

Classroom Transfer and Career Sessions with University Faculty
Debrief Conversation with [Marla Dresch](#) (November 9, 2022)

What is the background on this event?

Under our prior STEM 3 National Science Foundation grant, Gavilan has a partnership with San Jose State, written into the grant, that San Jose State provides summer internships. From there started a lecture series, to inject career and transfer information into the classroom. Have faculty come and talk about research, how they got where they are and their programs. This program has been really well received by students. They get to know faculty, and find out they could get a shot at a paid internship.

From this, I then asked San Jose State faculty and Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) faculty to come over to talk with students again. For CSUMB faculty, I looked up who was the department chair, reached out to them and explained who I was and said our students are really hungry for career and transfer information. The response from CSUMB was really strong, and I heard back from everyone. Chairs reached out to their faculty and the faculty reached out to me. Six or seven faculty offered to do a session on Zoom and one came face-to-face. Given this strong interest, next time I do it I'll reach out to more transfer university partners.

What do you ask the faculty speakers to talk about?

I said we want to hear about the transfer program, research and/ or your own personal story and how you got where you are now. We want students to know that these faculty were once students. For example, some faculty said, "I failed a bunch of classes and I didn't know what I wanted to but then found an area I really liked and then went for it." Some faculty talked about the research they are doing. A lot of the faculty speakers talked about where they are.

More than a few of the faculty had come from community college and some were people of color and some were women. California is a really diverse state, so we didn't have to try that hard to get a diverse group.

When and how did the faculty speakers come to your classes?

The faculty speakers came to a first semester calculus class, Math 1A. Students in the class are first or second year students, almost all are STEM students. Multiple instructors came to each class, each spoke for 10 to 12 minutes. So when we had six speakers come to a class, it took 70 minutes. Each faculty member who was teaching Math 1A gave up a class to have the faculty speakers come.

Students learned about specific projects, and learned that research teams are multi-disciplinary. That was a nice lesson for the students to learn about the STEM fields, and that they could work in a lot of different areas.

They also learned that CSUMB's programs are really oriented to getting them a job. All of their programs have a capstone project, and that project helps them get a job in their field of study. Really came out how the programs are really different

What did you think made these presentations work well and what would you do differently?

It was really interesting how students participated and asked questions. For my on-line students, I asked them to put their video on. I had asked students to help the faculty speakers feel welcome, and that students can show interest by asking questions. I also mentioned to students that the SJ State faculty might have internship opportunities.

I wish I had done it earlier in the semester, as it is really motivating for students. Ideally it should be done in the first six week. Next semester, I will do it with students who are earlier in the math program, who are taking pre-calculus

I asked students to do a summary of the presentations, and what was most interesting and most motivating. They got credit for this write-up. The students said what they heard helped them to be more committed to their studies and feel like they can do it too.

Faculty were familiar with the transfer process and encouraged students to get good grades. One of the engineering faculty mentioned that if you work with a professor over the summer then that can help you get into the program.

Would this program be one that other departments are CAP's could do?

Yes, this activity is transferable to other disciplines. What I did was find department chairs and emailed them. They're happy to come to us and talk about transfer students, about programs, they took, about degree paths from their programs, and what students have gone on to do. They came and told stories and brought pictures. A professor of geology showed the students a pie chart of what students have gone on to do.

I've been doing it for 5 years, it's supported, the faculty that have done it, appreciate, and haven't had to talk to any faculty in it. Math1A is perfect because wide variety of STEM majors.

Might want to talk to Ray Morales and Bradley Stone - Ray does activities in his classroom for career - Access program in Santa Cruz. More science based. Bradley is involved with Access program - UC SC program that hires students for internships - lab tours - bring speakers into other science classes.