Piedmont Technical College (SC)

J. Noah Brown
President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Kari Brown-Herbst*
Interim, Vice President Academic Affairs
Laramie County Community College (WY)

Eric Bruntmyer
President, Hardin-Simmons University (TX)

Lita Burns
Vice President for Instruction, North Idaho College

William Campion
President, Range College (TX)

John Capps
President, Central Virginia Community College

Karen Carey^*
Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Alaska Southeast

Jonathan Carrier*
Interim Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Laramie County Community College (WY)

Blair Carruth*
Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Utah System of Higher Education

Katrina Carter-Tellison
Vice President, Academic Affairs, Lynn University (FL)

Robert Caslen
President, University of South Carolina

Russ Chavez^*
Director for Veterans Affairs, South Dakota State University

Donald Christian
President, Concordia University Texas

Larry Cockrum
President, University of the Cumberlands (KY)

Bryan Coker
President, Maryville College (TN)

Paul Coreil
Chancellor, Louisiana State University Alexandria

Debbie Cottrell
President, Texas Lutheran University

Sharon Cox^*
Associate Professor of Accounting, Central Connecticut State University

Joseph Curtin
Associate Provost, Institutional Research & Effectiveness, University of Houston

Walter Dalton
President, Isothermal Community College (NC)

Doug Darling
President, Lake Region State College (ND)

*LICHE Commissioner
# Passport Review Board Member
+ Interstate Faculty Team Chair
\^ Passport Advisory Committee Chair
\^ Passport Institution Liaison

interstatepassport.wiche.edu
Supporters, cont...

Paulette Dillard  
President and CEO, Shaw University (NC)

Paul Disney*+  
Instructor of Business/Economics, Western Oregon University

Timothy M. Downs  
President, Northern State University (SD)

Evan Duff  
President, North Carolina Wesleyan College

Barry H. Dunn  
President, South Dakota State University

Susan Elkins  
Chancellor, University of South Carolina Palmetto College

W. Franklin Evans  
President, Voorhees College (SC)

Dwight Fennell  
President, Texas College

Larry Ferguson  
President and CEO, Ashland Community and Technical College (NC)

Jane Fernandes  
President, Guilford College (NC)

Fernando Figueroa  
President & CEO, Gateway Community and Technical College (KY)

Antonio Flores  
President and CEO, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Tony Flores*  
Director, Veterans Resource Office, Utah State University

Tony Floyd  
President, Mars Hill University (NC)

Marilyn Fore  
President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (SC)

Rex Fuller  
President, Western Oregon University

Mary Gallagher  
President, Los Angeles City College

Algie Gatewood  
President, Alamance Community College (NC)

Sheila Gestring  
President, University of South Dakota

Rufus Glasper  
President and CEO, The League for Innovation in the Community College

Kathy Golden  
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mississippi Valley State College

James Goodman**  
Dean, Arts & Sciences, Leeward Community College (HI)

Nancy Gray  
Interim President, Hollins University (VA)

Barry Gribbons  
President, Los Angeles Valley College

José-Marie Griffiths  
President, Dakota State University (SD)

Tim Gross  
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Life University (GA)

Melissa Guerrero  
Director of Institutional Research, St. Phillip's College (TX)

Jonathan Gueverra  
President/CEO, The College of the Florida Keys

Les Guice  
President, Louisiana Tech University

Janet Gullickson  
President, Germanna Community College (VA)

Ty Handy  
President, Jefferson Community and Technical College (KY)

Marcia Hawkins  
President, Union College (KY)

Eurmon Hervey  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor, Southern University at New Orleans

Thomas Heubner  
President, Meridian Community College (MS)

Michel Hillman†  
Former Chancellor for Academic Affairs, North Dakota University System

* WICHE Commissioner  
# Passport Review Board Member  
+ Interstate Faculty Team Chair  
^ Passport Advisory Committee Chair  
~ Passport Institution Liaison

interstatepassport.wiche.edu
Supporters, cont...

T. Hampton Hopkins
President, Carolinas College of
the Health Sciences (NC)

Rev Larry Hostetter
President, Brescia University (KY)

Lew Hunnicut
President, Nash Community
College (NC)

Jason Hurst
President, Cleveland Community
College (NC)

Kent Ingle
President, Southeastern
University (FL)

Jimmy Jenkins
President, Livingstone College
(NC)

Melanie Jenkins*
Associate Provost for Academic
Affairs, Snow College

DeAnn Johnson*
Advisor for Completion and
Transferability, Advising Services,
North Idaho College

Patricia Jones*
CEO, Women’s Leadership
Institute and Member of the Utah
Board of Regents

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor, University of South
Carolina Aiken

Larry Keen
President, Fayetteville Technical
College (NC)

Arthur Keiser
Chancellor, Keiser University (FL)

Cynthia Kelley
President/CEO, Madisonville
Community College (KY)

Dan Kline*
Professor of English, Director of
General Education, University of
Alaska Anchorage

Thomas Krabacher**
Professor of Georgraphy,
California State University,
Sacramento

Kevin Kruger
President, National Association
of Student Personnel
Administrators (NASPA)

Michael LaCourse
Provost & Vice President
Academic Affairs, Dixie State
University (UT)

David Lassner*
President, University of Hawai’i

Carol Mon Lee*
Attorney, Retired Associate Dean,
University of Hawai’i Richardson
School of Law

Otto Lee
President, Los Angeles Harbor
College

Joelle Lien*
System Vice President for
Academic Affairs, South Dakota
Board of Regents

James M. Limbaugh
President, West Los Angeles
College

Jennifer Lindon
President and CEO, Hazard
Community and Technical
College (KY)

