



A FINAL UPDATE FOR 2025...

The 7th Annual Achieve Transfer Student Success Conference was held on March 5–6, 2025, at Alabama State University. Most sessions took place in R.D. Abernathy Hall, with the opening night reception hosted in THE NEST (the football stadium event space). Of the 265 individuals who registered, 220 attended, including speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and general participants. This year's conference featured four plenary sessions and three concurrent breakout sessions. Thanks to a generous contribution from one of our sponsors, each of the eight students on the transfer student panel received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their future educational expenses.

The event welcomed ten sponsors and exhibitors, and feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Following the event, Alabama State University reported raising over \$4,000 for future transfer scholarship funding after all conference expenses were covered. The final cost of the conference paid from the Alabama Transfers budget was \$32,859.79. One keynote speaker was unable to attend due to illness saving us approximately \$10,000 in additional speaker fees and travel reimbursement.

ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE?

As we begin planning for next year, one option to **consider is shifting to a virtual conference or a speaker symposium** format every other year. Hosting the event online would significantly reduce overall costs (cutting our current costs by more than 70%) while still allowing for high-quality keynote presentations and virtual breakout sessions. Additionally, it would eliminate travel expenses for over 225 state employees, making participation more accessible and cost-effective. If we tried a virtual event in 2026, the following year we could go back to an in-person conference. This approach could help us maintain the value of the event while staying within budgetary limits. Further discussion and input from stakeholders about this option will help determine the best path forward.

If the AGSC chooses to **continue with an in-person format** instead of virtual, we will need to secure a host site, name a new planning committee chair, and begin to ramp-up our planning activities in early August of 2025.



Final Expenses paid from AGSC/Alabama Transfers Budget

Budgeted Amounts & Expenses for Conference	
Conference Budget	\$40,000.00
Conference Support (other non-speaker expenses)	\$30,000.00
Speakers (Fees & Travel Reimbursement)	\$10,000.00
Conference Expenses Paid	\$32,859.79
Promotional Items (Goody Bag Items)	\$7,042.00
Whova Web Conference App	\$6,500.00
Printing (Signage)	\$402.08
Misc. Office Supplies	\$400.00
Speaker Fees Paid*	\$15,000.00
Speaker Travel Reimbursed**	\$2,574.59
Alabama Transfers Employees (2) Travel Reimbursed	\$941.12
Remaining Funds (SEE NOTES BELOW)	\$7,140.21

* One of our keynote speakers, Matt Newlin (Newlin Consulting), was unable to attend due to illness from COVID-19. Had he been able to attend and present, it would have incurred an additional cost of \$7,500 for his speaker fee, plus an estimated \$2,500 in travel reimbursement—totaling approximately \$10,000. This amount was not paid out and is not included in the figures above.

** Another keynote speaker, Manny Smith (EdVisorly), accepted his \$7,500 speaker fee but generously redirected the entire amount (plus \$500 from his business) to support the transfer student panelists, providing each with a \$1,000 payment to assist with educational expenses. Additionally, Manny declined reimbursement for his travel expenses. Omega Wilson, our final speaker, did submit travel expenses totaling \$2,574.59 (the amount shown above).

FINAL BUDGET & ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Empower, Engage, Excel: Developing Strategies for Transfer Student Success

ACHIEVE

Transfer Student Success Conference

MARCH 5-6, 2025



Final Revenues and Expenses as Reported by Alabama State University

Final Revenue & Expense Report for Conference	
Revenue Generated	\$28,396.30
Registration Fees Received*	\$22,646.30
Sponsorships	\$5,750.00
Conference Expenses Paid	\$23,945.68
Signage – Yard Signs	\$1,378.00
Signage – Breakout Session Signs	\$1,280.00
Catering – Day 1 – Refreshment Break	\$785.77
Reception – Day 1 – Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	\$6,037.02
Reception – Day 1 – Entertainment (Band)	\$4,000.00
Catering – Day 2 – Breakfast	\$3,619.44
Catering – Day 2 – Lunch	\$5,937.80
Catering – Day 2 – Refreshment Break 1	\$352.00
Catering – Day 2 – Refreshment Break 2	\$555.65
Remaining Funds for ASU Transfer Scholarships**	\$4,450.62

* Three attendees did not submit payment, as confirmed by the ASU Business and Finance Office. Despite multiple attempts to contact both the individuals and their respective institutions, no payments were received. As a result, the total revenue lost amounted to \$375.

** The remaining funds listed above will be distributed to the ASU Scholarship Fund under ASU's Foundation with the VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management distributing the funds to transfer students who are attending ASU.



ATTENDANCE BY AGSC MEMBERS

- 11 of the 20 voting members of the AGSC registered/attended the conference

ATTENDANCE BY PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Bevill State Community College	2
Bishop State Community College	5
Calhoun Community College	5
Central Alabama Community College	4
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	7
Coastal Alabama Community College	10
Drake State Community & Technical College	2
Enterprise State Community College	0
Gadsden State Community College	3
Jefferson State Community College	1
Lawson State Community College	1
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	1
Marion Military Institute	0
Northeast Alabama Community College	8
Northwest Shoals Community College	11
Reid State Technical College	1
Shelton State Community College	3
Snead State Community College	0
Southern Union State Community College	3
Trenholm State Community College	4
Wallace Community College – Dothan	2
Wallace State Community College – Hanceville	2
Wallace State Community College – Selma	4

TOTAL ATTENDEES FROM PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES = 79



ATTENDANCE BY PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

Alabama A&M University	5
Alabama State University	36
Athens State University	12
Auburn University	7
Auburn University at Montgomery	6
Jacksonville State University	6
The University of Alabama	10
Troy University	9
University of Alabama at Birmingham	7
University of Alabama in Huntsville	1
University of Montevallo	3
University of North Alabama	2
University of South Alabama	5
University of West Alabama	6

TOTAL ATTENDEES FROM PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES = 115

ATTENDANCE BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Transfers	2
EdVisorly	3
Phi Theta Kappa	1
ACCS	2
ACHE	2
Alabama STEM Council	1
Columbia Southern University	1
Tuskegee University	5
Faulkner University	3
Others	6

TOTAL ATTENDEES FROM PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES = 26