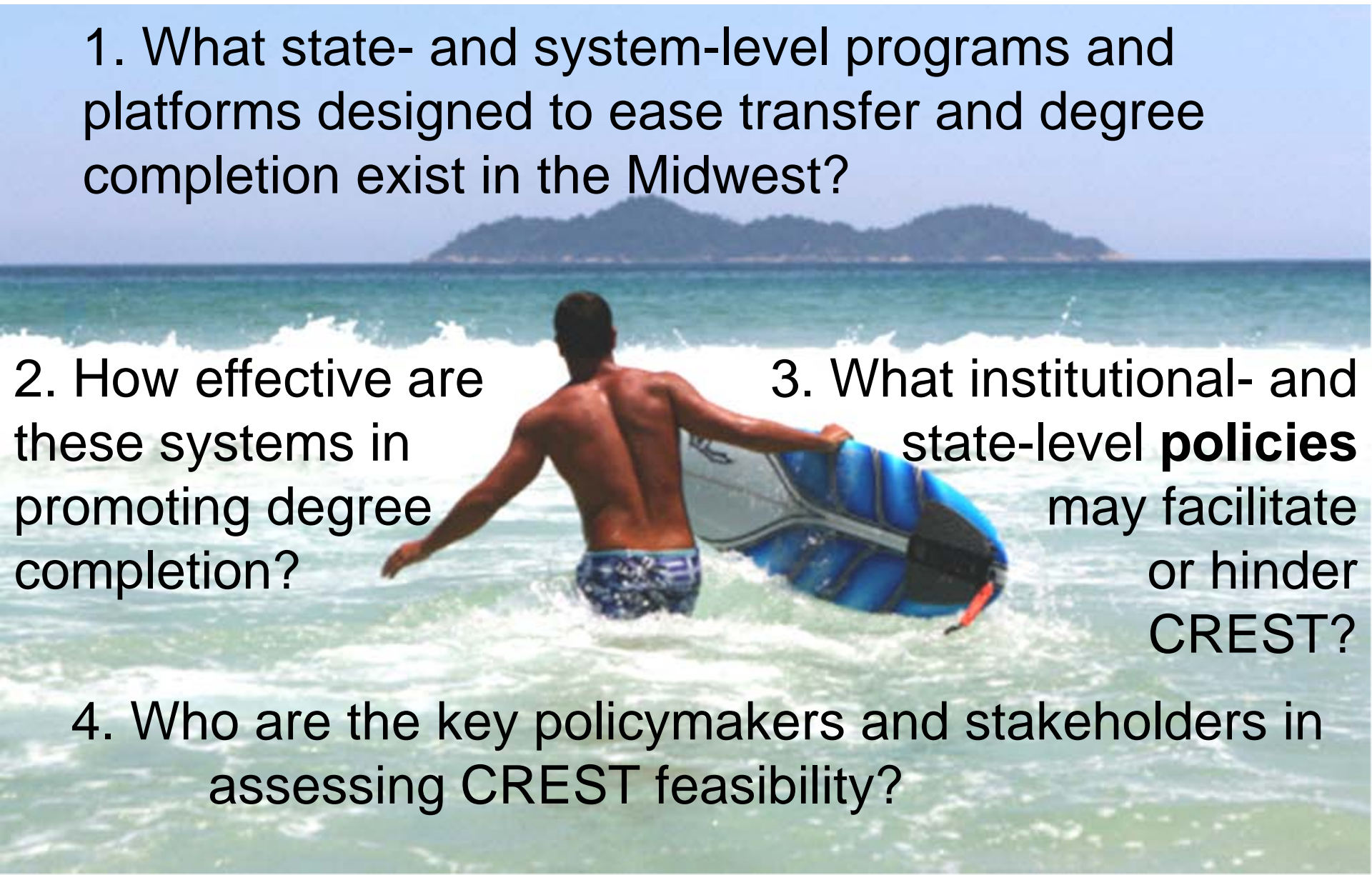# Midwest CREST Feasibility Project
## Policy & Practice Research Questions

1. What state- and system-level programs and platforms designed to ease transfer and degree completion exist in the Midwest?

2. How effective are these systems in promoting degree completion?

3. What institutional- and state-level **policies** may facilitate or hinder CREST?

4. Who are the key policymakers and stakeholders in assessing CREST feasibility?

# K-State Institute for Academic Alliances

Developing and managing collaborative
distance education academic programs

Virginia Moxley

Sue Maes

Dawn Anderson

Joelle Pitts

Carol Gould

Dana Reinert

Mary Lou Marino

Jessica Stemmer

# Why collaborate?

- To pursue opportunities that are significant, urgent, and/or risky.

