

E-Transcripts:

From a Diamond in the Rough
to a Registrars' Best Friend

MACRAO Conference

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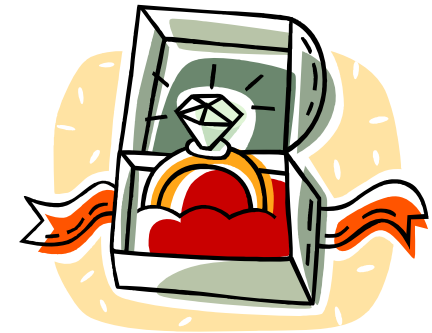
University of Missouri- Columbia

Audience Survey

- How many of you represent IT?
- How many of you represent non-IT?
- How many of you use or are in progress of using E-Transcripts?
- How many of you are still in the exploration stage of E-Transcripts?

Cut and Clarity: What to Expect Today

- Why E-Transcripts Now?
- MCC's and UM System's pending implementation
 - Sharing our mission and experience
 - Electronic Transcript Building Options
- Missouri's Journey and Exploration
 - How our State organization became the catalyst
- Progress of MO Colleges/Universities
- Finding your diamond
 - Practical Tools to Get the Job Done
 - Fitting this into your to your already busy job

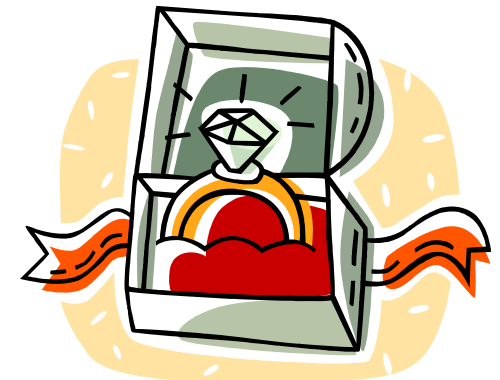


Why E-Transcripts?

- We live in an electronic world where students apply on-line (admission, financial aid, etc.)
- Students expect their transcripts to be delivered, processed and evaluated in a timely manner
- Cost Analysis shows it is increasingly expensive to produce paper transcripts compared to other automated services
- Transcript fraud is a fact of life
 - Regardless of the delivery method we use, the fundamental concept does not change
 - The security and accuracy of academic records will always be a high priority

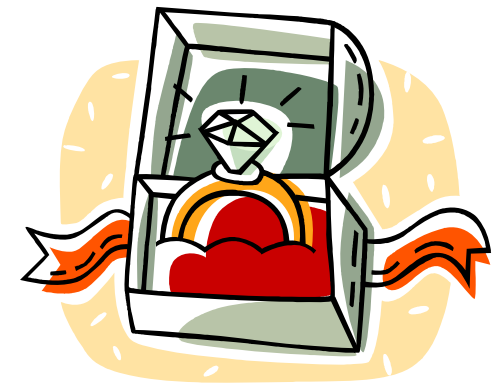
Why E-Transcripts?

- Transfer agreements will be facilitated by more accurate and timely evaluations
- E-Transcripts mean less manual data entry and an opportunity for automated evaluations of established course equivalencies
- Hardcopy and electronic transcripts can complement, rather than impede, each other.



Why MCC Began the Quest for the E-Transcript Diamond

- Vice-Chancellor at MCC established a Committee to explore E-Transcript options in August 2006
 - Began by surveying Institutions at MOACRAO Conference 2006
 - Analyzed our transcript process
 - Researched E-Transcript options available
 - Made recommendation to our Vice-Chancellor in February 2007 with updates in June 2007

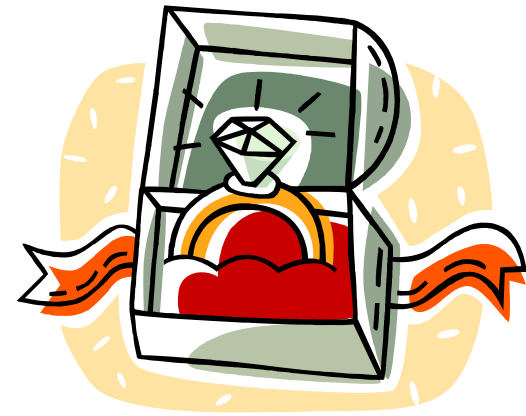


E-Transcript Diamonds Exist

- Several states began to explore electronic transcripts in the late 1980s
- University of Texas at Austin established the SPEEDE server for free in 1995
- ACE (American Council on Education) operates a transcripts service for military education records
- WES (World Education Services) delivers transcript evaluations via PDF through secure account access
- MCC signed on as a test site with SPEEDE in 1997 and updated our registration December 2009
 - <http://www.utexas.edu/student/giac/speede/server/parttbl.rp1>

