

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING™ CONFERENCE

July 16, 2015

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL



Conference Agenda

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

8:45 - 10:45 am – Morning Plenary Session (Exhibit South)

- Opening Remarks
- Welcome – *Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti*
- Panel Discussion – Education and Volunteerism: The Importance and Impact of Volunteers in Helping to Improve College Access and Student Success
 - *Moderator – Dr. John Holton, Director, Illinois Department on Aging – Generations Serving Generations and the Year of the Volunteer*
 - *Scott McFarland, Executive Director, Serve Illinois Commission – AmeriCorps: One of the Best Kept Secrets*
 - *Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools – The Importance of Volunteers to Schools, Students and Communities*
 - *Dr. Shawn Healy, Civic Learning Scholar, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and Chair, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition – Civic Learning and Student Success*
- Americans with Disabilities (ADA) 25th Anniversary – Colleges Changes Everything...for Everyone – *Antoinette Taylor, Exceptional Needs Consultant and P-20 Council (Family Youth Community and Engagement Committee & Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness Steering Committee)*
- Key Remarks – *Dr. Elizabeth Purvis, Secretary of Education, Office of Governor Bruce Rauner*

10:45 - 11 am – Break



COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

11 am - 12 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 1A: Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network** (South Pavilion 1)

More than 30 post-secondary institutions, school districts, state agencies, and advocacy organizations are collaborating at the regional level to improve college and career readiness. Supported by NIU's P-20 Center, nearly 70 participants are working on regional solutions related to articulation, alignment of standards, student services, and adult learners. Learn about the products of this work, including workforce reports, new early college options, a peer mentoring network, financial literacy activities, an e-portfolio partnership, and more.

Presenters: *Eric Weldy, Vice-President, Student Services and Enrollment Management, Northern Illinois University; Tom Choice, President, Kishwaukee College; Julie Schaid, Associate Dean of College Readiness and School Partnerships, Elgin Community College; Travis McGuire, Superintendent, Hinckley/Big Rock District School District 429*

Moderator: *Marilyn Bellert, Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network*

- **Session 1B: The Nuts and Bolts of Volunteering** (South Pavilion 3)

Service and volunteering is a growing effort in Illinois. Learn about the statewide efforts of Serve Illinois along with one successful readiness program that targets students from 5th grade to college by involving students, parents, volunteers and the community.

Presenters: *Scott McFarland, Executive Director, Service Illinois Commission; Elyse Danckers, Executive Director, Waukegan to College; Guadalupe Bueno, Student, Waukegan High School; Elizabeth McDonald, Volunteer, Waukegan to College*

Moderator: *Jane Angelis, Ph.D., Editor, Continuance Magazine and Director, Generations Serving Generations*

- **Session 1C: Post-Secondary Coaching & The 4 C's to College Success – How and Why It Works** (South Pavilion 5)

Chicago Scholars, a non-profit that provides an innovative college access, success, and leadership development program for Chicago's young leaders, will outline their community, relationship based, and technological model to address college persistence. Program strategies that have been implemented to achieve an 85% college persistence rate and 88% college graduation rate will be discussed.

The Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University will present research that analyzes post-secondary coaching in high schools, validating a successful cost-effective solution to overburdened high school counselors and over-reliance on academic interventions alone. In particular, coaches help disadvantaged students build social capital and gain access to key resources. Participants will receive a detailed description of coaches' work based on original case study research.

Participants will learn about barriers to college persistence and strategies to proactively prepare and address those barriers, including social emotional and innovative strategies to remain consistently connected to students.