- To do together what cannot be done alone.

- To expand the institution's reach.

- To improve the institution's outcomes.

- To achieve synergy and open doors to innovation.

# K-State IAA - Managing Partner
## Great Plains IDEA Human Sciences

GREAT PLAINS IDEA
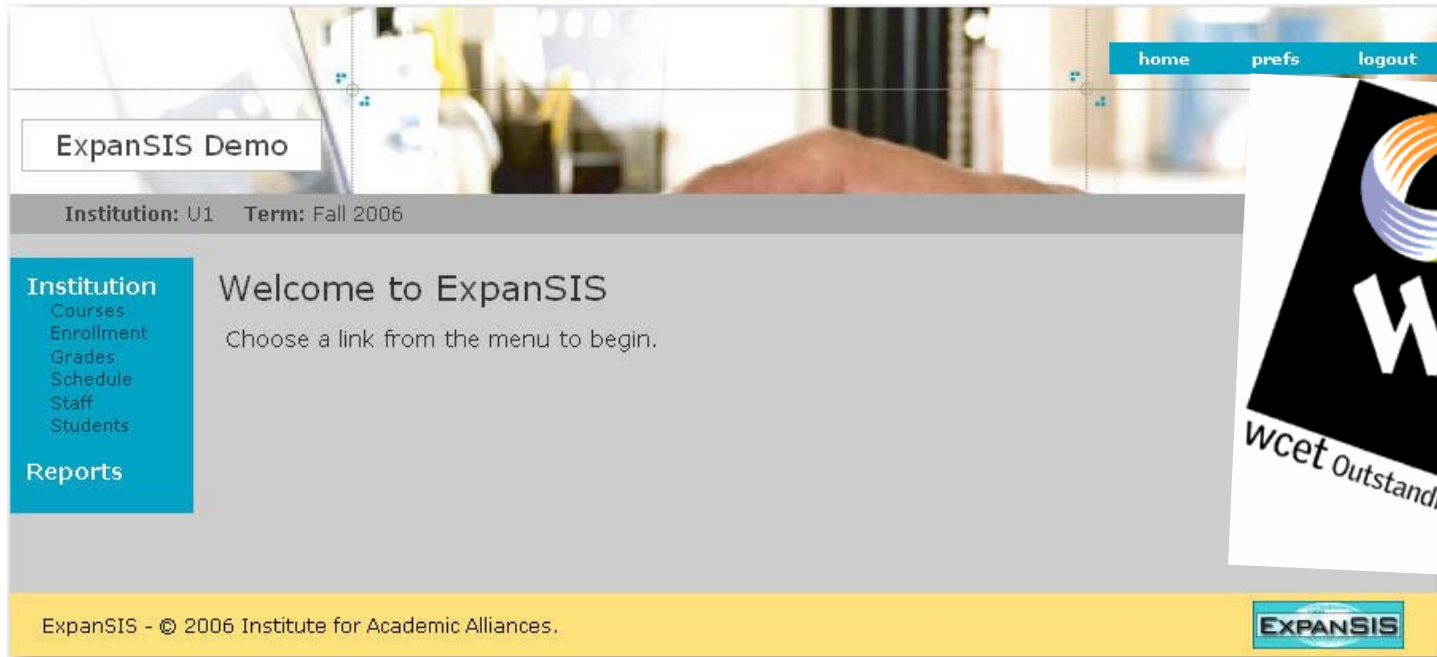Interactive Distance Education Alliance



7 online multi-university graduate programs

Revenue up 20% in FY 2010 to $2,448,000

# ExpanSIS – Award Winning

## Multi-Institution Student Information System



**Creative Use of Technology Award**

# Behave as Equals

GREAT PLAINS **IDEA**
Interactive Distance Education Alliance

# Respect & Accommodate Institutional Differences

GREAT PLAINS IDEA
Interactive Distance Education Alliance

# Simplify Student Navigation

# Share Leadership

# IAA CREST Research Methodology

**Internet Research**
**ACE, CAEL, CREST Comparison**
**Kansas State University Interviews**
**MHEC States' Research**
**4 State Systems' Interviews**
**Kansas State University Pilot Presentation**
**Thought Leaders Meeting**

# IAA CREST Internet Research

- Prior Learning Assessment
- Military Experience & Training
- Foreign Education
- National Workforce Training/Certification
- Innovative Higher Education Institutions
- Technology Platforms

