

Pathways and Program Articulation

By School of Business Dean, Dr. Dennis Bromley

I am pleased and excited to announce the Program Articulation Agreement between the SLCC School of Business and the Bill and Vieve Gore School of Business at Westminster College. The agreement is based upon the completion of the Business AS or AA degree program. While the agreement prescribes the courses to be taken, the purpose in doing so is to assure students are prepared for upper division studies. This is different from other articulation agreements where the focus is on course equivalencies. A major advantage of program-level articulation is that it enables the development of pathways that lead to upper-division tracks. For example, in the area of Business, a student may opt to pursue a bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing, etc. Ideally, the associate degree will include a common set of courses appropriate to any of the upper division tracks. Additionally, the program will, through the use of electives, provide foundational knowledge and skills aligned to the student's bachelor's degree goal. Through a collaborative effort with Westminster College faculty and administration, we accomplished exactly that. We identified the



themselves to meet it, or come as close as possible. The scholarship package contained in the agreement met the challenge. Here is how. A 2017 graduate with a GPA above 3.5 qualified for a \$15,000 scholarship. This, coupled with her Pell Grant eligibility, resulted in 0-cost tuition and fees. The terms of the agreement provided her with continued access to higher education, where she can achieve her dream to earn a bachelor's degree. It doesn't get any better than

that. Seeing this type of success is what inspires me to come to work. Westminster College is a great option for our graduates. Their focus, like ours, is on teaching and learning. Their class size, like ours, is relatively small. I believe Melissa Koerner, Dean of Bill and Vieve Gore School of Business said it best: "We want to make it easy for SLCC business graduates

to transfer to Westminster, and we know they will thrive here. We care about our students' individual needs. We prepare our students to lead meaningful lives. The interactive teaching approaches used at Westminster and SLCC are similar, so we're confident that SLCC business graduates will fit right in when they transfer to Westminster."



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Bachelor Degree

Business AA/AS

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appropriate general education courses, and business core courses that would best prepare students for success in their upper division studies. In addition, we identified 6 elective credits for each of 5 different upper division tracks. The culmination of this effort is the agreed-upon stipulation that students who complete the prescribed curriculum, earning the AS, Business or AA, Business degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 will be automatically admitted as a matriculated student with upper division status. This stipulation is a major break through to assure seamless, efficient transfer for business students. A second, and equally exciting, provision of the agreement is that students who transfer under the terms of the agreement will automatically qualify for a scholarship ranging from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year, renewable for up to 4 years. Cost is one of the obstacles, historically, for students going to Westminster. We discussed "cost to attend" in our initial meeting with Westminster College officials. We presented information about SLCC Promise and they (Westminster College officials) challenged

Going forward, the agreement is new. We will promote it in every way possible. The pathway will be loaded into DegreeWorks. Academic Advisors will be informed about it. We will have it on the monitors in the Business Building and across all of the campuses. But, most importantly, I need you to spread the word. Faculty should tell students in their classes. It can become a conversation point whenever the question of "What is happening?" comes up. We can tell our friends, relatives, and neighbors. Certainly we will work with Concurrent Enrollment faculty in high schools to inform high school students about the pathway from Concurrent Enrollment to the Associates, Business to a Bachelor's degree at Westminster College. As we embark on this effort we can begin to move the needle in terms of AA/AS Business completion and conversion to the bachelor's degree. To quote President Huftalin, "You guys, this is HUGE!"

Visit <http://www.slcc.edu/schoolofbusiness/westminster-college-agreement.aspx>