

2026

SOUTH CAROLINA

TRANSFER EXCELLENCE CONVENING



THEME:

REIGNITE —

*Sparking Innovation,
Fueling Student Success*



Program Guide



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Accessibility | Excellence | Accountability

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SC COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Welcome to the 5th convening on transfer excellence! This convening is the result of a state budget Proviso 117.135 (2023) which brought together a broad coalition of stakeholders to invest in a statewide effort to improve transfer pathways. I would like to thank the Transfer Convening Steering Committee and CHE staff for all their hard work in putting this convening together, which has proven a valuable opportunity to learn best practices, share solutions to common problems, and promote collaboration. I would also like to thank you, the attendees, for taking time from your busy schedules to participate in the convening. It demonstrates your commitment to the transfer option and the opportunity for a college education it opens for students across the state.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND BIOGRAPHY

Ashley Reich serves as the Deputy Under Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. As a higher education administrator for nearly two decades, Reich brings a wealth of experience from financial aid administration to institutional compliance in her role.

As Deputy Under Secretary and Chief of Staff, she actively works to oversee half of the Department focused on postsecondary education, including the implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the return of education to the states, and the responsible stewardship of the nearly \$1.7 trillion student loan portfolio. Within these initiatives, Reich focuses on promoting policies that result in equipping students with workforce-ready skills and lowering the cost of higher education for students and families.

Before joining the Department of Education, Reich served as the Senior Vice President of University Compliance at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, where she oversaw University Compliance, Internal Audit, Government Affairs, Title IX and Clery Act compliance. Reich specialized in higher education administration during her studies at Liberty University, where she received a bachelor's in religious studies, a master's in management and leadership, and an education specialist degree in higher education administration.

Ashley, her husband and 8-year-old son reside in Alexandria, VA.






NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CELEBRATE TRANSFER STUDENTS

OCTOBER 19-23, 2026



**JOIN US IN
ELEVATING
TRANSFER
STUDENTS**





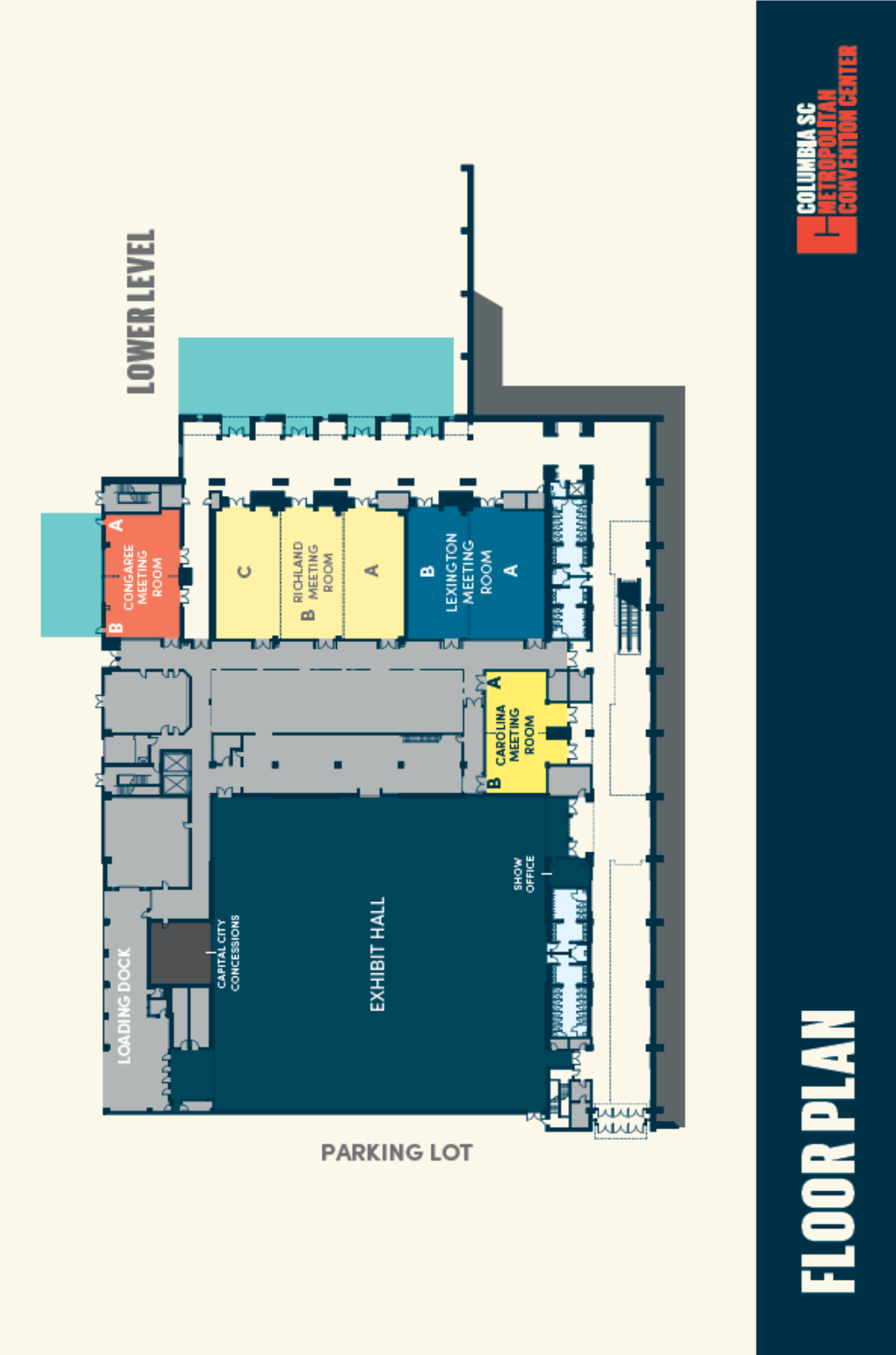
Thank you for attending this year's transfer excellence convening. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the format and session information illuminated here and in the schedule on the pages that follow.

