Recorded Sessions Information

Adapting 21st Century Skills into the Virtual High School Classroom

High schools across the nation are adapting to a new educational environment and seeking out meaningful experiences in a time of isolation. The Illinois Science and Technology Institute (ISTI) has been innovating in this space for years, working to connect students with mentors and STEM experiences regardless of geographic barriers. ISTI recognized a need to bridge the gap between corporate and classroom communities. The Mentor Matching Engine was born as a virtual platform to connect students with industry professionals in their areas of interest. During this session, participants will have the opportunity to explore the Mentor Matching Engine and learn how to enroll in the program. Our focus as an organization revolves around meaningful partnership in STEM through high dosage mentorship. This model allows students to develop greater communication, problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and research skills with the help of a mentor. Participants will also have the opportunity to dive deeper into developing 21st century skills with their students through the use of professional contacts. We will share authentic industry challenges that students have tackled in the past and engage teachers in discussion on best practices for developing lifelong STEM skills.

Presenters: Becky Goldberg, Program Manager, Illinois Science and Technology Institute; Emily Cooper, Director, Illinois Science and Technology Institute

Career Pathway Endorsements - What & Why

Graduating high school seniors in the State of Illinois can now earn a Career Pathway Endorsement after completing a sequence of courses, including those that can earn postsecondary credit, and requisite work-based learning experiences. Most school districts are still in the earliest stages of preparing these opportunities for students, and this session provides a road map and helpful steps and tools to get start along that journey.

Presenter: Jason Klein, Director of P-20 Initiatives, Northern Illinois University Center for P-20 Engagement

Supporting Dreamers Pathway to College

How can high schools and colleges work to engage, empower, and graduate immigrant students, in the midst of the times we are living under? Come learn about current policy and financial options for these students.

Presenters: Luis Narvaez, Project Director, Chicago Public Schools; Dr. Miguel Saucedo, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Populations, Chicago Public Schools; Luis Narvaez, Project Director, Chicago Public Schools
Addressing the Growing Disparity Towards College Readiness and the Significant Impact on Students with Disabilities

Discussion consists of two strategies addressing the disparity perceived by students with disabilities towards their college readiness by reducing unknowns and demystifying college transition; additionally, how IDEA and ESSA are impacting students’ success. First, a ½-day high school college transition conference for students, educators, and parents. Secondly, a 3½-day orientation program for incoming college students and their parents. Students receive resources to include in their 504/Individualized Education Plan or to utilize during the summer.

Presenter: Paige Lindahl-Lewis, M.S., Associate Director, Beckwith Residential Support Services

Employer Advisory Council

Description, purpose and benefits of having a semi-annual Employer Advisory Council meeting between employers and career services. Opportunity for immediate feedback on various topics that impact students, graduates and employers. It is also a way for employers to connect with each other and share ideas and processes.

Presenters: Natalie Pavon, Manager, Career Services Operations, Chamberlain University; Ryan McCollum, National Career Advisor, Chamberlain University

Next Steps Towards a Career? Let Employment 101 Help You Decide

Illinois workNet's Employment 101 helps students plan for their careers. With an interactive function, Employment 101 supports students considering what jobs, education, or credentials are just right for them. This session demonstrates recent updates that guide youth through the career plan process that includes: Prepare a Career Plan; Preparing for a Job Search; Achieving Goals. Employment 101 guides students in determining whether a college degree or a stackable credential is their destiny.

Presenters: Dee Reinhardt, Field Trainer, Illinois workNet; Latoya McRae, Integration & Training Coordinator, Illinois workNet

Creating a High-Impact Leadership Development and Career Readiness Experience

This session will share a highly engaging, step by step approach on how to create a high impact leadership development and career readiness experience for College level students. Using research outlined by Forbes and the National Association of Colleges and Employers, this session will include a curriculum overview, foundational research implications as well as learning growth data captured from student participants as related to selected leadership competencies.

Presenter: Cason Brunt, Director of College Success and Postsecondary Leadership Development, The Chicago Scholars Foundation

Focusing on Career Exploration Outside of the School Day!

After school and summer are the best times for youth to focus on career exploration. This time is flexible and informal and allows youth to explore their passions and new content areas. In this session, you will receive resources, activities, and curriculum for how you can incorporate career exploration outside of the school day and find afterschool programs with who you can collaborate.

Presenters: Susan Stanton, Network Lead, ACT Now; Emma Spencer, Youth Development Associate, ACT Now; Emma Vibber, Quality and Professional Development Specialist, ACT Now
College Accessibility for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Despite facing many challenges such as deep poverty and instability many youth experiencing homelessness desire to pursue careers that require postsecondary education. This session will discuss recent and upcoming legislation including the College Hunger Bill and College Accessibility Bill that provides necessary supports for students to access and succeed in college.

