Common Course Learning Outcomes

A Pilot Project Paving the Transfer Pathway

October 4, 2023

2023 South Carolina Transfer Excellence Convening

OUTCOME V. OBJECTIVE: TODAY'S FOCUS

- Provide an overview of the SC Technical College System and statewide transfer efforts

- Introduce the pilot project for developing common course learning outcomes

- Highlight best practices for writing learning outcomes

- Showcase examples of draft outcomes

SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM: MISSION

HIGHER EDUCATION

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

QUALITY OF LIFE

OUR MISSION: The System provides learning opportunities that advance workforce development, promote economic development and ensure attainment of student learning goals – effectively increasing the employability of all South Carolinians and, ultimately, enhancing the quality of life for all our state's citizens.

SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM: HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

134K

Each year the System educates and trains over 130,000 South Carolinians through our credit programs (100,124) and continuing education programs (34,469).
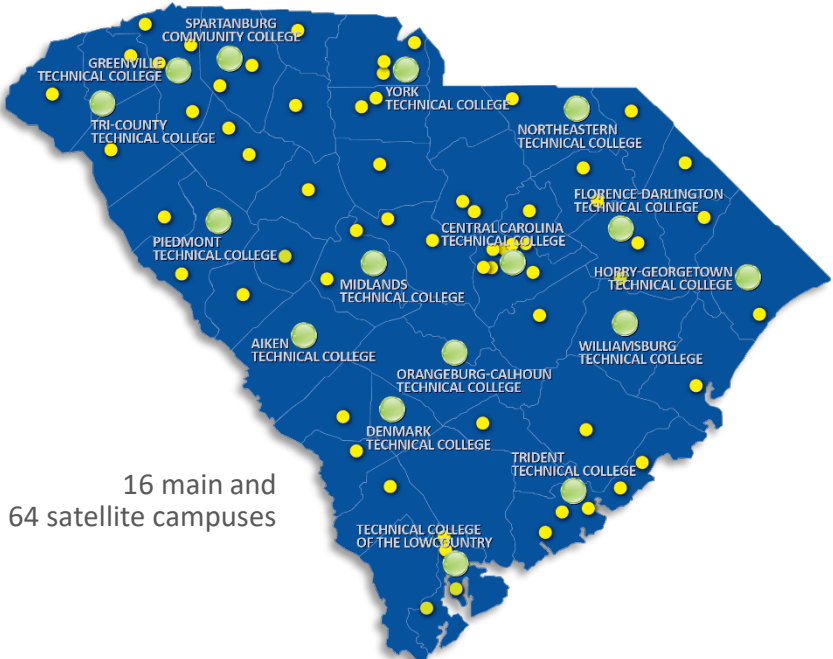
GEOGRAPHICALLY ACCESSIBLE ACROSS THE STATE

<30 MIN

Our colleges are strategically located across the state with nearly every South Carolinian within a 30-minute drive of one of our 16 main campuses or 64 satellite campuses.
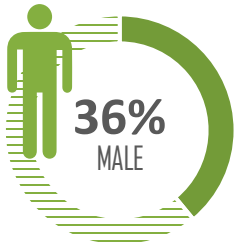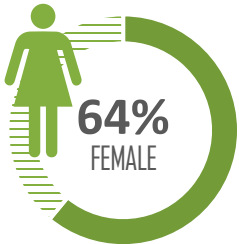
FLEXIBILITY THROUGH BREADTH AND DEPTH OF PROGRAMS

1100+

Our colleges offer a variety of programs in South Carolina's high-demand, high-paying fields, including 78 degrees, 28 diplomas and nearly 1,000 certificate programs.

SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GREENVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
YORK TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
NORTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FLORENCE-DARLINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DENMARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

16 main and
64 satellite campuses

REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Our colleges provide one of the most accurate pictures of a community in terms of its population, its demographic makeup and its business and industry focus.

64% FEMALE

36% MALE

46% MINORITY

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DIVISION OF ACADEMICS, STUDENT AFFAIRS, AND RESEARCH

SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE
SYSTEM

DIVISION VISION & VALUES

The Division of Academics, Student Affairs, and Research will be known for bold, innovative, and sustainable practices that promote student success.

Integrity

Supportive Engagement

Continuous Improvement

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SCTCS TRANSFER: HIGHLIGHTS

The SC Technical College System offers the most accessible, affordable and relevant pathway to a four-year degree through guaranteed transfer partnerships.

South Carolina technical colleges are a **destination of choice** for students seeking to earn a bachelor's degree through transfer.

