

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING™ CONFERENCE

July 17, 2014

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL



Conference Agenda

8 am – Registration Opens & Continental Breakfast (South Entry)

8:30 - 8:45 am – Welcome and Opening Remarks (Exhibit South)

- Governor's Proclamation

8:45 - 9:30 am – Morning Keynote (Exhibit South)

- *Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York, Chair of the StriveTogether National Advisory Board, and Co-Founder of the StrivePartnership (Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky)*

9:30 - 9:45 am – STEM Careers in Illinois (Exhibit South)

- *Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

9:45 - 10:30 am – Education and Workforce Needs Panel (Exhibit South)

- *Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York*
- *Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education*
- *Stacey Delvecchio, Manager, Engineering Talent Pipeline, Product Development & Global Technology, Caterpillar*
- *Robin Steans, Executive Director, Advance Illinois – Panel Moderator*

10:30 - 10:45 am – Break

10:45 - 11:45 am – Interest Sessions

- **Session 1A: *Give them a little credit: Credit Acquisition Models Beyond the School Day*** (South Pavilion 3)

Looking for new ways for students to be inspired and gain measurable skills, all while still earning school credit? Afterschool programs can be a part of the solution. Credit-bearing afterschool programs help students meet and exceed school-day requirements to prepare them for college and careers. Credit acquisition models can come in a variety of forms, such as high school credit for demonstrated competency, college credit, open badges, remedial credit, and credit for service learning and internship opportunities. These opportunities allow students to pursue interests and acquire 21st Century skills - like critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity - and experience applied learning in a real-world setting.

Learn about the Open Badges initiative that has gained ground in Chicago and around the world, and about other credit models being implemented across the country and what it could look like in Illinois.

Presenters: *Michell Un, Project Manager, Research and Data; Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance; Natasha Smith-Walker, Executive Director, Project Exploration; Sybil Madison-Boyd, Learning Pathways Program Director, Digital Youth Network, DePaul University*

Moderator: *Samantha Hedges, Youth Development Associate, Voices for Illinois Children*

- **Session 1B: *Personalizing Student Learning Using Adaptive Learning*** (South Pavilion 4)

American Intercontinental University's (AIU's) integrated approach to Adaptive Learning, in which "learning maps" are an integral part of courses and degree programs, will be described. The presenter will explain how AIU is analyzing and using personalized student data, along with information about individual students' goals, to adjust their teaching and improve learning outcomes. The session will cover how Adaptive Learning has been built into multiple degree programs at the postsecondary level, including discussion of course/program integration, changes in the faculty role, student engagement, and the implementation of learning analytics.

Presenter: *Judith Komar, Vice President of Educational Technology, American Intercontinental University*

Moderator: *Candace Mueller, Assistant Director for External Relations, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 1C: *Minding the (Soft-Skills) Gap: The Importance of the Development of Soft-Skills Among Community College Students*** (South Pavilion 5)

Much attention has been paid to programs of study at community colleges that align with current labor market demands. While technical skills are a critical minimum requirement for performing a job, it is ultimately soft skills that make for a successful employee. However, employers are citing growing concern about soft skills deficiencies among employees who are new to the workforce, a deficit which is more pronounced among low-income, first-generation minority students. One Million Degrees (OMD) is one of the few nonprofit organizations working in partnership with community colleges to support soft skills development among first-generation, low-income community college students. Learn about how the OMD program is supporting the development of soft skills among this critical student population, and the potential link between these program supports, identity development, and longer term indicators of labor market success and wellness.

Presenters: *Jessica Besser-Rosenberg, Director, Research & Communications, One Million Degrees*

Moderator: *Jessica Besser-Rosenberg, Director, Research & Communications, One Million Degrees*

- **Session 1D: *Building Stronger Support Systems for Undocumented and DACA College Students*** (South Pavilion 6)

This session will provide information on building better support systems for undocumented and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students to become college ready and what post-secondary institutions can do to better serve this student population and achieve completion.