**Presenters:** Alyssa Phillips, Education Attorney, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Niya Kelly, Director of State Legislative Policy, Equity and Transformation, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Micro-Internships: Addressing Macro Issues for Students

Staff from Chicago Semester, an off-campus studies program will explore the importance of micro-internship programs for non-traditional students who need to build their professional networks while finishing classes and supporting themselves financially. For our first generation, adult studies, and underrepresented students, a micro-internship allows participants the flexibility to complete coursework while gaining real world experience. Presenters will share best practices and challenges with this learning format.

**Presenters:** Hannah Kiefer, Internship Coordinator, Chicago Semester; Mackenzi Huyser, Executive Director, Chicago Semester

Promoting College Access through the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes graduating high school seniors who are able to exhibit high levels of proficiency in English and a second language. As of last year, by state law, recipients are able to earn college credit through their bilingual skills. Come learn how!

**Presenters:** Ernesto Matias, Chief Education Officer, Illinois State Board of Education; Luis Narvaez, Project Director, Chicago Public Schools; Dr. Joaquin Villegas, Associate Professor Emeritus, Northeastern Illinois University; Maribel Quielle-Silva, World Language Dept/ ELPT Coordinator, Hancock College Prep High School; Yvette Vazquez, World Language Teacher, Frederick W Von Steuben High School

Transfer Student Experiences: New School Who Dis?

Presentation on lateral transfer student experiences at a highly-selective private institution in Illinois. Most research on transfer students is done at public institutions. This is an inside look to a case study institution that is seeing a dramatic increase in their transfer student undergraduate population. This presentation will help administrators anticipate transfer students' needs and resources.

**Presenter:** Alisha Gomez-Shah, Graduate Student, Northwestern University

High Hopes for Higher Education: Honoring Black Students’ Aspirations

This session will feature the screening of a 30-minute documentary produced by Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest on evidence-based practices to support Black students on their pathways to postsecondary education and encourage success in college. The program also features stories from students and educators in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Presenters:** Jameela Conway-Turner, Researcher, REL Midwest; Kyle Fagan, Researcher, REL Midwest
Motivational Interviewing: How to Spark, Support, and Sustain Change

Motivational Interviewing is a communication style for helping individuals who are struggling to make and sustain positive life changes. In this presentation, Foster Progress outlines the key principles of Motivational Interviewing in a mentoring relationship in order to provide practitioners with concrete strategies to support high school and college-aged youth in foster care to making lasting changes.

**Presenters:** Kate Danielson, Executive Director, Foster Progress; Jasamine Young-Paulhill, Program Manager, Foster Progress

Understanding Equity in Practice

An understanding of equity at the individual and institutional levels will be critical to advancing the state’s Goal 2025. Moving beyond this, practitioners must know how to put equity in practice to advance systemic change. With support from ICCB, the Office of Community College Research and Leadership has developed numerous resources to advance equity-driven change. This session will provide opportunities to understand equity and apply it to practice toward closing outcomes gaps.

**Presenters:** Marci Rockey, Project Coordinator, OCCRL; Eboni Zamani-Gallaher, Director and Professor, OCCRL; Colvin Georges, Jr., Research Associate, OCCRL

COLLEGIATE (COLLEGe Information And ouTrEach) Community Initiative

Learn about a suite of three initiatives building college-going knowledge in the community. Parents Educating Parents Program (PEP) delivers important academic success information to parents in an interactive workshop format. W2C college intern program develops informative resources. Last summer the team created and rolled out a free texting service, offering all Waukegan parents access to key academic success information. W2C Ambassadors build a college-going culture in elementary schools through workshops and a college fair.

**Presenters:** Laura Rios, Program Director, Waukegan to College; Daisy Hernandez, Program Associate, Waukegan to College

MISS-Education of Women in STEM

Throughout history innovative women have imagined, developed, tested, and perfected their creations, and yet most of us would be hard pressed to name even a single woman inventor. In fact, women inventors are behind many of the products and technologies used every day! Learn how IMSA’s “Girls IN2 STEM” program uses its peer-to-peer mentoring movement to educate, empower and inspire our next generation of STEM Champions.

**Presenter:** Betty Hart, Innovation Program Manager, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

Breaking Down Illinois’ Affordability Barriers to College Access and Completion Through State Policy

Grounded in the findings and takeaways from the Partnership for College Completion’s recent study, Priced Out: On Illinois’ Disinvestment in Higher Education & What Can Be Done About It, this session will outline the effect of 17 years of disinvestment on Illinois’ students of color and rural students. It will then connect current problems to the equity-focused policy solutions needed to start reversing these trends.

**Presenter:** Mike Abrahamson, Policy Analyst, Partnership for College Completion
Transfer College Connections

How can community colleges and high school counselors better support transfer-bound students? This presentation focuses on how high school counselors and admissions representatives collaborate to help students learn more about the transition from local community college to Illinois state universities. Come learn how you can improve or promote transferability starting at the high school level.

Presenters: Aseret Loveland, Asst. Director for Admissions, Records, & Transfer Services, Illinois Valley Community College; Lauren Yates, High School Counselor, Ottawa Township High School; Morgan Johnson, Transfer Counselor, Illinois State University