

Keynote Speaker

■ Agents of Change: Using Data to Nudge and Inform Student Success

**Randy Swing, Executive Director
Association for Institutional Research (AIR)**

Building H, Blizzard Theater 8:30-9:15 a.m.

This session is an inspirational look at how a data-story can nudge and inform institutional support of student success. Drawing on interdisciplinary literature about organizational change, this presentation will highlight ways to focus campus attention, build issue knowledge, frame issues, and nudge good ideas into adoption. After all, data do not speak for themselves, and they never talk to strangers!

Educational Session I

■ Three Lenses for Examining FYE Strategies on Your Campus

**Christopher Coogan, AIR Chief of Staff, Director of the Data and Decisions Academy
Siegel Auditorium, 10-11 a.m.**

College administrators and faculty have multiple options for examining their campus's FYE strategies. This session will explore three different lenses for examining success: the Inputs-Environment-Outcomes (I-E-O) model; longitudinal models; and cross-sectional models. The presenter will highlight foundational ideas for using data and working with the institutional research office on your campus.

■ Creating Supplemental Orientation Programs for Special Populations

**Scott Peska, Dean for Students
Waubonsee Community College**

**Jes Cisneros, Assistant Director
University Honors Program
Northern Illinois University**

E100.01, 10-11 a.m.

This session will provide participants a forum to discuss and learn about different supplemental orientations for special population students (e.g. veterans, students with

**Lisa King, Associate Director
CHANCE Program
Northern Illinois University**
**Bridget McMahon
Military Student Services
Northern Illinois University**

disabilities, athletes, special admissions, Honors). Learn from colleagues about specific programs and explore how to integrate these in with traditional orientations. Lastly, the group will dialogue about the advantages and disadvantages of special population orientation programs.

■ Growth Mindset: How to Foster Enthusiastic Learning and Encourage Students to Set Goals

**Sharon Silverman, Partner
TRPP Associates, LLC**

**Martha Casazza, Partner
TRPP Associates, LLC**

E214, 10–11 a.m.

Throughout the session, relevant case studies will be used along with guiding questions for discussion. Videos of student interviews will be included to promote interaction among the participants who will be encouraged to relate the concept of mindset to their own experiences and those of their students.

■ Learning Communities: History, Practice, and Promise

**Geoffrey Mamerow, Project Assistant
UW-Madison First-Year Interest Groups
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

E106, 10–11 a.m.

Drawing on administrator and researcher perspectives from around a large learning community program, this session lays out history, rationales, models, trends, outcomes, and the promise of learning communities in higher education. The goal is to encourage and facilitate a rigorous discussion and develop a shared body of knowledge to inform practice and understanding of learning communities.

■ Collaboration, Connections and Community: How Faculty, Advisors, and Peer Mentors Work to Improve Retention and Ensure Academic Success

**Maria Teresa Garreton, Professor
Northeastern Illinois University**

**Christina Matuschka, Academic Success Coach
Northeastern Illinois University**

E108, 10–11 a.m.

This session will examine how faculty members team up with advisors and peer mentors to strengthen the first year experiences of students at an urban commuter campus at which the majority of students are the first generation in their families to attend college.

■ Creating a College Culture of Student Empowerment Using On Course Strategies for Student Success

**Kim Kelley, Director of Testing Services
Heartland Community College**

E201, 10–11 a.m.

This presentation will highlight On Course professional development at Heartland Community College and how On Course has been infused into the campus culture to create an environment of student empowerment. We will showcase particular departments from across college divisions and what they are doing with On Course and how it is empowering our students.

**Amy Munson, Dean of Students
Heartland Community College**

■ The Latino Experience Course – Learning, Engaging and Leading

**Angelica Mendoza, Assistant Director
of Latino Resource Center
Northern Illinois University**

E211, 10–11 a.m.

Although Latinos are the fastest growing population in our country and have made significant advancements in education specifically higher education, Latinos continue to fall behind compared to other racial/ethnic groups. In this session, we will focus on the University 101: The Latino Experience course, which is geared specifically toward first-year Latino students and issues related to their college experience, and it is designed to help identify and prevent common pitfalls providing students with a clearer path toward graduation.

**Lizbeth Roman, Undergraduate Student
Northern Illinois University**

■ Reading Between the Blurred Lines...Myths vs. Fact about Students' First Year Expectations

**Student Panel
Elgin Community College**

D232, 10–11 a.m.

Join this panel of current Elgin Community College students and find out what students want professionals to know about their needs and expectations during their first year. Discussions will focus on practical tips and insights that can help both two- and four-year first-year experience professionals.