# Next

**K-State Interviews**

**12 MHEC States Comparison**
- Policies
- Articulation Agreements
- Common Core Courses/Numbers
- Technology Transfer Tools

**State System Interviews**
Indiana, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

# The Faces of K-State's Transfer Specialists

Ruth Stanley, Advisor, Continuing Education

Ron Jackson, Degree Completion Coordinator Continuing Education

Julie S.Katz, Assistant Director of Admissions & Transfer Coordinator

# K-State Adult Degree Completion Program

March - December 2009:
- 600 degree completion admissions applications
- Only 35% actually enroll

## WHY?

## WHAT WOULD HELP?

- Failure to complete the application process.
- Length of time it takes to analyze the transcript—2 wks. to 4 mos.
- Disappointment in the results of the transcript analysis.

- 1. More degree completion applicant advisors
- 2. Increased receptivity to military experience, workforce training and credentials, and life experience.
- 3. Consistency in Curriculum Guides at the College level.
- 4. Reduction of time for the application process, particularly at the college level review.

Ron Jackson, Degree Completion Coordinator,
Kansas State University, Division of Continuing Education,

# Prospective K-State Military Students

Issues & Observations:

- Transfer credit - regionally accredited institutions v. nationally accredited institutions.
- College admission and enrollment processes were developed for traditional on-campus students.
- Recruitment materials target traditional on-campus students.
- Soldiers seem to choose K-State based upon previous knowledge of K-State and word-of-mouth referrals among soldiers at Ft. Riley & Ft. Leavenworth.

Ruth Stanley, Advisor, Military Applicants, Division of Continuing Education, Kansas State University

# Institution Perspective:  Kansas State University

Of approximately 3400 prospective K-State students:

- 1300 (39%) transfer from KS community colleges
- 2040 (61%) from other institutions or are not attending
- An estimated 60% have 3+ transcripts
- ALL transcripts (originals) must be received before review will begin

Assistant Director of Admissions & Transfer Coordinator

# K-State Institute for Academic Alliances Research Findings
# MHEC State Transfer & Articulation Promising Practices

Create Commonalities
Create Statewide Transfer
Oversight Organizations
Strengthen Policies
Invest in Technology Tools
Continually Improve

# 4 MHEC States with Statewide Transfer Groups

**Indiana:** Statewide Transfer & Articulation Committee (STAC)

**Minnesota:** Transfer Specialist, Transfer Advisory Group, Forum Discussion Group

**Ohio:** Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, Steering Committee, Faculty Panels

**Wisconsin:** Transfer Coordinators' Group, Transfer Advocates, UW Help Online, Transfer Ombudsperson

Began with:    Spirit of Accommodation
Changed into:    Principles of Accommodation

Wisconsin Interview

**Kansas:** Core Outcomes Project

# 4 MHEC States' Technology Tools

Course equivalency database & website - searchable by course & institution

**Indiana:** TransferIN.net

**Minnesota:** Minnesota Transfer Transfer Degree Audit, Red Lantern - DARS into U.Select

**Wisconsin:** University of Wisconsin System Transfer Information System One online application for whole system

**Ohio:** Just u.select, wants to develop a student site

TECHNOLOGY VISION: First-class website; degree audit system; and searchable articulation agreement database

# New State Transfer Student Initiatives



**Minnesota**

Students First

- Single Search
- Single Application
- Single Registration
- Graduation Planner
- Single Billing/Single Payment
- Shared Services

