Lessons Learned in Becoming a CTP

Kelly R. Kelley, Ph.D.
University Participant Program Coordinator
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

#1: Don’t Be Afraid to Apply

Myths About Becoming a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP)
- Too hard or time consuming? 30 page application
- Will it make a difference?
- Will the financial aid office partner with us?
- What do all the terms and stipulations mean in the CTP application?
- Yikes… An accreditation review process and letter with the CTP application? Clock hours vs credit hours?
- Is the timing right? Recertification renewal? Administrative changes?

#2: Network, Divide, & Conquer

- Talk to those who have been there, done that…ask for samples of CTP applications
- Build or expand on what you already have
- Explore Think College for CTP resources and FAQs
  - http://www.thinkcollege.net/professionals/professionals-financial-aid/cfa-questions
- Meet with your financial aid office to divide and conquer
#3: Submit, Wait, & Be Flexible

- Contact your assigned School Participation Team with questions or updates [www.clarcert.ed.gov](http://www.clarcert.ed.gov)

- Wait patiently, but periodically check the status of your application. Send items requested during review process.
- Continue to work with your financial aid office (e.g., new students, updates on application).
- Be ready to participate in CTP informational webinars.

---

Additional CTP Resources

- Informational PowerPoint from last year’s project directors meeting on CTPs:

- Financial Aid Resources from Think College:
  [http://www.thinkcollege.net/ac-professionals/professionals-financial-aid](http://www.thinkcollege.net/ac-professionals/professionals-financial-aid)

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- Kelly R. Kelley, Western Carolina University:
  UP Program Coordinator, skelley@email.wcu.edu
  828-227-3298, or visit our website at [http://up.wcu.edu](http://up.wcu.edu)