Reverse Transfer on a National Scale: Where Do We Stand?

Missouri COTA Conference

February 13, 2015

Jefferson City, MO

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What is reverse transfer?

It is the **transfer of credits from a four-year institution to any two-year institution** from which a student transferred. It doesn't matter if the student transferred to another associate degree granting or bachelor's level institution first, attended public or private institutions, or transferred across state lines. **If eligible, the student is awarded an associate degree.**

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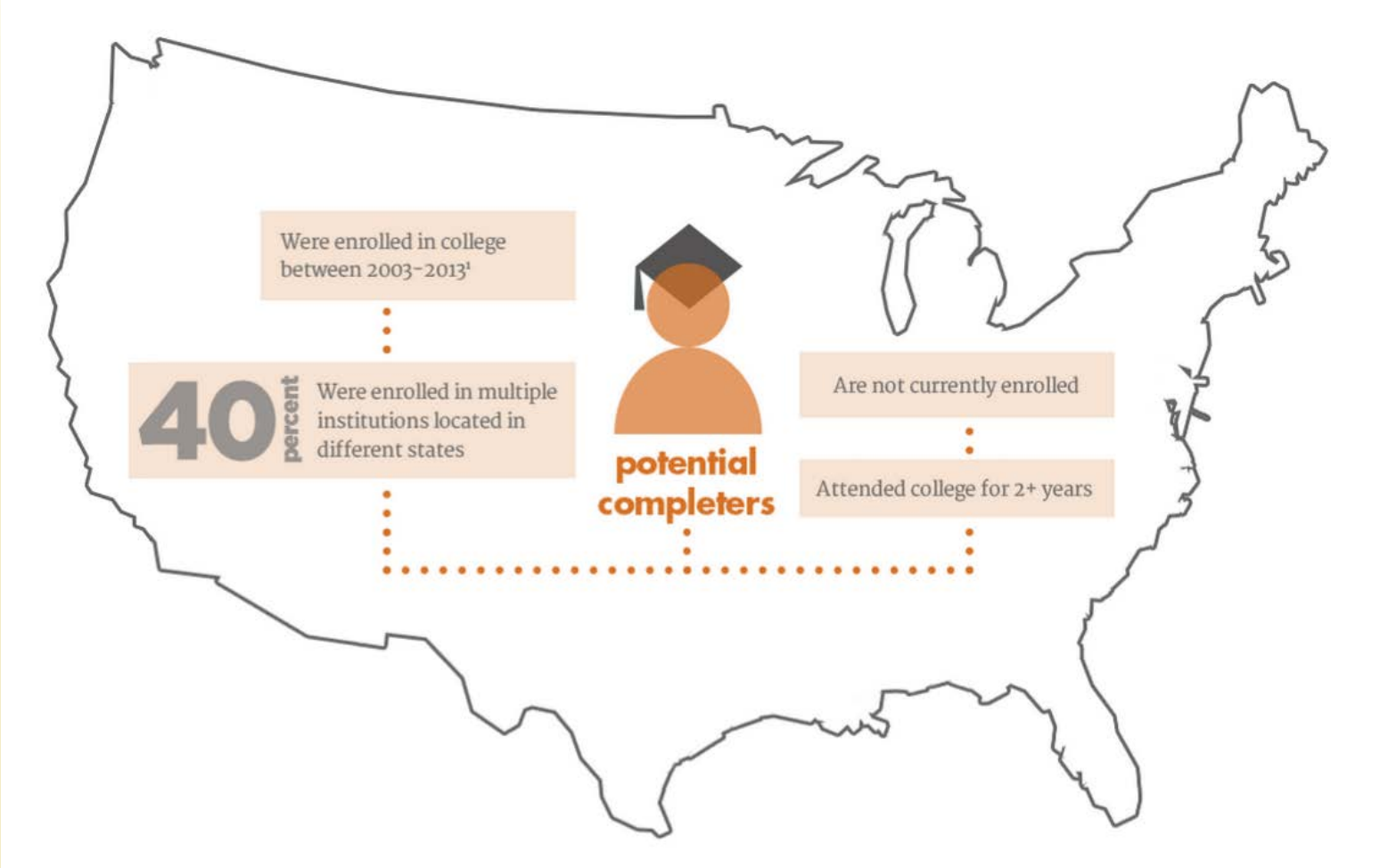
It’s a big issue…



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How many students could it potentially impact?

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And so the discussion began..