Harvey Link
Vice President for Academic
Affairs, North Dakota State
College of Science

Thomas LoBasso
President, Daytona State College
(FL)

Cheryl D. Lovell
President, Adams State University
(CO)

Lynn Lundquist*
Registrar, Concordia University,
St. Paul (MN)

Rick MacLenman
President, North Idaho College

Harold Martin
Chancellor, North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical State
University

Barbara McMillin
President, Blue Mountain College
(MS)

Lily McNair
Tuskegee University (AL)

Beverly Meinzer*#
Instructor, Chemistry & Physical
Science, University of Arksansas
Community College at Batesville

Juan Mejia
President, Tyler Junior College
(TX)

* WICHE Commissioner
# Passport Review Board Member
+ Interstate Faculty Team Chair

^ Passport Advisory Committee
Chair
~ Passport Institution Liaison

interstatepassport.wiche.edu
Supporters, cont...

Diane Melby
President, Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)

Demarée Michelau
President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

LaDawn Miera*
Assistant Registrar, Salt Lake Community College

Keith Miller
President, Greenville Technical College (SC)

Pamela Miller
Assistant Vice President for Academic Administration, University of Mobile (AL)

Ann Millner*
State Senator, Utah; Former President, Weber State University (UT)

Steven Mintz
Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

Ted Mitchell
President, American Council on Education (ACE)

Jeffrey Moniz
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Hawai‘i West Oahu

Alexis Montevirgen
President, Los Angeles Pierce College

Rolando Montoya
Interim President, Miami Dade College (FL)

Phil Neal
President & CEO, Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College

Brandi Nelson*
Director, Academic Affairs, Lake Region State College (ND)

John Nicklow
President, University of New Orleans

Marc Niglazzio
President, Texas A&M University - Central Texas

Brian Noland
President, East Tennessee State University

Carol Parker
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, New Mexico State University

Darrell Parker
President, Limestone University (SC)

Juston Pate
President/CEO, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (KY)

Monte E. Perez
President, Los Angeles Mission College

Jay Perry
System Vice President for Academic Affairs, South Dakota Board of Regents

Kirk Peterson
President, Chowan University (NC)

Michael Phillips*
Associate Professor, Western Oregon University

John Pierre
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center (LA)

Karan Pittman
Academic Dean, Andrew College (GA)

Craig Pouncey
President, Coastal Alabama Community College

Gregory Powell
President, Panola College (TX)

Jacqueline Gill Powell
President, Dankville Community College (VA)

Anumpa Prakash
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Andrew Preslar
Director of SACSCOC Reporting, Lamar State College - Orange (TX)

Thomas (Les) Purce*
President Emeritus, The Evergreen State College (WA)

Peter Quigley*
Professor of English, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Scott Ralls
President, Wake Tech Community College (NC)

James (Jim) Rankin
President, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

* WICHE Commissioner
# Passport Review Board Member
+ Interstate Faculty Team Chair
^ Passport Advisory Committee Chair
~ Passport Institution Liaison

interstatepassport.wiche.edu
Supporters, cont...

Anton Reece
President, West Kentucky Community and Technical College

Shirley Reed
President, South Texas College

Ronald Rhames
President, Midlands Technical College (SC)

Jim Ross
President, Pamlico Community College (NC)

M. David Rudd
President, the University of Memphis

Denise Runge
Dean, Community & Technical College, University of Alaska Anchorage

Clifton Sanders
Provost for Academic Affairs, Salt Lake Community College

Ervin Seamster
President, Southwestern Christian College (TX)

James Shaeffer
President, Eastern Shore Community College (VA)

Leila Shimokawa
Director of Communications, University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu

Sherry Simkins
Division Chair, Communication and Fine Arts, Professor of Communication, North Idaho College

Yolanda Watson Spiva
President, Complete College America (CCA)

Leroy Staggers
President, Morris College (SC)

Sheila Stearns*
Past President, University of Montana

Devin Stephenson
President, Northwest Florida State College

Kristine Strickland
Chancellor, Fletcher Technical Community college (LA)

Kristin Summers
Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Accreditation, North Florida College

Debbie Sydow
President, Richard Bland College (VA)

Joe Thiel*
Director of Academic Policy & Research, Montana University System, Office of the Commission of Higher Education

Mary Thornley
President, Trident Technical College (SC)

Walt Tobin
President, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (SC)

Michael Torrence
President, Motlow State Community College (TN)

Gerald Turner
President, Southern Methodist University (TX)

Katrina VanderWoude
President, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College

F. Wayne Vaught
Provost & Vice President Academic Affairs, Weber State University (UT)

Lynn Vidler+
Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Rebekah Villafana+
Associate Adjunct Instructor, Sociology, College of the Canyons (CA)

Cynthia Warrick
President, Stillman College (AL)

Evans Whitaker
President, Anderson University (SC)

Frederick Whitt
President, Lenoir-Rhyne University (NC)

D. Newell Williams
President, Brite Divinity School (TX)

Scott Williams
President, Owensboro Community and Technical College (KY)

Rob Winningham
Provost, Western Oregon University

*SICHE Commissioner
# Passport Review Board Member
+ Interstate Faculty Team Chair

^ Passport Advisory Committee Chair
~ Passport Institution Liaison
Supporters, cont...

Meredith Woo
President, Sweet Briar College
(VA)

Tommy Wright
President, Southwest Virginia
Community College

Alissa Young
President, Hopkinsville
Community College (KY)

Sherry Zylka
President/CEO, Big Sandy
Community and Technical
College (KY)

ENDNOTES


2 Ibid., Executive Summary.


4 Shapiro, et al., p. 7.