Presenters: *Dr. Toinette Gunn, Vice President of Programs, Chicago Scholars; Dr. Lynne Haeffele, Senior Researcher, Center for the Study of Education Policy, Illinois State University*

Moderator: *Dr. Lynne Haeffele, Senior Researcher, Center for the Study of Education Policy, Illinois State University*

- **Session 1D: ISACorps – Free Resource to Support and Supplement Your Work** (South Pavilion 4)

This session will provide an overview of what the ISACorps is, what the Corps does, and how Corps members can assist students from 8th grade to senior year. The ISACorps is a talented group of

recent college graduates who are trained to serve as near peer mentors to high school students, helping students and their families navigate the process of applying to and entering college.

Presenters: *Jacqueline Moreno, Managing Director of College Access Initiatives, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Abel Montoya, Director of Outreach Operations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 1E: *Practical Guide to Illinois' Career Information and workNet® Systems and How to Help People Achieve Career, Training, and Employment Goals*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

The *Practical Guide* session features previews of the premier career exploration data clearinghouse for Illinois and the new workNet® web portal. These systems are aimed at providing guidance, resources and tools to help students and those who provide guidance to students, achieve their career, training, and employment goals. Participants will leave with information and tools they can use right away to improve lives, save time and money, and strengthen our Illinois workforce.

Presenters: *Jeanne Kitchens, Associate Director, SIU Center for Workforce Development; Troy McMillan, Career and Labor Market Information Outreach Specialist, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

- **Session 1F: *Three Strategies for Supporting Students in Their College Marathon*** (South Pavilion 2)

Like a marathon, four years of college is a long haul for students. SIU is implementing 3 strategies to support our students: Start with the right pace – our 15-to-Finish Campaign gets students off at the right pace to finish in 4 years. Follow the course – Meta-majors in the College of Science provide clear curricular maps for students to follow. Avoid costly mistakes – our Early Warning System in general education helps to keep students from race ending errors.

Presenters: *Tamara Workman, Director, Office of the Registrar, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Gregory Budzban, Chair, Department of Mathematics, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Patsy Manfredi, Director, University Core Curriculum, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

- **Moderator:** *Tamara Workman, Director, Office of the Registrar, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

- **Session 1G: *Military Training Counts – State and Regional Efforts to Assess and Award College Credit to Veterans*** (South Pavilion 6)

This session will examine current pilot programs in Illinois that are articulating military credit and creating bridge programs for licensure. There will also be a discussion of a multi-state Lumina grant project to better coordinate efforts and share best practices throughout the region. Institutional representatives can discover opportunities and resources available to assist in the articulation of military training at their institutions and how to become involved in state-level efforts focused in this critical area.

Presenters: *Amanda Winters, Assistant Director, Academic Affairs Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ashley Becker, Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Community College Board*

Moderator: *Amanda Winters, Assistant Director, Academic Affairs Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 1H: *How to Build Partnerships with Youth Development Programs and Why It Matters*** (Bremen Room)

Youth development programs, such as afterschool programs, are helping students learn the skills they need to prepare for and succeed in college. Innovative programs rooted in best practices support academic achievement, build competencies beyond academics, and inspire students to

explore college and careers. Partnerships between youth development programs, schools, and colleges are critical to helping more students move along pathways to success.

Learn about successful afterschool programs that help students master skills, improve their performance, and develop traits that foster college and career readiness. Then, using tools that promote learning, skills, and competency development, discover how to incorporate a youth development approach into your work to better prepare students for colleges and careers.

Presenters: *Kelley Talbot, Director, Youth Development, ACT Now Coalition; Shallie Pittman, Youth Development Associate, ACT Now Coalition; Fausto Lopez, Afterschool and Expanded Learning Consultant, American Institutes for Research; LaDawn Norwood, Association Director of Teen Programs YMCA of Metro Chicago*

Moderator: *Sarah Labadie, Senior Policy Associate, Women Employed*

12 - 1:30 pm – Lunch Buffet & Program (South Pavilion & Exhibit South)

- **Redefining the High School to College Transition in Illinois**
 - *Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University*
 - *Benjamin Boer, Deputy Director, Advance Illinois*
- **College Changes Everything Champion Awards**

1:30 - 1:45 pm – Break

1:45 - 2:45 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 2A: *Developing and Engaging Dream Clubs – Resources and Advocacy for Immigrant Students*** (South Pavilion 1)

Across the Chicago Public Schools, the creation of Dream Clubs has assisted in the dissemination of information and resources out to immigrant students in their families, as well as empowered students on the importance of self-advocacy and ally/coalition-building. Utilizing the examples of successful student groups at Little Village Lawndale High School and at Farragut Career Academy, learn how to engage your own students in issues of college and career readiness and social justice hand-in-hand.