There are **20 systemwide transfer agreements** with 18 institutional partners creating direct pathways to four-year degrees for associate degree graduates from all 16 technical colleges within the System, regardless of geography
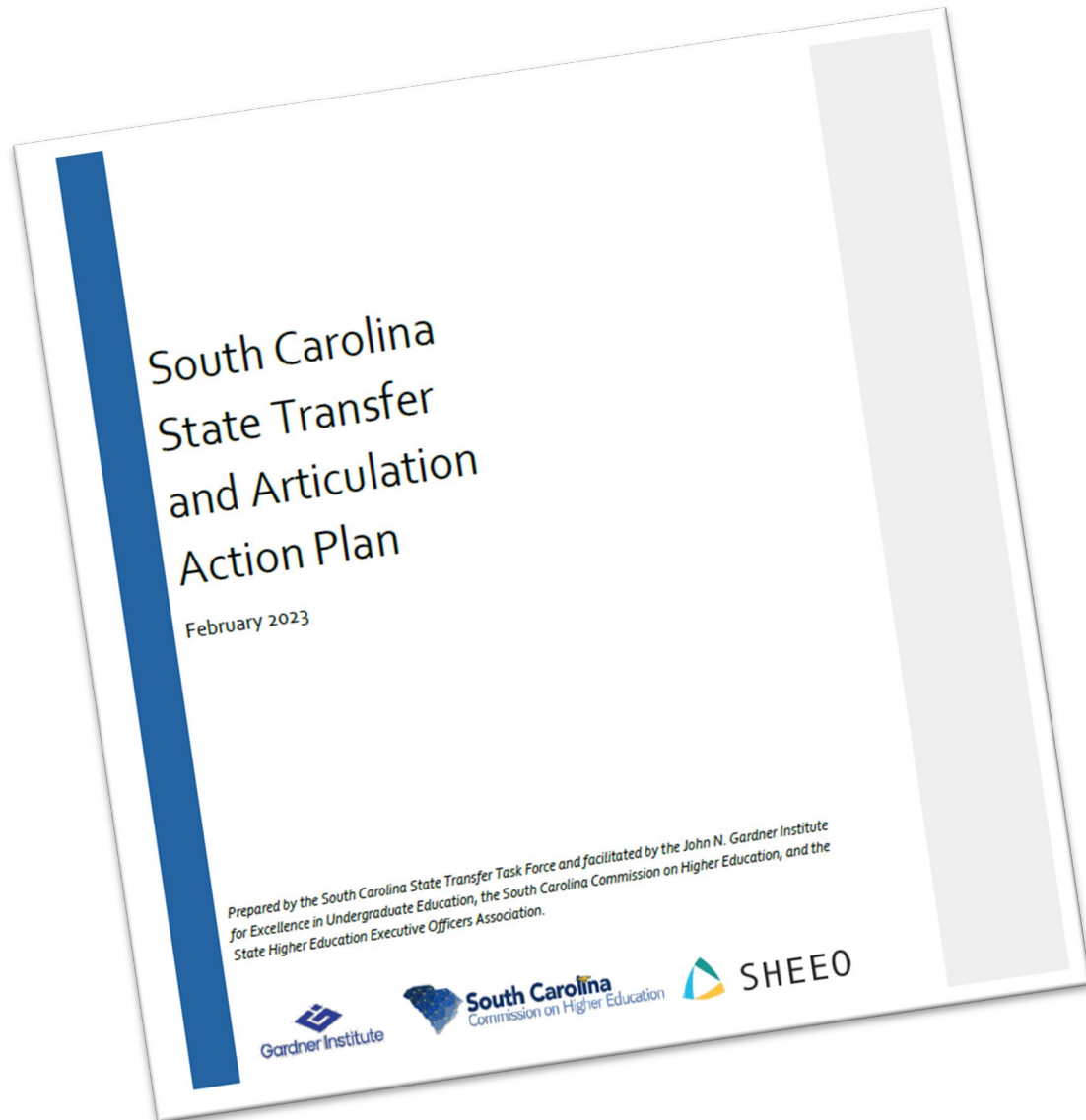
The System supports development of a guaranteed pathway to all state four-year institutions for Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) graduates. From the 2021-2022 academic year, that's **2,654** graduates across the System.