Presenters: *Katya Nuques, Associate Director, ENLACE; Quintiliano Rios, Post-Secondary Coordinator ENLACE; Richard Tapia, Associate Director Diversity and Outreach, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Veronica Reyes, Policy Research Associate, Illinois Latino Family Commission*

Moderator: *Cecilia Marchan, Global Initiatives Coordinator, DePaul University*

- **Session 1E: *Helping Students with Disabilities Succeed Through Campus-Based Services*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Two campus-based programs aimed at helping students with disabilities enroll and succeed in post-secondary education will be presented. The first program, "College Student for a Day" (CSFAD), introduces high school students with disabilities to campus support services in an effort to facilitate their enrollment in college. During the daylong event, high school students learn how to navigate academic and social support offices on a college campus through mentoring and activity-based learning. The second program, "Check-in for Success," aims to ensure equal access for students, and to promote student independence, success, and self-advocacy. The "Check-in for Success" program helps students acquire the necessary skills to take a more responsible role in their own education and academic success. Participants learn how to set attainable personal, academic, and career goals following the "SMART" method. Presenters will discuss the goals, outcomes, and challenges of each program.

Presenters: *Denise Ross, Associate Professor, DePaul University; Alexandra Novakovic, Assistant Professor, DePaul University; Kimberly Hopson, Resource Development Coordinator, Youth Connection Charter School; Daniel Micallef, Case Manager/Learning Specialist, Health Sciences Career Academy; Rebecca Ramirez-Malagon, Educational Case Manager, Moraine Valley Community College; Debbie Sievers, Director, Center for Disability Services, Moraine Valley Community College*

- **Moderator:** *Debbie Sievers, Director, Center for Disability Services Moraine Valley Community College*

- **Session 1F: *Engaging the University Community to Build a Comprehensive General Education Program and First Year Experience*** (North Pavilion 1)

What does it take to build a successful general education curriculum and first year experience? More than just administration desire and faculty input! This session describes our process for engaging all members of the university community to transform from an upper division university to a full four-year institution. The presenters will discuss the methods used for promoting engagement across the campus and address issues of planning, budgeting, publicizing and executing these campus wide initiatives.

Presenters: *Colleen M. Sexton, Ph.D., Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Governors State University; Deborah E. Bordelon, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Governors State University*

Moderator: *Colleen M. Sexton, Ph.D., Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Governors State University*

11:45 am – Lunch Buffet & Program (South Pavilion & Exhibit South)

- **College Changes Everything Champion Award**
- **Afterschool Opportunities Promote College and Career Readiness** – *Michael Seelig, Executive Director, Office of Student Support and Engagement, Chicago Public Schools*

12:45 - 1:30 pm – ACT Now Coalition – Dessert Reception (South Pavilion)

- A celebration including youth panelists sharing afterschool stories and honoring afterschool's contribution to college and career readiness. The reception is an occasion to mingle over dessert and learn about the impact of afterschool from youth who have excelled because of the opportunities programs provide.

1:30 - 2:30 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 2A: *Ready, Set, Explore! Afterschool Models for Inspiring Youth to Be College and Career Ready*** (South Pavilion 3)

Afterschool programs uniquely complement schools' efforts to prepare students for college and careers. Effective models result in youth graduating high school and applying to and attending college at higher rates than their peers. Whether they're building robots during an internship at an engineering company or starting a business with a local entrepreneur, students are discovering passions and exploring careers in hands-on ways that drive them to succeed. And they're getting the support they need to follow through: afterschool programs are teaching students about college and the college application process, taking them on campus tours, and teaching the 21st Century skills employers are seeking, such as critical thinking and collaboration. Learn how higher education stakeholders and business leaders can partner in this work.

Presenters: *George Letavish, Policy Analyst, Office of Governor Pat Quinn; LaDawn Norwood, Association Director of Teen Programs, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago; Andrew Fogaty, Director, Illinois Small Business Development Center, Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago*

Moderator: *Samantha Hedges, Youth Development Associate, Voices for Illinois Children*

- **Session 2B: *College & Career Readiness Begins at Birth: Connecting the Dots for Student Success*** (South Pavilion 4)

The abilities and knowledge developed during a child's earliest years build the critical foundation needed for success in school and beyond. This workshop will discuss the benefits of a coordinated Birth-through-Third Grade framework that integrates educational initiatives and focuses attention on the importance of early childhood and early elementary years in developing the skills needed for success in academic and work settings. The state has recently initiated many components of a comprehensive Birth-to-Third Grade policy agenda. Learn about elements that impact effective education in PreK through 3rd grade including curricula, learning standards, student assessment, aligned professional development, the ExceleRate quality rating and improvement system for early childhood programs, and the new kindergarten readiness assessment.