Changes for this year:

- Bringing in a keynote speaker from the federal government.
- In recognition of National Transfer Student Week occurring the week after the convening, providing information from the National Resource Center so you can access assets from their website in relation to next week's celebrations as well as make you aware of an exciting new opportunity to share in the work next summer.
- Issuing a call for proposals and utilizing responses to that call to create multiple concurrent sessions for you to choose from.
- In response to feedback from last year's event, creating an additional collaboration session for touchpoints broader than regional opportunities have brought in the past.
- Additionally, the collaboration sessions are crafted to be more action-oriented rather than solely guided discussions.

We hope you enjoy the event, provide robust feedback on our survey, and take post event action.

CONVENING SPACE MAP



SESSION PRESENTATION INFORMATION

TRANSFER CONVENING MASTER SCHEDULE			
Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
8:15-9:00	Registration	Attendees	Lobby near Lexington A
Convening Begins			
9:00-9:05	Welcome and opening remarks by the President and Executive Director	Jeffrey Perez , PhD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Richland A/B/C
9:05-9:10	Housekeeping notes for the day and introduction of keynote speaker	Tim Rees , EdD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Richland A/B/C
9:10-9:40	Keynote by the Deputy Under Secretary & Chief of Staff for the Under Secretary	Ashley Reich , US Department of Education	Richland A/B/C
9:40-9:55	Updates on Transfer Statewide Initiatives: Updates to include SC TRAC update and advising particulars for the 2026-27 academic year	Jennifer Black , SC Technical College System Amanda Shores , University of South Carolina - Columbia	Richland A/B/C
9:55-10:00	BREAK/Transitions		
10:00-10:45 Concurrent Session I	Title: A Transfer Champion Tune-Up: Reflecting on Practice as Agents, Connectors, and Advocates Learning Objectives: 1. Identify the specific behaviors associated with the agent, connector, and advocate roles. 2. Connect foundational transfer concepts to everyday decisions in their work with transfer students. 3. Identify at least one adjustment to make in each role.	Emily Kittrell , National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition; University of South Carolina - Columbia	Lexington A
	Title: Beyond Equivalency: How Coastal Carolina University Is Using Student Learning Outcomes to Rethink Universally Transferable Courses Learning Objectives: Identify and apply an outcomes-based approach to evaluating universally transferable courses for general education requirements, including strategies for faculty collaboration, registrar coding, and implementation at their own institution.	Leslie Barrett Brown , PhD, Coastal Carolina University	Lexington B

Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
10:00-10:45 Concurrent Session I (Continued)	Title: Small Colleges, Big Impact: Advancing Transfer Through Rural Partnerships Learning Objectives: Apply lessons from Denmark Technical College's partnerships to strengthen collaboration, create clearer transfer pathways, and ensure that smaller institutions are not overlooked. Identify practical strategies for developing transfer partnerships that respond to the unique needs of rural students and communities. Outline a plan for engaging small and rural colleges in statewide transfer conversations, planning efforts, and partnership opportunities.	Marci Middleton , PhD, Denmark Technical College	Congaree A
	Title: From Enrollment to Transfer: Building an Education Pathway with Community at Its Core Learning Objectives: 1. Describe a model for coordinating mapped transfer pathways from a regional campus to comprehensive institutions. 2. Explain how to build an early college on-ramp and a credit-bearing community experiential learning component into an existing transfer pathway. 3. Apply lessons learned to scope a similar multi-campus, early-access, or experiential pathway at their own institution.	Majdouline Aziz , PhD, Cari Conley , University of South Carolina - Union and Zelda Waymer , SC Afterschool Alliance/USC-Union	Congaree B
10:45-10:50	BREAK/Transitions		
10:50 -11:35 Concurrent Session II	Title: Practical Strategies for Improving Transfer Student Momentum through Intentional Advising Practices Learning Objectives: Identify advising practices that reduce barriers and improve transfer student success. Explore how DegreeWorks and transfer planning tools support informed academic decision-making. Develop strategies to create a more seamless and student-centered transfer experience at their institution.	Heather Hoppe , PhD; Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Lexington A

Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
10:50 -11:35 Concurrent Session II (Continued)	Title: Guided Transfer Pathways through Collaborative Partnerships Learning Objectives: Participants walk away with practical steps that can be implemented at their institution using pathways for their students. These pathways will most likely look different but the principal behind creating pathways is the same. Showing how collaboration between partnership institutions positively impacts the transfer student and gives them a clear and understandable path as they navigate the transfer process from one school to the next.	Bill Brown , USC-Columbia	Lexington B
	Title: Turning Trash into Treasure: Building a School-to-Credit-to-Career Pipeline Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to apply the Treasure Pathway Framework to identify gaps between K–12 education, postsecondary credit, transfer, workforce development, and career pathways, while identifying cross-sector partnership strategies among K–12 schools, technical colleges, four-year institutions, and workforce partners that can reduce credit loss, shorten time to degree, and improve transfer and credential completion for South Carolina students.	Katrina Johnson , EdD; KJ Legacy Reads, LLC	Congaree A
	Title: Credit That Counts: Making Transfer Credit Visible, Applicable, and Actionable Learning Objectives: Identify points in the transfer journey where students can lose credit, time, and degree momentum, including the distinction between credit acceptance and degree applicability. Apply lessons from North Carolina's transfer experience to South Carolina institutional and regional transfer initiatives. Assess their institution's transfer readiness across five dimensions: visibility, applicability, planning, advising, and measurement. Evaluate how technology-enabled transfer planning can connect articulation, degree audit, advising, and	Sarah Crook , Ellucian	Congaree B

Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
10:50 -11:35 Concurrent Session II (Continued)	student-facing information to improve pathway transparency. Identify actionable metrics including credit loss, excess credits, time to degree, reverse transfer, and transfer-student completion that can be used to evaluate transfer effectiveness and inform policy and practice.	Sarah Crook , Ellucian	Congaree B
11:35-11:40	BREAK/Transitions		
11:40 -12:25 Collaboration Session I: Regional Collaboration	Region: Upstate	Kenita Pitts , SC Commission on Higher Education	Lexington A
	Region: Midlands	Kathy Rollins , SC Commission on Higher Education	Lexington B
	Region: Lowcountry	Tim Rees , EdD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Congaree A/B
12:25 -1:30	LUNCH		
1:30-1:35	BREAK/Transitions		
1:35-2:20 Collaboration Session II: Area of Interest Collaboration	Interest Area: Get involved in the Transfer Excellence Council	Tim Rees , EdD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Richland A/B/C
	Interest Area: Practical Transfer Data Use/Tools	Jennifer Black , SC Technical College System Amanda Shores , University of South Carolina - Columbia	Lexington A
	Interest Area: Holistic Credit Mobility: The Framework, the Cohort Experience, and Practical Tools	Madeline Trimble , Ithaka S&R	Lexington B
	Interest Area: Admissions & Registrars	Brandon Diehl , Charleston Southern University	Congaree A
	Interest Area: Advising & Student Services	Collytte Medders & Nichole Spivey , University of South Carolina - Aiken	Congaree B
2:20-2:25	BREAK/Transitions		

Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
2:25-3:10 Concurrent Session III	Title: From Credits to Careers: Transfer Pathways as Workforce Pipelines Learning Objectives: Participants should be able to: 1. Describe how specific transfer initiatives (e.g., Transfer Explorer, regional transfer partnerships) support talent pipelines in sectors like healthcare, education, advanced manufacturing, IT. 2. Identify at least two practices to align transfer pathways with local and regional workforce needs (e.g., co designed pathways, employer validated learning outcomes, stackable credentials). 3. Outline a plan to engage workforce and employer partners in their own institutional transfer strategies.	James Thompson I , PhD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Lexington A
	Title: SC Transfer Students Outcomes Dashboard Learning Objectives: Session attendants will learn the following: The data and the data work used to create the dashboard. The main metrics and definitions applied in the dashboard. The dashboard's filters included and their usability. The key findings according to this analysis. The main details on how to use the dashboard from an institutional perspective	Mariana Manic , SC Commission on Higher Education	Lexington B
	Title: Advancing Transfer Student Success Beyond a Curricular Focus Through the Carolina Experience Learning Objectives: To summarize the transfer student experience at the University of South Carolina gathered through six years of focus groups and a new survey. Describe the support offered for transfer students at the University of South Carolina. Identify actionable practices they can adapt to support the transfer student population at their own institutions.	Amber Falluca , PhD & Kimberly Dressler , USC-Columbia	Congaree A

Time	Event/Topic/Details	Speaker(s)/Organization	Location
2:25-3:10 Concurrent Session III (Continued)	Title: How Solid Are Your Systems? Building Sustainable Systems that Strengthen Student Experiences and Yield Positive Outcomes Learning Objectives: 1. Assess the strength of their current organizational systems supporting transfer students. 2. Identify gaps that create barriers to student success. 3. Learn strategies for building collaborative systems across academic affairs, student affairs, advising, enrollment management, registrars, faculty, institutional research, and workforce partners. 4. Examine how leadership, communication, and organizational culture influence system effectiveness. 5. Develop a practical action plan for strengthening sustainable, student-centered systems. 6. Explore continuous improvement strategies that support long-term institutional success.	Carlita King , EdD, CSK2 Enterprise, LLC	Congaree B
3:10-3:15	BREAK/Transitions		
3:15-3:30	Thank you and closing remarks	Tim Rees , EdD, SC Commission on Higher Education Jennifer Black , SC Technical College System Amanda Shores , University of South Carolina - Columbia Angela Peters , PhD, SC Commission on Higher Education	Richland A/B/C

FEEDBACK SURVEY

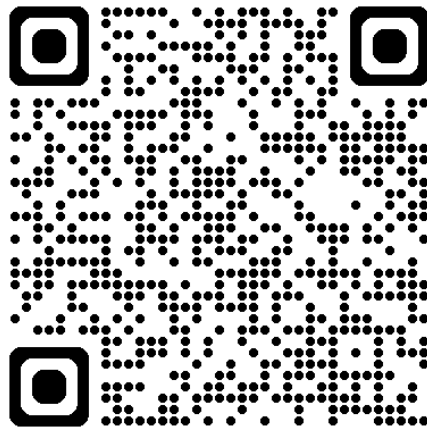
Please complete our feedback survey to help us improve next year's event (link found on the transfer convening website or by clicking the QR code below).

BECOME INVOLVED IN THE TRANSFER EXCELLENCE COUNCIL

Considering getting involved? Click the QR code to complete a short interest inquiry form on the transfer convening website and we will follow up with you to explore ways you can get involved.

CONVENING ASSETS POST-EVENT

Missed a session you really wanted to hear? Want to find more content from today or past events? Click the QR code below for post-event access to assets.



TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DAY

- Complete the post-event survey so we can continue to improve our convening for next year's event.
- Make note of the top 3 action items you have from this convening to add fuel to the work at your organization. Set a calendar reminder to review these action items on a regular basis post event.