Presenters: *Joselin Cisneros, Postsecondary Coordinator & Undocumented Student Adviser, Enlace Chicago; Quintiliano Rios-Perez, Postsecondary Coordinator & Undocumented Student Adviser, Enlace Chicago*

Moderator: *Moderator: Luis Narvaez, College Access for Special Populations Specialist, Chicago Public Schools*

- **Session 2B: *Volunteering, Service, and Civic Engagement Lead to Student Success*** (South Pavilion 3)

New civics legislation will require a semester of civics for high school graduation. Learn about the ways that civic learning and civic engagement support student success and increase involvement of students.

Presenters: *Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Shawn Healy, Chair, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and Robert R. McCormick Foundation Civic Learning Scholar; Mary Ellen Daneels, Teacher, Community High School, West Chicago; Barbara Cruz, Democracy Fellow, Chicago Public Schools and Recent Graduate of Hancock College Prep*

Moderator: *Jane Angelis, Ph.D., Editor, Continuance Magazine and Director, Generations Serving Generations*

- **Session 2C: *Transition and Transformation – How Peer Mentoring Helps At-Risk Students Reimagine College and Themselves*** (South Pavilion 2)

At Augustana College, Dominican University, and North Park University, the Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) Peer Mentoring Program helps at-risk students overcome social isolation and lack of familiarity with campus life, language, and culture to persist and complete degrees. This session illustrates how Peer Mentors reach beyond logistical support to promote personal transformations that change how students see themselves, academic achievement, social and family life. The program's components and outcomes will be reviewed.

Presenters: *Mary Windeknecht, Director of First Year Advising, Augustana College; Angela Frazier, Asst. Dean of Advising Services, Rosary College of Arts & Sciences, Dominican University; Barrington Price, Director of Student Success, Office of Student Engagement, North Park University*

Moderator: *Anne P. Deeter, Assessment Coordinator, Dominican University*

- **Session 2D: *Smart Start – Preparation for College Success*** (South Pavilion 4)

Many students are under-prepared for college, particularly in Math and English skills. Governors State University's unique first year program focuses on helping all students succeed, including those who are under-prepared. We will discuss our placement process, Smart Start preparatory program, and supplemental instruction strategies for first year students. The program includes support from paid peer mentors and tutors. We will present initial results and plans for further improvements next year.

Presenters: *Dr. Dianna Galante, Associate Professor, Governors State University; Dr. Kerri Morris, Associate Professor, Coordinator of First-Year Writing, Governors State University; LaTonya D. Holmes, Cohort Advisor and Coordinator for New Student Programs, Governors State University*

Moderator: *Deborah Bordelon, Provost, Governors State University*

- **Session 2E: *Examining the Financial Challenges of Today's Young Adults*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

As professionals and student advocates, we often try to put ourselves in their shoes. And, while we have honed our listening and counseling techniques, with a new generation come new challenges and approaches to life. Using recent data, this session provides real-life examples with qualitative stories backed by quantitative research on both the financial and psychological challenges that today's young adults face. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of how to successfully engage this group to help them set a foundation for future educational and financial success.