Presenters: *Cindy Zumwalt, Early Childhood Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education; Theresa Hawley, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood and Development*

Moderator: *Cindy Zumwalt, Early Childhood Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education*

- **Session 2C: *Campus Collaboration with Local Social Services*** (South Pavilion 5)

Your strength is education, but your students need all sorts of social services – rent, food, gas, child care, financial literacy.... Don't reinvent the wheel – partner with local social service agencies to help your students access services and move along the path to self-sufficiency. This panel will showcase existing programs and show others how to start their own. By helping students lessen home-life issues, it frees up their minds to focus on school. 2-1-1 and 941-HELP are 24/7 information and referral systems available to the general public, including students and staff. "Next Step" is a collaborative effort through Heartland Community College, Mid Central Community Action, United Way of McLean County and the University of Illinois College of Law--organizations which have strategically joined forces to provide the resources residents/students need to achieve financial independence.

Presenters: *Rick Pearce, Ph.D., Vice President for Learning and Student Success, Heartland Community College; Nicole Smith, MPH, Assistant Director of Community Impact, United Way of McLean County; Angela Frazier, Director of Finance & Administration, Mid Central Community*

Action (MCCA); Stacey L. Tutt, Assistant Clinical Professor, Director of Community Preservation Clinic, University of Illinois College of Law

Moderator: *Julianne Buck, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Grundy County*

- **Session 2D: *College Readiness X 2 – Harper College & Elgin Community College***
(South Pavilion 6)

This session will describe two different college readiness partnerships and their latest alignment projects. **Harper College** partners with School Districts 211, 214, 220. Their work has improved college readiness in math for recent high school graduates by 21% and increased dual credit opportunities by over 200%. In addition, English alignment is underway & summer bridge opportunities to help under-represented groups are being piloted. **Elgin Community College's Alliance for College Readiness** has been partnering with School Districts 300, 301, 303 & U-46 since 2006. Their three newest projects include: the Transition Academy – a bridge program that begins in the 9th grade and targets Students of Color and first-generation students; a new 4th year high school math course aligned to the Common Core State Standards that targets students who would not normally take math their senior year in high school; and kindergarten readiness checklists – connecting with our youngest students and their parents. Come learn the steps both colleges took to design these programs and hear their results!

Presenters: *Judy Marwick, Provost, Harper College; Julie Schaid, Associate Dean, College Readiness & School Partnerships, Elgin Community College; Alison Douglas, English Professor, Director of College Readiness, Elgin Community College*

Moderator: *Susan Drone, Associate Director for Student Development, Illinois Community College Board*

- **Session 2E: *The Implementation of WorkKeys® as a Career Readiness Tool in a Career and Technical Education Program*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Community college educators have universally commented on the steady decline in our students' writing skills and have attempted to implement a variety of improvement strategies, albeit with mixed results. In 2013, Kankakee Community College's Paralegal Program partnered with paralegal faculty at College of Lake County and South Suburban College, and the group worked with representatives from ACT to conduct a WorkKeys® profile of the reading, writing, and information-locating competencies incoming paralegal students should possess. In this session, audience members will learn more about this WorkKeys® profiling process, how the profile's results are being implemented in these institutions, and how one college plans to use the results to enhance student success and retention.

Presenter: *Kristine Condon, Professor and Program Coordinator, Kankakee Community College*

Moderator: *Lynne Haeffele, Senior Policy Director for Education, Office of the Lieutenant Governor*

- **Session 2F: *The Condition of College and Career Readiness for First Generation Students***
(North Pavilion 1)

This report provides information about the academic preparation of first generation students, their challenges, aspirations, and recommendations for leveling the playing field for these students to make their college dreams a reality.

Presenter & Moderator: *April Hansen, Account Executive, ACT*

2:30 - 2:40 pm – Break

2:40 - 3:40 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 3A: *Closing the (Achievement) Gap: Afterschool Programs Are Proven Partners*** (South Pavilion 3)

The achievement gap is a persistent problem that demands a collaborative approach. Research proves that afterschool programs can be invaluable partners in closing the gap:

- Consistent participation has been shown to narrow the math and reading achievement gap.
- More time in expanded learning yields improved GPA, academic performance, and attendance.
- Positive afterschool experiences also lead to better work habits, task persistence, and behavior.

Learn about the latest research and data demonstrating the power of afterschool and summer programming to narrow the achievement gap, and learn about the high-quality programs that are making this success possible.