- HB 1042 of 2012 required CBHE to develop a policy to foster reverse transfer in Missouri
- Legislation and grassroots reverse transfer was popping up around the country in various states
- But, wait, students don't stay inside state boundaries!
- A few registrars began talking about what we could do:
  - What's the issue?
  - What could we do to address it?
  - Who could help us achieve a way to serve all students across the country who have "some" college and no degree?

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Group of Registrars Approached NSC

- Over 3,600 institutions use the NSC services
- Over a billion transactions per year
- Trusted partner that already had much of the data that would be needed to provide a technologically streamlined process to facilitate reverse transfer
- The project fits into the NSC Mission: "*We serve the education community by facilitating the exchange and understanding of student enrollment, performance and related information.*"

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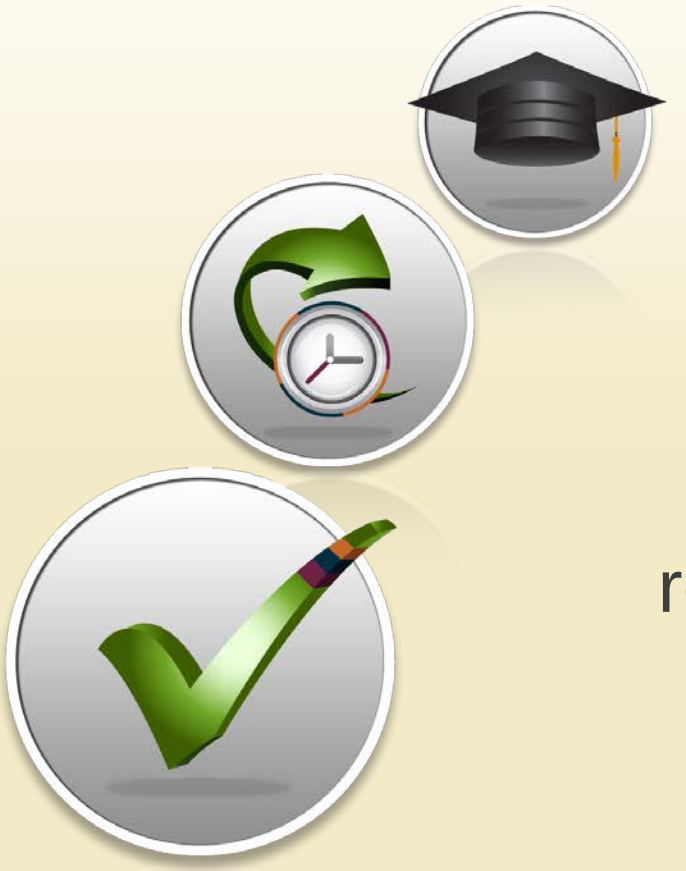

Spoiler Alert

Process to be describe and roadmap is not what Missouri is currently using

Stay tuned. More to come.

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Reverse Transfer
Registrars Proposal Objectives

- Increase associate degree attainment for students
- Ensure that all eligible students have the opportunity to be awarded a first associate degree that reflects their educational efforts and allows them to compete more successfully in other academic arenas and the workforce
- Create a standardized, streamlined, technologically enhanced process that will assist four-year and two-year institutions in transferring student credits more efficiently, securely, and successfully
- Leverage existing infrastructure with a trusted partner by taking a national approach to facilitate the reverse transfer processes

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Support from many quarters

> "The Clearinghouse Reverse Transfer project is a major step in improving higher education outcomes, which will benefit us as a nation. More students will get the degrees they deserve. Community colleges will be recognized for the value they add to education. And – by granting more degrees – states will be better positioned to attract new business.
>
> – Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO, American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

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NSC Reverse Transfer Project

Key milestones

- Invited to participate in RT meeting at 2013 AACRAO
- Proposal by Registrars subcommittee, Spring 2013
- NSC response submitted with 3 phase approach, Summer 2013
- Search for funding began, Fall 2013
- Funding sources for Phase I identified, Winter 2014
- Development of Phase I began, Summer of 2014
- Lumina Grant Proposal for Phase II Awarded, Fall 2014

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NSC Reverse Transfer Project Phases

- **Phase 1-** Facilitates the submission of files from the Host Institution, notification of Degree Granting Institution(s) and downloading of files by DGI(s) Cost: $650,000 – Fully Funded
- **Phase 2** - Creates a Student Data Mart at NSC which allows for cross checking of all student data held by NSC and provides mobile student access to all their data including who has accessed it and for what purpose Projected Cost: $3.55 million – 1.35 million committed
- **Phase 3** - Provides the ability to do pre-degree audits prior to notifying DGIs of file presence

