

The purpose of this monthly communication is to share items of interest related to admissions and transfer in Alberta. All issues of *Spotlight* are posted at [www.acat.gov.ab.ca/](http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca/).

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

- To what extent does your post-secondary institution maintain records regarding transfer credit awarded to students?**

Please send your responses/thoughts to [acat@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acat@gov.ab.ca) and include "Spotlight February" in your subject line. Responses may be anonymously and informally shared with Council and stakeholders to inform work related to admissions and transfer.

**HIGHLIGHTS: ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER**

**British Columbia's BCCAT Learning Outcomes and Credit Transfer Report** examines the use of learning outcomes as the basis for credit transfer and offers some directions that jurisdictions are pursuing and/or exploring. It provides an overview of the existing literature on the subject in general and in practice in B.C., Ontario, Europe, the United States, and Australia.

The **Government of Ontario's** "Course-to-Course" transfer database for students, available through [ONTransfer.ca](http://ONTransfer.ca), is a searchable, online database of post-secondary education (PSE) course credits that are recognized by other colleges and universities. The database is divided into three categories for secondary, college and university students, and guides users through various transfer pathways available to them, including clearly showing which credits are needed to complete diploma or degree programs when combining courses from different colleges and universities. For additional Ontario credit transfer news and events, visit [ONCAT](http://ONCAT) and also review the [ONCAT reports and position papers](#) (2013) on credit transfer and student mobility.

**HIGHLIGHTS: STUDENT-RELATED REPORTS**

**Student-led survey asks peers about Alberta PSE:** Several Alberta PSE student groups have released a new study, *[Ignite: Ideas for Post-Secondary Education](#)*, which compiles data from a series of student focus groups held at 23 PSE institutions across the province and a survey of "thousands" of Alberta students.

**Ways to improve student success in PSE:** A new report, *[Learning from High-Performing and Fast-Gaining Institutions](#)*, released last week by the U.S.-based Education Trust looks at eight U.S. institutions that have successfully improved graduation and retention rates of select student groups (i.e., under-represented and low income), resulting in a list of 10 data-driven analyses that other institutions can adopt to improve their own student success rates.

**ACAT UPDATE**

**Indigenous Institutions' Contact Persons' Meeting**

ACAT's Aboriginal Education Articulation Committee recommended that a meeting be held with representatives from the Alberta transfer systems' five Indigenous institutions (Blue Quills First Nations College; Maskwacis Cultural College; Nechi Training, Research and Health Institute; Red Crow Community College; and Yellowhead Tribal College). At the January 21, 2014 meeting, these institutions and ACAT discussed common challenges faced by Indigenous institutions; e.g., negotiating and establishing transfer arrangements. At the end of the meeting, there was unanimous agreement about the benefits of holding regular meetings of these institutions. It also was agreed that a mentorship approach and support for their institutions' Contact Persons would be valuable (the first mentorship session was held on February 13, 2014).

**ACAT Articulation Committee Chairs' Meeting**

In Edmonton on February 19, 2014, ACAT held its annual Articulation Committee Chairs' Meeting. Articulation chairs shared and discussed issues and best practices that impact the work of their committees and program areas. ACAT and the Secretariat discussed future opportunities to engage articulation committees in the work of Council, as well as to identify potential strategies to help committees organize and manage their work. More information about Articulation Committees can be found on [ACAT's site](#).

**Updated Student Mobility Reports**

The revised [PowerPoint Step-by-Step Guide](#) for ACAT's first three new Student Mobility Reports is now split into three presentations (one per report) and has an audio narrative for each of the reports. The reports and the accompanying guides are available on the [ACAT website Research page](#). Reports from the publicly funded post-secondary institutions in [Alberta's six sectors](#) will be updated on a yearly basis as new post-secondary institution Learner and Enrolment Reporting System (LERS) data is signed off and available. The next set of Student Mobility Reports will be made available in the coming months.

**UPCOMING EVENT:**

The **Dual Credit Collaboration Session on March 6, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.** will allow for collaborative discussions among post-secondary institutions and potential partners prior to submission of funding applications for the final application intake for the Provincial Dual Credit Strategy. To participate in person (Edmonton) or virtually, please contact 780.451.7107 or [dualcredit@cass.ab.ca](mailto:dualcredit@cass.ab.ca).