Presenters: *Lisa Bouillion-Diaz, Adjunct Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Illinois Extension, State 4-H; Amanda McBee, Managing Director of Programs, Citizen Schools Illinois; Ron Fairchild, President & CEO, Smarter Learning Group*

Moderator: *Samantha Hedges, Youth Development Associate, Voices for Illinois Children*

- **Session 3B: *Strategies for Moving the Retention Needle*** (South Pavilion 4)

Seminal researchers in higher education have often identified early intervention and mentoring as successful strategies for supporting students who are at risk for not successfully completing college. Likewise, retention is hurt when students struggle to understand how their skills and abilities relate to their choice of a major and a career path. This session will provide an overview of how Success Coaching and Career Development interventions can affect college persistence. Hear how college employees (faculty, staff, and administration) collaborate from across campus to create a culture that promotes student success. You will leave with low-cost, practical strategies for implementing a Success Coaching program, and creative and innovative programming to address major and career path choices for your campus!

Presenters: *Renee Martinez, Career Services Advisor, North Park University; Sylinda Menafee, Coordinator of Retention and Student Success, Kishwaukee College; Pamela Bozeman-Evans, Senior Director of Career Development and Internships, North Park University*

Moderator: *Renee Martinez, Career Services Advisor, North Park University*

- **Session 3C: *Building Career Pathway Systems in Education with the STEM Learning Exchanges*** (South Pavilion 5)

Historically, funding, resources, and investments in education in Illinois have not been coordinated and have been misaligned with what communities need. To begin to correct this, supporting the Illinois P-20 Council's goal to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025, the State launched new statewide partnerships (between schools, industry, state government, and non-profits) known as **STEM Learning Exchanges**, which are designed to help better coordinate investments, resources, and planning in a particular *career cluster* or *sector*. In this session, STEM Learning Exchange leads will discuss the work that they do to build Career Pathway Systems between business and education at the state level and in communities around the state as they work to better align their educational and economic needs.

Presenters: *Jonathan Furr, Director, Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University; Jim Nelson, Vice President of External Affairs/Learning Exchange Lead, Illinois Manufacturers' Association/Manufacturing Learning Exchange; Jess Smithers, Coordinator/Learning Exchange Lead, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education/Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Learning Exchange*

Moderator: *Andrea Messing-Mathie, Assistant Director, Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University*

- **Session 3D: *Unorthodox Team Teaching for Nontraditional Students*** (South Pavilion 6)

Nationally, nontraditional students complete their educational objectives at a much lower rate than traditional students. Pairing basic skills instructors with CTE faculty can help address the unique learning needs of nontraditional students, yet for instructors with little or no team teaching experience, the prospect of sharing a classroom can be daunting. Through its involvement with the Accelerating Opportunity Initiative, Lake Land College has developed a unique approach to team teaching that helps guide nontraditional students through college and career training programs. Learn how to form a cohesive team and how each team member can improve achievement for nontraditional students.

Presenter/Moderator: *Aaron Hacker, Adult Education Advisor, Lake Land College*

- **Session 3E: *Collective Impact in Illinois: Getting to 60 by 2025*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

What is collective impact and what does it have to do with improving educational outcomes? Who is doing it in Illinois? How can my organization get involved? In this session, panelists will define collective impact, map the landscape of collective impact initiatives in Illinois, and provide resources for communities interested in using the principles of collective impact. The presentation will highlight promising initiatives from around the state that are focused on a range of issues including early childhood and post-secondary academic achievement, workforce readiness, and violence reduction. Finally, we will facilitate an audience-driven question, answer, and listening session that will dig deep into the practical steps communities can take to move forward.

Presenters: *Teresa Ramos, Outreach Director, Advance Illinois; Louise (Wegi) Stewart, President, The Community Foundation of Macon County; Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

Moderator: *Sam Nelson, Director of Outreach Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 3F: *Success Knows No Gender: Projects for Nontraditional Occupations Learners and Others*** (North Pavilion 1)

Illinois community college instructors and administrators are involved in several projects which provide support for the recruitment and retention of men and women into careers which are not traditional for their gender. This presentation will outline the outcomes of those projects, which are designed to increase the success of nontraditional occupations students and other Perkins special populations (economically disadvantaged, single parents, displaced homemakers, individuals with disabilities, English language learners). Practitioners who have been involved in these projects will describe the impact at their community colleges. Participants will be provided with information which will help them to replicate, participate or utilize the resources of these projects.

Presenters: *Aime'e Julian, Interim Director, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support; Ne'Keisha Stepney, Assistant Dean, Waubesa Community College*

Moderator: *Aime'e Julian, Interim Director, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support*

3:40 pm – Closing General Session (South Exhibit)

- Closing Remarks
- Adjourn