* **Service will be provided at No Cost to Participating Institutions**

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Reverse Transfer Project Data Elements

- First Name*
- Middle Name*
- Matriculation Term (to the 4 yr. host institution)*
- Course - Term
- Course - Course Number
- Last Name*
- Birth Date*
- Social Security Number*
- Course – Session
- Course - Subject Description

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Reverse Transfer Project Data Elements

- Course – Credits
- OPEIDs of Potential Degree Granting Institutions (2 yr.)
- OPEID of Host Institution (4 yr.) *
- Student consent flag
- Permanent Address (street, city, state)*

*NSC already receives

- Course – Title
- Course – Grade
- Course grade points
- College Student ID *
- State Level Student ID*

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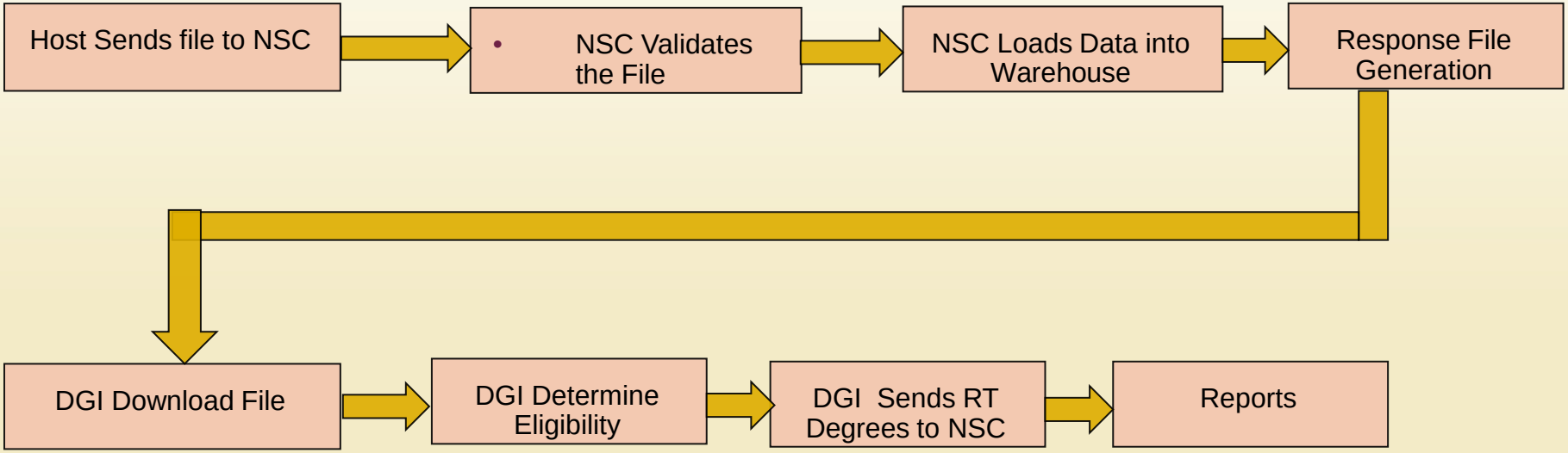
RT Process Flow



