Summary of Transfer Champion Tune-Up

Created on October 13, 2026 by Summary AI

Lecture Info

- **Speaker / Instructor:** Emily Kittrell (Emily Kittrell)
- **Course / Subject:** Transfer Champion workshop / Transfer Excellence convening (National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition)

Main Theme

The session defined the role of a **Transfer Champion** and offered a practical "tune-up" to improve campus practices by distinguishing three **roles** champions play and linking those roles to transfer theory and everyday behaviors.

Key Takeaways

1. **Three roles**: Transfer Champions function as **Agents, Connectors, and Advocates**; individuals may perform one or more roles at different times.
2. Transfer Champions help students build **Transfer Student Capital** and **transfer self-efficacy**, and they operate most effectively within a **transfer-affirming culture**.
3. Practical champion behaviors emphasized: **consistency**, being a **one-stop shop**, reviewing transcripts thoroughly, creating **belonging**, treating transfers like valued first-time students, and **raising transfer issues** across campus.

Topics Covered

Introduction & purpose

- Session framed as a practical "tune-up" for people already supporting transfer students.
- Presenter background: joined NRC in **January** after NISTS merger; work grounded in years of transfer research and practice.

Defining Transfer Champion (overview)

- **Definition:** intentional set of behaviors and roles supporting transfer student success.
- **Framework:** champions split into three roles: **Agents, Connectors, Advocates** (introduced as the core structure to explore).

Role: Transfer Agent

- **Core idea:** provide technical know-how and direct supports that help students navigate credit, major requirements, and systems.

- **Behaviors (audience examples):**
  - review transcripts carefully
  - act as a one-stop resource to reduce student handoffs
  - make processes seamless and convenient
- **In-session activity:** participants completed an **Agent self-check** (flip phone horizontally to view; **3 minutes** suggested).
- **Logistics noted: 15** paper copies brought; QR code links slides and forms.

Role: Transfer Connector

- **Core idea:** link students to people, programs, and information across campus to smooth transitions.
- **Behaviors:**
  - actively seek opportunities to connect students with services and pathways
  - ensure campus units coordinate and communicate about transfers

Role: Transfer Advocate

- **Core idea:** raise visibility of transfer student needs and ensure institutional attention and resources.
- **Behaviors (audience examples):**
  - mention transfer issues in every meeting possible
  - champion transfer-affirming policies and programming
  - push for consistent treatment and recognition of transfers

Theoretical foundations cited

- **Transfer Student Capital:** practical know-how students acquire to navigate transfer.
- **Transfer self-efficacy:** confidence built as capital accumulates; champions help grow both.
- **Transfer culture (affirming/receptive):** institutional commitment that normalizes transfer and eases champion work.
- **Validation theory:** psychological affirmation that students matter and can succeed; underpinning of many champion behaviors.
- **Timeline references:** presenter noted sparse guidance circa **2008–2009**, NISTS work and a blog post updated in **2025**.

Interactive elements & logistics

- QR code provided at end of slides to access materials and self-check.
- Slides will be available in a shared folder accessible via the QR code.
- Presenter provided a few hard copies due to potential Wi-Fi issues.

Notable Quotes

""Transfer Champions are agents, connectors, and advocates."" – Emily Catrell (Emily Catrell)

""I can guarantee you, you are already a Transfer Champion."" – Emily Catrell (Emily Catrell)

Homework

- Complete the **Agent self-check** during the session or afterward via the QR code; score privately and note areas for improvement.
- Access slides and resources via the QR code provided at the end of the presentation.