2026 TRANSFER CONVENING STEERING COMMITTEE

Name	Institution/Organization
Jennifer Black	SC Technical College System
Brandon Diehl	Charleston Southern University
Trena Houp	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Amanda Shores	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Chariti Spann	SC Commission on Higher Education
Tim Rees	SC Commission on Higher Education

2026-2027 TRANSFER LEADERSHIP TEAM

Name	Institution/Organization	Role/Workgroup(WG)
Amanda Shores	USC Columbia	Co-Chair (26-27)
Jennifer Black	SC Technical College System	Co-Chair (26-27)
Brandon Diehl	Charleston Southern	Credits WG
Brad Dunmire	Anderson	Credits WG
Casey Woodling	Coastal Carolina University	Costs Co-chair
Gary Sutton	USC Beaufort	Credits WG
Geoffrey Herzog	SC State	
Greg Dailey	Citadel	
Jennifer Kunka	Francis Marion	Credits Co-chair
John McGill	York Technical College	Communication Co-chair
Kathryn Rice	Clemson	Communication Co-chair
Kim Purdy	USC Upstate	
Laura Tyndall	College of Charleston	Credits WG
Lloyd Willis	Lander University	Immediate past Co-chair (25-26)
Melinda Rodgers	Aiken Technical College	
Rene Sawyer	Greenville Technical College	Immediate past Co-chair (25-26)
Rock McCaskill	Clemson	Credits WG
Ron Cox	USC Palmetto College	
Trena Houp	USC Columbia	Credits Co-chair

2026-2027 TRANSFER EXCELLENCE COUNCIL

Name	Institution/Organization	Workgroup (WG)
Aaron Huntley	Coker University	Credits WG
Akeem Brooks	The Citadel	
Alison Scheide	USC Columbia	Communication WG
Alyssa Collins	York Technical College	Communication WG
Amanda James	Winthrop	
Amber Novotny	USC Palmetto College	
Amy Jennings	Tri-County Technical College	
April White Pugh	Tri-County Technical College	Credits WG
Audria Chandler	USC Upstate	
Barbara Denson	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Communication WG
Beverly Osborne	Central Carolina Technical College	
Carla Kaiser	Midlands Technical College	
Carol Paguntalan	Piedmont Technical College	
Celia Bauss	Spartanburg Community College	Credits WG
Chris Nesmith	USC Palmetto College	
Chris Satterfield	Greenville Technical College	
Cliff Murphy	USC Columbia	
Craig Gero	Winthrop	
Daniel Kuzbary	Central Carolina Technical College	
Davion Petty	SC State	
Delores Dingle	Florence Darlington Technical College	
Donette Stewart	USC-Upstate	
Donna Foster	Piedmont Technical College	Credits WG
Dwayne Lee	Midlands Technical College	Credits WG
Genell Gause	Florence Darlington Technical College	
Gloria Carden	Greenville Technical College	
Heather Hoppe	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Credits WG
Jena Whitlock	Coastal Carolina University	
Jessi Greenhough	Piedmont Technical College	
Jill Johnson	Spartanburg Methodist College	Credits WG
John Rowan	Francis Marion	

2026-2027 TRANSFER EXCELLENCE COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

Name	Institution/Organization	Workgroup (WG)
Kala Hudson	Spartanburg Methodist College	Costs WG
Kelsey Newman	Tri-County Technical College	
Kyle Cutler	Clemson	
LaToya Johnson	SC State	Credits WG
Laura Tyndall	College of Charleston	Credits WG
Leah Andrews	SC Technical College System	Communication WG
Leandra Arvazzetti	Piedmont Technical College	Credits WG
Leslie Barrett Brown	Coastal Carolina University	Credits WG
Leslie Holman-Brooks	Denmark Technical College	
Lori Heafner	Horry Georgetown Technical College	
Mal Reeder	Midlands Technical College	
Manicia Finch	SC State	
Melissa Pearson	Spartanburg Community College	Costs WG
Melissa Plummer	Orangeburg Calhoun Tech	
Michael Harvey	Spartanburg Community College	
Michelle Futrell	College of Charleston	Costs Co-chair
Misty Hatfield	Central Carolina Technical College	
Natalie Mahaffey	Central Carolina Technical College	Communication WG
Rosline Sumpter	SC Technical College System	Credits Co-chair
Stacey Nichols	Aiken Technical College	
Stacie Williams	USC Aiken	
Tammy Clubbs	SC State	
Tiffany Prowell	Piedmont Technical College	
Tim Drueke	Winthrop	
Tim Kelly	Greenville Technical College	
Victoria Anthony	Spartanburg Methodist College	Credits WG



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