# For-Profit Institutions



Credit Bank



Columbia College
Credit for Prior Learning



Credit for Certifications,
Work Experience & Training



Competency-Based
Education

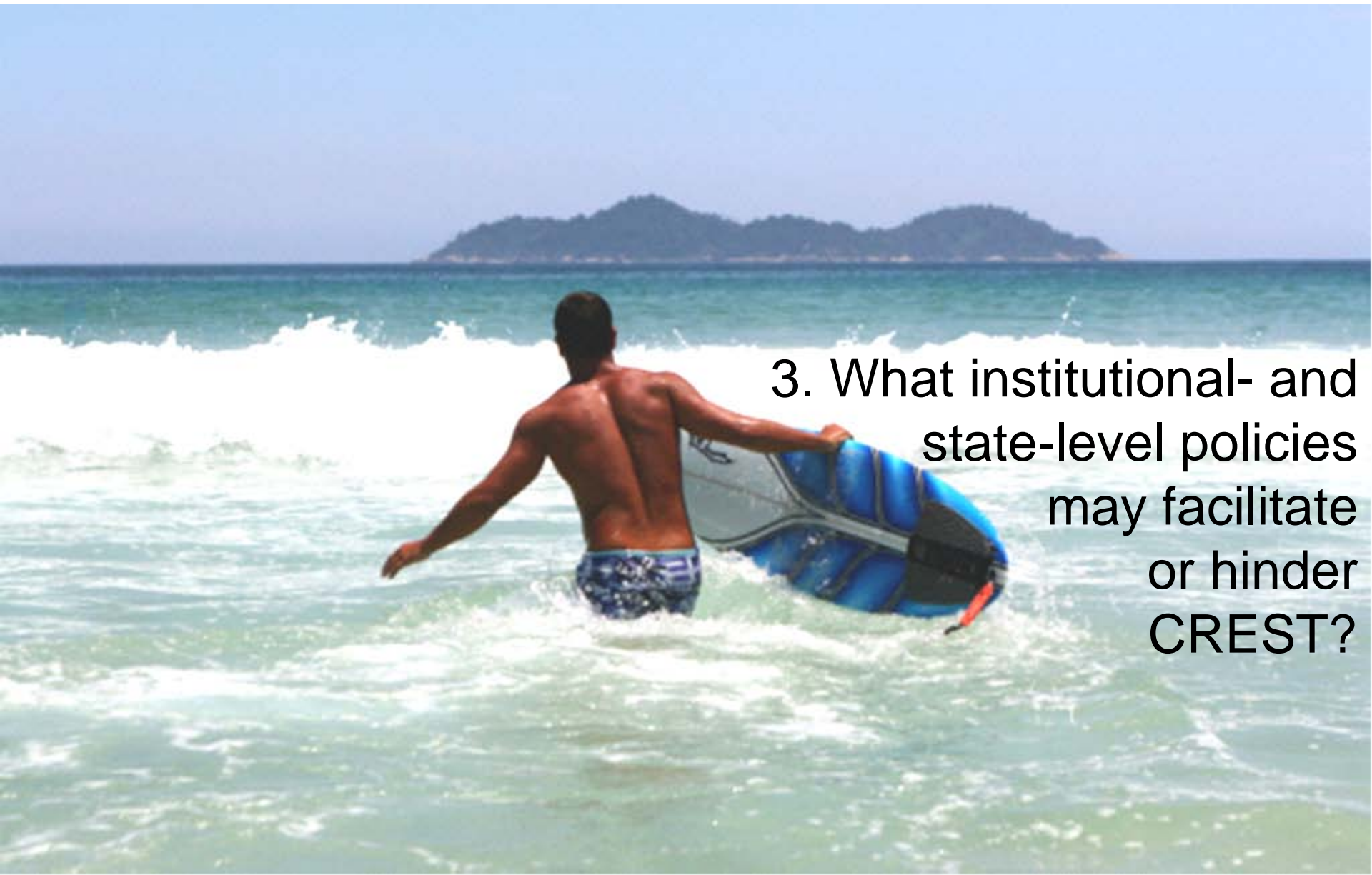2. How effective are these systems in promoting degree completion?

