

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Washington, DC

**Concurrent Session One
Transfer of Credit: The Discussion Continues**

Transfer of credit between institutions has been a difficult matter for American higher education to manage. The confounding issues have been several. Among them are the perception of institutional prestige, the obligation that an institution has to the integrity of its certificates, diplomas and degrees, and the institution's source of accreditation (a matter of particular difficulty when both nationally and regionally accredited institutions are involved). Stripped to its essence, however, the transfer of credit matter is about fairness to students and how to achieve it.

While attempts to address these matters have been underway for many decades, they took on a new order when CHEA began the conversations that resulted in the publication of "A Statement to the Community: Transfer and the Public Interest" in September, 2000. Soon thereafter "A Framework for Meeting Transfer of Credit Responsibilities" was released in May, 2002. This latter publication contained what has become known at the "CHEA Principles:"

- *Accredited* status of an institution is an important, but not the sole, factor to consider in transfer of credit decisions.
- *Considering* transfer requests serves students and the public. The public interest and students are best served when institutions commit to at least consideration of transfer requests, not rejecting such requests out of hand.
- *Accepting* transfer credits is the responsibility and prerogative of institutions.

While every regional and national accreditor has endorsed these principles in one manner or another, their impact on schools, colleges and universities has only been very limited.

As a result there is much that needs to be done, and in the view of many--including all of the members of this panel—there is much that can be done. The purpose, then, of this afternoon's session is to continue the discussion with the intention of promoting action that will further the appropriate transfer of credit. We welcome you to join us.

January 29, 2008