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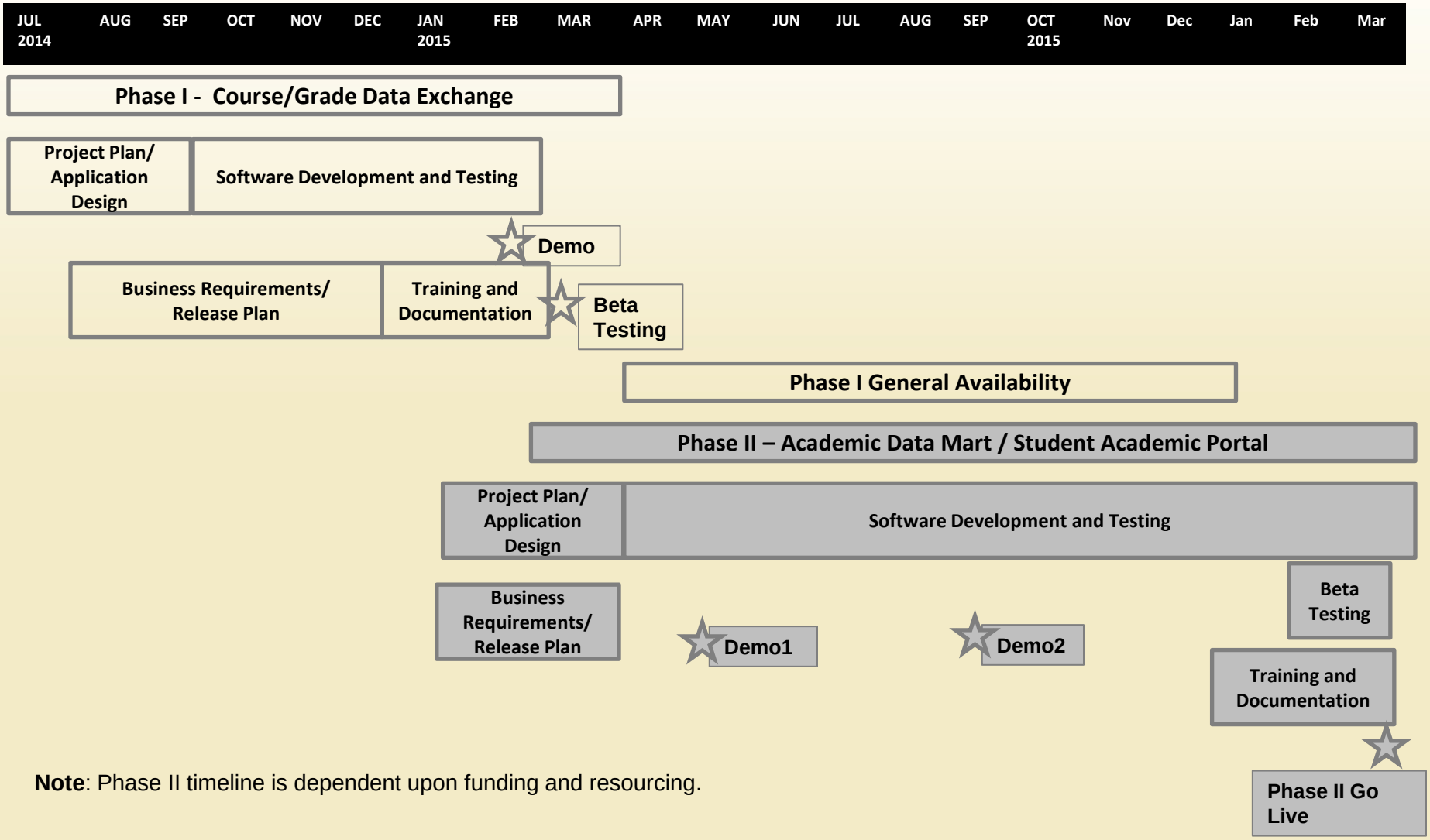
Reverse Transfer – Timeline and Project Status



Note: Phase II timeline is dependent upon funding and resourcing.

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NSC Reverse Transfer Project Funding Partners so far….

- University of Texas – Austin
- University of Wisconsin – Madison
- University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- Ohio State University
- Stanford University
- University of Maryland – College Park
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Kansas

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NSC Reverse Transfer Project Funding Partners so far….

- Lumina Foundation & Lumina Grantees in Missouri &Texas
  - Missouri Dept. of Ed., UM Columbia, UT Austin & Lone Star College System
- Lumina Foundation
- Current Partner Commitments
  - Institutions $300,000
  - NSC $400,000
  - Lumina $1.3 Million

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Missouri's Current Process

- MoRT box at NSC current process to exchange MRT transcripts
- Phase I was not ready in time
  - Lumina grant requirements
  - State legislated deadline
- MoRT box provided a good way for us to work out the basics of the process
  - Still will have to evaluate courses
  - Still had to work through process of identifying potentials

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Missouri's Involvement in New Process

- Part of the registrar group that hatched the idea
  - Policy is based upon ours
  - Our experiences helped drive the message for the need
- Experience with current process helped inform the design for new process
- Missouri is unique among the three states in the pilot in terms of our approach and the legislation, so we provided a unique set of guidelines

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What's the benefit of new process?

- Allows four-years to work with two-years across state lines
- Helps students who have been "swirling" to earn degrees
- Phase II will allow students to see who is accessing their information in one place and mobile, e.g. fewer phone calls, emails, etc.
- Communication from 2 yr. back to 4 yrs. of degrees awarded becomes automated in Phase II.
- "Digestible" by your degree audit without re-entering information
- Phase III, pre-degree audits will lighten workload for two years

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NSC Reverse Transfer Project

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