Educational Session II

■ Three Lenses for Examining FYE Strategies on Your Campus

**Christopher Coogan , Chief of Staff and Data and Decisions®
Academy Director of AIR**

Siegel Auditorium, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

College administrators and faculty have multiple options for examining their campus's FYE strategies. This session will explore three different lenses for examining success: the Inputs-Environment-Outcomes (I-E-O) model; longitudinal models; and cross-sectional models. The presenter will highlight foundational ideas for using data and working with the institutional research office on your campus.

■ A Writer's Workshop: Tips on Shaping Pieces for a Variety of Audiences and Purposes

**Tracy Skipper, Assistant Director for Publications for the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition
University of South Carolina**

E100.01, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

For many higher education professionals, the act of writing is a daunting proposition. Yet, it is a critical skill for meeting program objectives, demonstrating the efficacy of our work, and facilitating career advancement. This session will focus on strategies for building a writing practice and highlight some general recommendations for writing well, exploring issues related to shaping texts. Participants also will begin exploring possible topics for writing.

■ "S" is for Student Success: A Student Retention Academic Advising Approach

**Michelle Pickett, Director
Academic Advising Center
Northern Illinois University**

E106, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

This session will give an overview of the Academic Advising Center's work with the exploring student population by highlighting different approaches and strategies to student academic success, academic persistence, and transition to an academic college based on students' career and academic interests.

**Susana DasNeves, Academic Advisor/Counselor
Northern Illinois University**

■ Overcoming the Fear Factor: Getting New Students Involved in their Success

Richard Valencia, Adjunct Instructor
Truman College

E201, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

The lost, the confused, you've seen them. You walk into your College Success class of brand new students and there they sit, quiet and isolated. You must turn their "Fear" into a positive student experience. You must get them to interact with their classmates and help them create new peer support systems. Learn how a different College Success syllabus can help conquer the Fear Factor; break those barriers; integrate your students into college life; and make them more responsible for planning and achieving their academic goals.

■ The Application of Cultural Competence in Higher Learning

Cassandra Downs, Counselor
Kishwaukee College

E211, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

This interactive workshop will explore the development of culturally competent practices in higher education at the micro and macro levels. Participants will examine proactive institutional and personal strategies that assist faculty and staff with cultivating a learning environment that promotes academic and co-curricular success by developing an understanding of cultural competence.

■ Orientation 101: The Basics of Orientation/Transition/Retention and An Introduction to NODA

Denise Rode, Director of First- and Second-Year Experience
Northern Illinois University

D232, 11 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

This session will introduce participants to the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA), and to the fields of higher education practice served by this international organization. Resources for supporting institutional initiatives in orientation, transition, and retention will be shared, and "best practices" in these three fields will be discussed.

Abbey Wolfman
Director of New Student Programs
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

■ Student Athletes: Supporting Them in their First Year of College

Kristina Navarro, Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director Intercollegiate Athletics Administration Program University of Wisconsin at Madison

E108, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

This session will offer an overview of the unique needs of first-year student-athletes. Research suggests they are susceptible to risks that contribute negatively to their social experiences and academic outcomes. We will describe these risks, then pivot to interventions commonly used to address them. We will also outline how to adapt common programs to benefit these students.

■ First-Year Experience Course Roundtable Discussion

**Patrick Peyer, Facilitator
Midwest First Year Conference committee**

E214, 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

This roundtable discussion will promote open discussion about first-year experience courses at multiple institution types. The session facilitator will encourage and maintain substantive discussion. Attendees will have an opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other's experiences.

Educational Session III

■ The First-Year Experience as a Driver of High-Impact Practice in the First College Year: Findings from a National Survey

**Tracy Skipper, Assistant Director for Publications for the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition
University of South Carolina**

Siegel Auditorium, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

The 2012-2013 National Survey of First-Year Seminars explored design, administration, and assessment of seminars on American college campuses. New to this administration was an examination of high-impact practices embedded in seminars. This session will offer an interactive presentation of survey data, inviting participants to make

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observations about the findings or draw comparisons to their own practice with regard to the seminar. In particular, we will explore the nature of the first-year seminar as a high-impact practice in its own right and as a focal point for other high-impact practices.

■ Assessment: Is it about the Journey or the Destination?

**Kelly Smith, Assistant Director of First-and Second-Year Experience
Northern Illinois University**

E214, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

Assessment is a time consuming and delicate process. Plans for assessment often need to be made before an intervention is implemented and results need to be distributed for your hard work to have an influence. How do you sustain a successful assessment agenda for your first-year programs? This session will focus on various assessment options, identifying their purpose, and key assessment partners on your campus. Participants will be challenged to think about current assessment practices and determine ways to enhance assessment on their campus.