Average annual tuition at a SC technical college is about **36% of the average annual tuition** at a four-year institution.
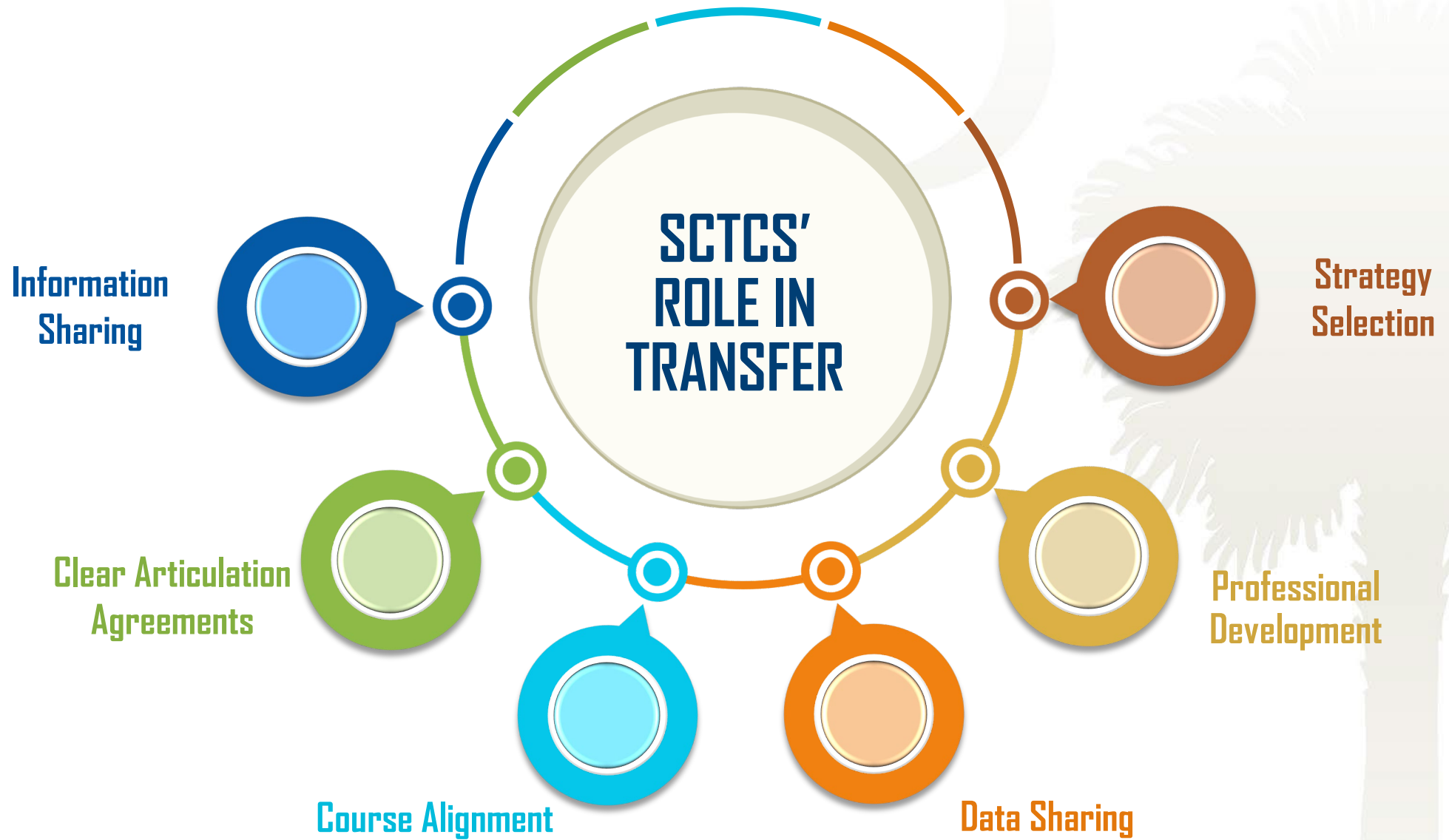
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ACTION PLAN: RECOMMENDATION #3

South Carolina
State Transfer
and Articulation
Action Plan

February 2023

Prepared by the South Carolina State Transfer Task Force and facilitated by the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

Gardner Institute · South Carolina Commission on Higher Education · SHEEO

Convene a stakeholder group, comprised of representatives from two- and four-year South Carolina institutions, to review and address transfer and articulation resources and needs, to include:
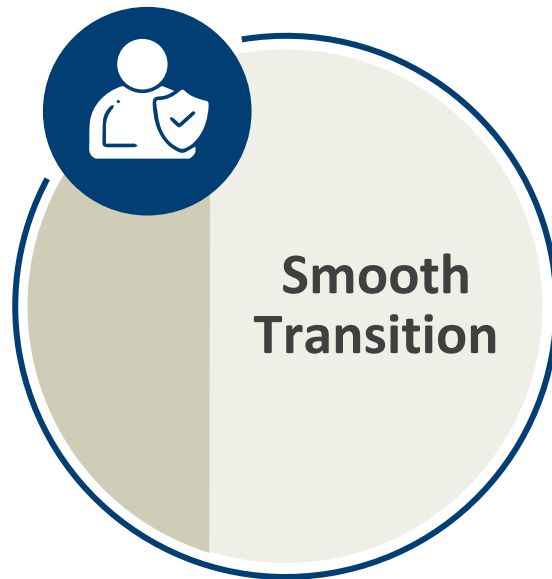
- Evaluating and assessing current transfer and articulation platforms…