Industry Standards Exist

- PESC: Post-Secondary Electronic Standards Council has set the bar for delivering educational data electronically since 1997
- XML has been the PESC approved standard for transcripts since 2004



Different E-Transcript Diamonds

- Trusted Third Party Vendors
 - AACRAO Partners and Turnkey Solutions
- SPEEDE/XML- Standardization of Post-Secondary Education Electronic Data Exchange
 - UT- Austin hosts the SPEEDE server
 - AACRAO supported



Appraising Third Party Vendors

What you should know . . .

- They use XML and secure FTP (File Transfer Protocol)
- Regardless of a school's SIS (Student Information System), Vendor technology provides opportunities for implementation
- Primary focus is on High School to College Transcripts, but some also focus on College to College
- Across the country, government agencies, State and regional purchasing compacts are submitting RFP's and awarding contracts



Partial List of Third Parties

- Docufide: www.docufide.com
- eScrip-Safe: www.scrip-safe.com
- ConnectEdu: www.connectedu.net
- NTC: www.transcriptcenter.org
- Credentials Solutions: www.credentialsolutions.com
- National Student Clearinghouse:
www.studentclearinghouse.org
- Perceptive Software: www.perceptivesoftware.com
- Xap: corp.xap.com



Appraising Third Party Builders

Pros

- Limited internal resources required
- Easy to deploy
- Lower entry costs
- Reasonably efficient
- Multiple formats, including “standard” formats for receivers

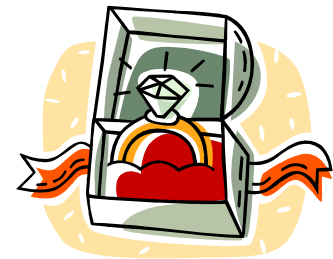
Cons

- Cost
- Can't authenticate the document directly
- 3rd party network required
- Can't control the entire process
- Documents/ data undergo conversion
- Potential for data scraping
- Per unit pricing model



SPEEDE/XML: What you should know . . .

- SPEEDE: Standardization of Post-Secondary Education Electronic Data Exchange
- Since 1996, SPEEDE has delivered over 6.5 million transcripts
- In September 2011, SPEEDE delivered a total of 260,988 transcripts
- Over 933 Colleges in 21 states plus provinces in Canada are using E-transcripts
http://www.utexas.edu/student/giac/speede/server/pa_rttbl.rp1
- Transcripts delivered using PESC XML Standards.

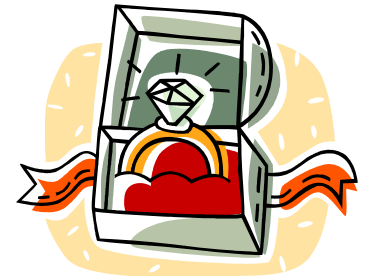


SPEEDE/XML: What you should know . . .

- AACRAO has a leadership role
 - Clare Smith-Larson from SPEEDE Committee continues to support our State's efforts
- Central dispatching service: UT Austin Server
 - <http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede/>
- Established support and training structure
- Provides conceptual templates for XML schemas

Searching for E-Transcript Partners

- Fall 2007:
 - MCC Presents on E-Transcripts at MOACRAO Annual Conference
- Fall 2008:
 - SPEEDE Committee and E-Transcript expert, Clare Smith-Larson presents at MOACRAO Annual Conference
- Spring 2009:
 - MOACRAO Board determines E-Transcripts are a timely and important issue for our organization to address as a drive-in workshop



Summer 2009: MOACRAO E-Transcript Summit

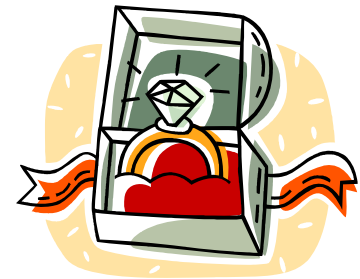
- MOACRAO funded the first ever Drive-In Workshop
 - 74 attendees
 - 24 institutions represented
 - Clare Smith-Larson from Iowa State facilitated
 - Missouri Dept. Higher Ed representative in attendance
 - Details posted on MOACRAO website www.moacrao.org
- Summit Goals
 - Start the conversation of sending/receiving college to college transcripts electronically between institutions in Missouri.
 - Establish the central repository
 - Gather information and tools to assist colleges
 - Gain outside support

