



Official Statement regarding action of the Arizona Transfer Steering Committee

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National Association for Ethnic Studies

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RICHMOND- September 14, 2016 The National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) applauds the action of the Arizona Transfer Steering Committee at their Thursday, Sept. 8th meeting wherein they voted to approve the request to establish an Ethnic Studies Articulation Task Force.

With the goal toward increasing the number of Arizona students who successfully complete a baccalaureate degree, the AZTransfer Steering Committee was established in part by the Transfer Articulation Task Force Report of 1996. The Arizona Transfer System is overseen by the AZTransfer Steering Committee and includes the people, systems and infrastructure designed to ensure "...that community college students may transfer to Arizona public universities without loss of credit towards a baccalaureate degree." (ARS 15-1824). The AZTransfer Steering Committee reports to the Joint Council of Presidents (JCP), according to [AZ Transfer](#).

One of the barriers to ethnic studies education access is the inability of students to transfer credits. The decision of last week's AZ Transfer Steering Committee supports the successful transfer of ethnic studies credits and degree completion for students in all public postsecondary institutions in Arizona, particularly for students transitioning from community colleges to four-year institutions.

"Last spring, we supported this initiative with a resolution, and are now thrilled to learn of the committee decision," said Ravi K. Perry, president of NAES. "All community colleges and universities in Arizona are encouraged to create Ethnic Studies courses and programs of study to enhance and foster a multicultural world view that honors both our differences and the values that unify us."

NAES hosted its last annual conference in Tucson, Arizona, where this initiative was being vigorously engaged by community leaders throughout the region. NAES is excited that more students in Arizona may now have pathways inclusive of their ethnic studies education as they work toward completion of their baccalaureate degree.

The mission of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of Ethnic Studies. In promoting social justice and equality, NAES serves as a forum for promoting Ethnic Studies research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences, and assistance to Ethnic Studies programs to develop civic minded and culturally informed communities and people.

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