

Letter of Information**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**
Senate Bill 620 (Cassilly) Higher Education – Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures – Workgroup Study (Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act)

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 58,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of information in reference to *Senate Bill 620 (Cassilly) [Higher Education – Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures – Workgroup Study \(Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act\)](#)*. This bill establishes a workgroup to study the current system of articulation agreements and transfer procedures for students who transfer between community colleges and four-year institutions of higher education in the State. The workgroup is comprised of the Secretary of Higher Education, representatives of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), and representatives of MICUA.

In both the Fall of 2019 and the Fall of 2020, MICUA institutions welcomed to campus over 400 transfer students from almost every community college in Maryland – 13 different institutions in 2019 and 15 different institutions in 2020. MICUA continues to strengthen articulation agreements with community college partners and is working diligently to improve student transfer rates. In the last year, the number of Maryland community college articulation agreements among our institutions has increased to 189 and one of our schools has over 85 (and growing) articulation agreements in place.

Several of the MICUA institutions participate in ARTSYS, the current articulation system for Maryland colleges and universities, that is operated by the University System of Maryland (USM). A newly redesigned and functionally improved system is being developed and implemented by Quottly, a third-party vendor.

In addition to participating in ARTSYS, MICUA institutions also support transfer students through our work on a planning grant from the Teagle and Arthur Vining Davis (AVD) Foundations to explore and improve transfer pathways to the liberal arts at private nonprofit institutions of higher education. Ten of the MICUA member institutions have partnered with all 16 community colleges in the State to design a comprehensive transfer consortium whose structure will ensure: ongoing communication about transfer-related concerns and solutions; systematic data collection, sharing, and dissemination to drive sustained, data-infused change; and the use of data to improve the transfer student experience and promote positive student success outcomes. Four workgroups – Simplicity, Success, Scholarly Pathways, and Security – have been formed, and their membership includes faculty and staff from the member institutions of both

MICUA and MACC. The charge of the workgroups is to ensure a seamless transition from community college to one of the participating MICUA institutions. In Fall 2022, MICUA plans to submit a grant to the Teagle/AVD Foundations to request funds for implementation of the outcomes and initiatives identified in the planning grant that will help ensure a seamless transition from community college to a MICUA institution.

We are grateful for the sponsor's commitment to making the transfer process as smooth as possible. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration of Senate Bill 620. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherman@micua.org.