

Bridging the Gap: Supporting 'Some College, No Credential' Learners

Presented by:

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- Gina Modica, Technical Coordinator, IL MyCreditsTransfer, University of Illinois System
- Elizabeth Nieto, Spanish Teacher, Villa Grove High School
- Stephane Potts, Director of Advisement & Counseling, Transfer Articulation Coordinator, and Chief Diversity Officer, Danville Area Community College



Agenda for Today's Discussion

- Overview of SCNC issues and Illinois-specific trends
- Highlight 4-year programs
- Highlight 2-year transfer oriented programs
- Highlight 2-year career/technical programs
- SCNC student experience
- Q&A, Discussion

‘Some College, No Credential’

An Overview

Who am I?

Dena Lawrence, Senior Project Coordinator for Illinois MyCreditsTransfer

I was part of the SCNC population!

Eventually earned: AAS from Parkland College, BA from Eastern Illinois Univ, Ed.M. from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Enrolled in Ed.D. program at UIUC, working toward my dissertation on the SCNC population.

More than 25 years in higher education from among 3 states (WA, OR & IL)

I am retiring Sep 30, 2025.

A Closer Look at SCNC

Per National Student Clearinghouse Research Center July 2022 report, the SCNC population under 65 yrs of age is 36.8 million (a 2.9 % increase from the prior year).

Of that, more than half were 25 (or older) when last enrolled.

There are fewer white students, and more males than overall undergrad population.

The number is growing; college persistence has tracked below 50% for the past five years.

More than 80% SCNC population who re-enroll are (or will be) transfer students, often with credit from multiple sources.

Many attend part-time, have fewer financial aid/scholarship opportunities, are parents, are responsible for family income, and/or need flexible programs.

Influenced by the 'demographic cliff' (reducing # traditional-aged college students), post-secondary education seeks ways to re-engage, re-enroll & support these learners.

Illinois SCNC

Illinois has 4th largest SCNC population in the US, behind California, Texas & New York.

2023: 1,942,815 **2022: 1,892,039** **2019: 1,779,078** (nearly 5% of nation's total)

SCNC **re-enrollment trend** by age in Illinois:

Under 25: 2,221 | 25-34: 4,277 | prime age 20-34: 6,498 | 35-44: 2,085 | 45-64: 1,685

Unpaid debt to institutions was causing “stranded credits” – Illinois addressed this by legislation & policy.

Last week Gov Pritzker proposed Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) program, which could greatly impact the SCNC population.

Who am I?

Gina Modica, Project Technical Coordinator for IL MyCreditsTransfer

Bachelor's degree from UIUC (International Studies), Master's degree UIC (TESOL)

Background in international admissions and course articulation at UIUC

How Universities are Supporting SCNC Completion

- EIU has new [B.A.A.S.](#) programs that are 100% asynchronous online, including credit for prior learning and “earn while you learn” opportunities
- SIUC’s [Capstone option](#), for technically oriented associates degrees with abbreviated core curriculum requirements, and the [University Studies](#) degree
- TransferBoost pilot project sponsored by IBHE, ICCB; 5 participating CC’s and 3 universities strengthened pathways agreements
- Credit for Prior Learning policy and stackable credentials

Partnerships help contemporary students reach their destination



Who am I?

Tony Hooker-Adult & Returning Student Services Advisor-Parkland College

US Navy Veteran

Contemporary student

UIUC Bachelor's at 31

Master's degree at 33

Associate's degree at 50! (reverse transfer)



Partner Schools lead to advanced degrees

Eastern Illinois University

CSU Global Campus

Indiana Wesleyan

Olivet Nazarene University

UIC

UIS

WIU



Certificates help adults bridge employment gaps

SWFT

Construction/Manufacturing

Healthcare

Transportation/distribution

CEJA Bridge Program

Automotive

HVAC Certification

Solar Installation (summer 2025)

Weatherization (Spring 2025)

HCCTP

12-18 week intensive training program

Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Random Drug Screens/mandatory attendance

Knowledge Based learning in CTE

HVAC

Welding

Other Trades

Career/Technical Programs



Who am I?



Stephane Potts, M.S. - Director of Counseling/Transfer Coordinator/
Chief Diversity Officer - Danville Area Community College

- Associate in Arts - DACC Psychology
- Bachelor of Arts - EIU Psychology
- Master of Science - EIU Counseling w/a concentration in School Counseling
- Traditional student
- First generation student
- Low income student

Importance of Career/Technical Programs

Quaker Oats Company, Danville, IL (2024)

- Over 500 individuals laid off
- Most over the age of 25
- Some college/No college
- Needed & wanted short term programs
- Connected w/Vermilion County Works (VCW)



Career/Technical Program Options



Short term programs:

- Medical Assistant
- Office Assistant
- Quality Inspector
- Barbering
- HVAC
- Welding
- Small Business Ownership
- Web Design

Programs w/stackable credentials

- Marketing
- Mechatronics
- Barbering
- Medical Office Personnel
- Manufacturing

The SCNC Student Experience

Oulay Harvey

My SCNC Journey

- Contemporary Student - I was a single mom, went back to for my degrees to challenge my son, who went to SIU
- Associate Degree in Arts (2012) - Parkland College
- Bachelor of Arts (2014) - EIU
- Masters of Science with a concentration in Training and Development (2017) - EIU

Challenges

- Working full time during the day - don't have much time to study
- Night Classes - can only take 1 or 2 courses a semester
- No support from family other than my son

Resources

- Parkland Colleges - Adult Learning
- Classes were at Parkland - I didn't have to drive to Charleston
- Lots of weekend trips to Champaign Public Library

Elizabeth Nieto

My SCNC Journey

- Single mom of two young daughters, went back to school for my degree
- Associate Degree in Arts (2018) - Parkland College
- Bachelor of Science (2021) - Millikin University
- *Current* Grad Student at American College of Education

Challenges

- Working full time during the day as a teacher's assistant
- Night School- fast pace cohort at Millikin
- I would drive ≈145 miles on school nights (home → work → school → home)

Resources

- Parkland College, Mr. Tony Hooker (counselor)
- Majority of my Parkland Courses were online
- Millikin University Staley Library

References/Resources

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Report: “Some College, No Credential Student Outcomes 2024 Report for the Nation and the States” (June 6, 2024)

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/SCNCReport2024.pdf>

NSC Research Center Appendix – National/State Data

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/SCNC2023DataAppendix.xlsx>

NSC Research Center SCNC Tableaux:

https://public.tableau.com/views/SCNC_Dashboard_2023Report/NationalDashboard?:language=en-US&:embed=y&:sid=&:embed_code_version=3&:loadOrderID=0&:display_count=y&:origin=viz_share_link

Stopping Out: It’s Not About Academics: [018-24 CAEL Stopping Out Report.pdf](#)

References/Resources

From Some-College-No-Degree to Success: Postsecondary Pathways for the 40 Million (Date Released: Sep. 26, 2024) by Kristi DePaul

<https://www.insidehighered.com/reports/2024/09/24/some-college-no-degree-success-postsecondary-pathways-40-million>

RECONNECT, RE-ENROLL & RISE: Five Imperatives to Help Community Colleges Enroll Stopped-Out Students published by www.insidetrack.org

<https://www.insidetrack.org/reports/reconnect-reenroll-rise>