Diamonds in the Rough

- MOACRAO E-Transcript Summit brought the right people together
 - Attendance validated E-Transcripts is important to many institutions
 - Foundation was in place with the three years of research and discussion
 - Colleges/Universities agreed we need to take the lead before State steps in
 - IT professionals from our institutions brought together for the first time
 - Lesson learned: We should have included them much earlier!

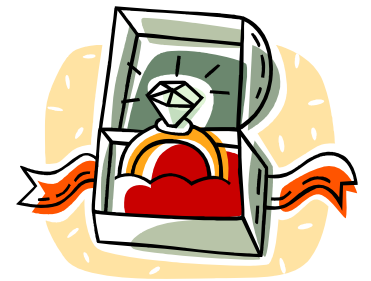
The E-Transcript Checklist

- Provides an easy to follow step by step process for both Registrars & IT Professionals
- Is a measuring stick for progress and tracking
- Assists us in staying on the same page
- Helps us to break down the tasks while keeping the common goal in sight
- Serves as a reminder to share our implementation strategies with our colleagues



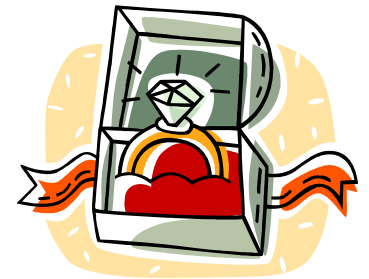
The E-Transcript Checklist:

1. Get Institutional Buy-In
2. Develop the Project Plan to fit Institutional Priorities
3. Define your scope
4. Review the capabilities of your Student Information System
5. Register with SPEEDE
6. Share Implementation Strategies
 - etranscripts@moacrao.org
 - www.moacrao.org



The E-Transcript Checklist:

7. Select your trading partner
8. Finalize Trading Agreements
9. Determine what data will be exchanged
10. Write code, map data, set up crosswalks, etc.
11. Automate your process
12. Test with Trading Partners
13. Review and Go Live
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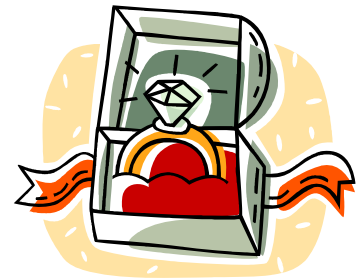


MCC's Progress & Lessons Learned

- We've experienced delays, but trading is near!
 - Our IT Director will be testing the output file next month
 - Once file is correct, we'll send through SPEEDE
 - Begin trading test files with UM System and others
 - Ready to go live
- E-Transcripts take patience and persistence!
 - Talk about it when ever you have an opportunity
 - Get IT involved early, early, early!
 - Set goals (but accept that they will change😊)
 - Don't get discouraged

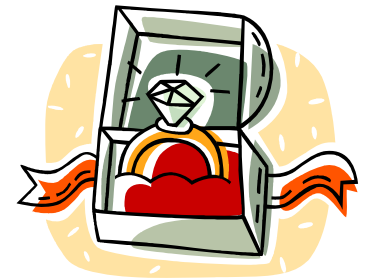
Missouri Diamonds in the Rough

- 9 institutions are registered with the SPEEDE server
 - University of Central Missouri
 - MCC
 - Missouri Western State University
 - Northwest Missouri State University
 - State Fair Community College
 - Four Campuses of the University of Missouri System have been trading test transcripts



How You Can Make E-Transcripts Happen for Your College/University

- Use the tools we've shared to get institutional buy-in
- Make E-Transcripts a priority by committing staff, time and other resources toward development and implementation
- Bring your IT staff into the game early
- Talk about E-Transcripts every chance you get
- Set a Goal for your institution
- Never give up!



References

- www.mhec.org
For more on Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- www.pesc.org
For more on standards for electronic data
- <http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede>
For more on the SPEEDE Server at the University of Texas at Austin
- <http://www.aacrao.org/About-AACRAO/committees/speede.aspx>
For more on electronic data exchange
- www.moacrao.org

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