■ Undocumented Students: An Appreciative Advising Approach for Student Success

**Susana DasNeves
Academic Advisor/Counselor
Northern Illinois University**

E100.01, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

This interactive and engaging session will discuss the current changes in immigration policy and its direct impact on undocumented students and higher education. It will provide participants with an overview of the Appreciative Advising Model as an academic advising tool to foster an environment of trust for students to feel comfortable in disclosing their immigration status and discuss their academic and career aspirations as well as students' sense of belonging, engagement, and persistence.

**Sandra Lopez, Assistant to the Director
Center for Latino and Latin American
Studies Northern Illinois University**

■ From “Fixing” to Flourishing: Using Non-Cognitive Variables and Motivational Interviewing to Increase Student Success

**Amber Williams, Graduate Assistant
First Year and Transition Programs
St. Cloud State University**

E106, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

With nearly a quarter of our first year student class gaining provisional admission through our Academic Collegiate Excellence (ACE) program, our staff at St. Cloud State

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University have had to change our approach to serving and supporting at-risk students. We know that not all of these students will succeed their first semester of college. This presentation covers our appeal process in terms of non-cognitive variables, student development theory, and motivational interviewing.

■ When Service Learning, FYS, and Peer Leaders Converge: Exploring One Community College's Path to Increasing Student Engagement and Retention with Limited Resources

**Casey Reid, College Orientation
Coordinator and English Faculty
Metropolitan Community College**

E108, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

In this session, presenters will discuss the multiple ways they have used and are using service-learning pedagogy to increase student engagement and connections in a first-year seminar. First, they will discuss institutional research that led them to believe service learning would be an effective way of increasing student engagement. Then, they will discuss how they used a service-learning class for Peer Leaders to obtain funding to expand the Peer Leader program followed by a discussion of an internal service-learning project that they have implemented in their college's new mandatory first-year seminar class.

■ Interactive Activities for Building Community with First-Year Students

**Chris Cavert, Assistant Professor
Northeastern Illinois University**

E211, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

This workshop will include hands-on experiences with simple to lead interactive activities that can help first-year college students understand some basic concepts related to college success. These activities can be lead with any number of participants in any classroom setting. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to play or observe — both experiences will lead to understanding.

Promoting Self-Regulated Learning in First-Year Students

**Mary Perkins, Associate Dean of Communications and Behavioral Sciences
Elgin Community College**

E201, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

Most students arrive greatly under prepared to meet college learning demands. Teaching students to be self-regulated learners can profoundly improve their success in college. Specifically addressing first-year students' misconceptions about learning and nudging them to adopt practices that foster independent learning skills are necessary.

Educational Session IV

The Pedagogy of an Online College Success Course: Best Practices

**Kevin Smith, Associate Dean
College to Careers
Harold Washington College**

**Arlethia Mayes, Associate Dean
Center for Distance Learning**

E100.01, 3–4 p.m.

This workshop describes the development of an online College Success course geared towards first year students, includes a comparison to the Live course and the outcomes across 2 semesters. This new online course was developed with the pedagogy of online instruction, as such we use the latest in technology on the web including slide-share, YouTube videos, and synchronous communications.

**Joy Robinson, Instructor
Center for Distance Learning**

City Colleges of Chicago

Only Certified Faculty Can Teach Our Students

**Cynthia Armster, Student Success
Director; Founder and Director
of College Success Seminar Institute
City Colleges of Chicago**

E106, 3–4 p.m.

Committed to providing a transformative educational experience to meet the needs of first year and at risk students, the City Colleges of Chicago created a mandatory 18 hour training series to certify master degree faculty and staff to teach College Success Seminar courses. This session will provide an overview of the College Success Seminar Institute (CSSI) certification training provided to certify instructors to render an academically enriched, career and decision-making, civically engaging student learning experience.

**Donyel Williams
City Colleges of Chicago**

■ Course Transformation Project (CTP): Making Large Classes Small

Julia Spears, Director
Office of Student Engagement and
Experiential Learning
Northern Illinois University

E108, 3–4 p.m.

We often hear about the struggles of incoming freshmen enrolled in their first large lecture classes. They feel disconnected and express a difficulty in connecting with other students and the course content. At NIU, we are working to make our large lecture general education classes more engaging for our students. The Course Transformation Project (CTP) has been created to enhance student attainment of NIU baccalaureate student learning outcomes and to increase student opportunities for experiential learning through academic enrichment.

Michaela Holtz, Assistant to Director
Office of Student Engagement and
Experiential Learning
Northern Illinois University

■ You Never Get a Second Chance to Make a First Impression

Amybeth Maurer, Director of First Year Programs and Student Life
Elgin Community College

E201, 3–4 p.m.

Maya Angelou once said “People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.” For new students the transition to college invokes a full range of emotions. Implementing a New Student Convocation on your campus that is welcoming and celebratory can aid in quelling new students fears and set the tone for a successful first year. This session will focus on the goals, implementation and results of New Student Convocation activities at Elgin Community College.