- Developing a matrix to standardize courses…

- **Developing a process for using common general education learning outcomes to supersede course equivalencies**

- Establishing common standards for evaluating and awarding credit consistently…

- Negotiating statewide articulation… to recognize the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees as fulfilling baccalaureate general education requirements

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SCTCS' ROLE IN TRANSFER

- Information Sharing
- Clear Articulation Agreements
- Course Alignment
- Data Sharing
- Professional Development
- Strategy Selection

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SCTCS: ENSURING COURSE ALIGNMENT

Ensure the curriculum at two-year colleges aligns with the requirements of the corresponding programs at four-year colleges

Smooth Transition

Eliminate the need for additional coursework

Eliminate the need for repetition of courses

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PILOT PROJECT: COMMON STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Prepare → Review → Draft → Approve

Prepare
Select courses
Collect outcomes
Convene faculty

Review
Group outcomes
Identify themes

Draft
Draft outcomes
Review course descriptions

Approve
Collect college feedback
Seek CAO approval

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COMMON LEARNING OUTCOMES: PILOT COURSES

Learning outcomes are specific statements of what students will be able to do when they successfully complete a learning experience, whether it is a project, course, or program (DePaul University, 2022).

MAT 101 Beginning Algebra

MAT 102 Intermediate Algebra

MAT 110 College Algebra

MAT 120 Probability and Statistics

MAT 155 Contemporary Mathematics

ENG 100 Introduction to Composition

ENG 101 English Composition I

ENG 102 English Composition II

ENG 155 Communications I

ENG 160 Technical Communications

REACH Act Courses:

HIS 201 American History: Discovery to 1877

PSC 201 American Government

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PILOT PROJECT: BY THE NUMBERS

12 Months

16 Colleges

1,049 Outcomes

5 Work Groups

36 Faculty

12 Courses

21 Common ENG SLOs

27 Common MAT SLOs

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FACULTY TRAINING: WRITING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) statements clearly state the expected knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies, and habits of mind that students are expected to acquire at an institution of higher education (Eggleston, 2023).

Characteristics of good SLOs:

- They are truly important
- They are measurable
- Data from them could be useful and valuable
- Specific to institutional level and/or program level and/or course
- Clearly expressed and understandable by multiple audiences

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FACULTY TRAINING: OUTCOMES CHECKLIST

✓ Do you have 3-7 SLOs?

✓ Does each SLO identify: 1. Who, 2. Will do, 3. How much (how well), 4. Of what, 5. By when

✓ Does the SLO match the course description? Will the SLO work for Online and F2F?

✓ Is the SLO universally understood? (Faculty, students, accreditation)

✓ Is the SLO specific enough? s the SLO measuring just ONE item?

✓ Is there consistency in the formatting of the SLO for each course, program?

✓ Can the SLO be measured? (Can you imagine HOW?)

✓ Does the SLO clearly state WHAT will be learned or assessed?

✓ Does the SLO have an action VERB (think BLOOM!)?

✓ Does the SLO seem to be important and truly matter?

✓ Does this SLO have "buy-in"?

Source: Eggleston, T. (2023, May 19). *Student learning outcomes and student learning* [PowerPoint slides].

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PILOT PROJECT: FACULTY-DEVELOPED OUTCOMES

Course Prefix & Number: MAT 102

DRAFT

Course Title: Intermediate Algebra

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: This course includes the study of linear systems and applications; quadratic expressions, equations, functions and graphs; and rational and radical expressions and functions.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course...

1. Students will be able to solve and graph linear systems.
2. Students will be able to solve quadratic equations and graph quadratic functions.
3. Students will be able to solve rational equations and graph rational functions.
4. Students will be able to solve radical equations and graph radical functions.

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PILOT PROJECT: FACULTY-DEVELOPED OUTCOMES

Course Prefix & Number: ENG 102

DRAFT

Course Title: English Composition II

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: This is a (college transfer) course in which the following topics are presented: development of writing skills through logical organization, effective style, literary analysis and research. An introduction to literary genre is also included.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to a variety of texts
2. Demonstrate rhetorical awareness in critical reading and composition
3. Engage independently in the research process to produce academically sound work
4. Engage in the writing process to compose structurally coherent essays
5. Use formal, academic language effectively in written communication

PAVING THE WAY: NEXT STEPS

❑Approve outcomes

❑Integrate into Catalog of Approved Courses database

❑Finalize implementation timeline

❑Engage four-year institutions

❑Identify next round of courses

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REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Eggleston, T. (2023, May 19). *Student learning outcomes and student learning* [PowerPoint slides].

Fink, J. (2018). *Takes Two to Tango: Applying insights from highly-effective transfer partnerships.* National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students 2018 Conference. https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/presentation/takes-two-tango-applying-insights-highly-effective-transfer-partnerships.html

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