## Policies & Practices Research Questions

3. What institutional- and state-level policies may facilitate or hinder CREST?

# 4 MHEC States' Policies Have Teeth

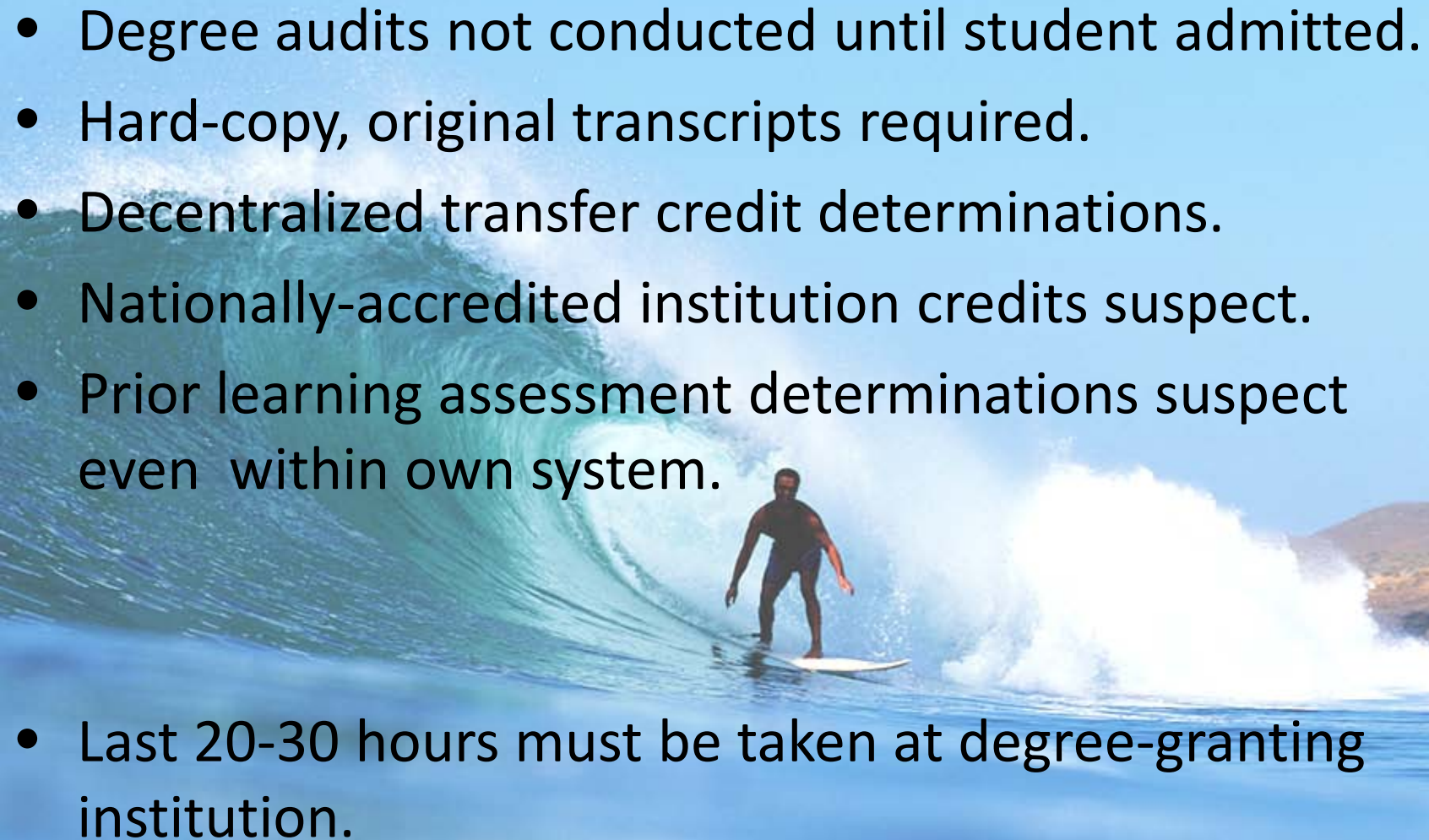**Indiana:** Core Transfer Library; 12 statewide articulation agreements mandated by legislation

**Minnesota:** Transfer Agreement, Minnesota Transfer Curriculum CH.356,Art. 2, Sec. 8 "By January 1, 2002, the Board of Trustees of the MNSCU **must** implement the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum at **all** state colleges and universities."

**Ohio:** Articulation and Transfer Policy

**Wisconsin:** Guaranteed Transfer

**Kansas:** K.S.A. 72-4454, f. "institutions **are strongly encouraged** to develop program-to-program articulation agreements. Such agreements **may** provide additional transfer opportunities over and above the opportunities named in this policy, but may not conflict with this policy. "

# Policy Obstacles

- Degree audits not conducted until student admitted.
- Hard-copy, original transcripts required.
- Decentralized transfer credit determinations.
- Nationally-accredited institution credits suspect.
- Prior learning assessment determinations suspect even within own system.

- Last 20-30 hours must be taken at degree-granting institution.

# Facilitators

- Spirit of Accommodation
- Principles of Accommodation
- Identification of commonalities
- Highly evolved transfer & articulation systems
- Centralized staff with the authority and responsibility to facilitate transfer & articulation
- Regular meetings/communication among transfer experts

## Last Question

4. Who are the key policymakers and stakeholders in assessing CREST feasibility?

# Key policymakers and stakeholders

- Legislators
- Coordinating/governing board members
- Higher ed administrators
- Faculty
- Technology & Transfer Specialists
- Employers
- Students and their families

# What have we missed?

1. What state- and system-level programs and platforms designed to ease transfer and degree completion exist in the Midwest?

2. How effective are these systems in promoting degree completion?

3. What institutional- and state-level **policies** may facilitate or hinder CREST?

4. Who are the key policymakers and stakeholders in assessing CREST feasibility?