Presenter: *Joanne Dashiell, Manager of Partner Engagement, American Student Assistance*

Moderator: *Tracy Drechsler, Manager, Higher Education Partnerships, American Student Assistance*

- **Session 2F: *Power in Numbers – Using Data to Make Informed Decisions and Drive Results for Student Success*** (South Pavilion 5)

This session will review data tracking and analysis tools and methods used by college access and persistence organizations for low-income, first generation college students. Presenters will review what type of information is useful to track and how to analyze the results. To conclude, presenters will end with how to use this data to inform decisions and best practices for better supporting students on their path to college graduation.

Presenters: *Margy Brill, Senior Success Counselor, Bottom Line; Jessica Besser-Rosenberg, Director, Research & Communications, One Million Degrees; Dakota Pawlicki, Director, Strategic Partnerships and Projects, Chicago Public Schools – Office of College and Career Success*

Moderator: *Katrina Morales, Access Team Manager, Bottom Line*

- **Session 2G: *College Counseling, College Choice, & Match-Fit – Key Ingredients for College Success*** (Bremen Room)

Chicago Scholars, a non-profit that provides an innovative college access, success, and leadership development program for Chicago's young leaders, will present their evidence based 8-session college counseling model used to guide students, parents, and mentors through the college admissions process. This model has yielded nearly a 100% college acceptance rate and 95% college enrollment rate. Participants will walk away with Chicago Scholars strategies that can be implemented in community based programming to support high school students through the challenging college admissions process.

The Network for College Success at the University of Chicago, will present research findings on the concept of "match and choice" that are key to the application and enrollment process.

Presenters: *Dr. Toinette Gunn, Vice President of Programs, Chicago Scholars; Jaime Garcia, Director of College Access, Chicago Scholars; Liz Monge-Pacheco, Postsecondary Coach, Network for College Success; and Matt Holsapple, Researcher, Consortium On Chicago School Research*

- **Session 2H: *Assisting Students to a Pathway of Successful Occupational Training and Employment through Scholarship Opportunities and Training Program Selection*** (South Pavilion 6)

Joliet Junior College staff will review their program participation selection process (outreach and recruitment, eligibility screening, information sessions and intake); discuss connecting low-income youth to high growth/high demand occupational training programs through career exploration, removal of barriers and training completion; and provide examples of work readiness curriculum and processes on connecting participants with employers and career opportunities. Illinois Board of Higher Education staff will address business and vocational institutions' role in reaching Goal 2025; review the Private Business and Vocational Schools (PBVS) Act of 2012 and state agency oversight of institutions; and discuss the research on success rates, costs, alternatives, predatory lending and practices.

Presenters: *Keri Peter, Workforce Manager, Joliet Junior College; Tammy Tschida, Employer Relations Coordinator, Joliet Junior College; Karlie Cooper, Case Management Specialist, Joliet Junior College; Cody Dailey, Career Specialist Joliet Junior College; James Matthews, Assistant Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Kristin Wheeler, Assistant Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

Moderator: *Stephanie Bernoteit, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

2:45 - 3 pm – Break

3 - 4 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 3A: *Developing a Postsecondary Leadership Team to Drive Student Support and Outcomes*** (South Pavilion 2)

Join the College and Career Specialist Team of Chicago Public Schools for an in depth presentation on developing a Postsecondary Leadership Team to drive student support and outcomes across all grade levels. Gain knowledge on how to create and implement this collaborative structure designed to bring key stakeholders together around the common goal of increasing college and career awareness, readiness, access and success.

Presenters: *Taheria Brown, College and Career Specialist, Chicago Public Schools; Eric Williams, College and Career Specialist, Chicago Public Schools; Manuel French, College and Career Specialist, Chicago Public Schools*

Moderator: *Michele Howard, College and Career Specialist, Chicago Public Schools*

- **Session 3B: *Workforce and Faith-based Volunteers*** (South Pavilion 4)

Learn about the nature and scope of a job preparation program staffed by faith-based volunteers. Receive information about Illinois workNet resources for training volunteers in career preparation & job search services.

Presenters: *Cheryl Parks, Director, Jobs Partnership – A Faith-based Volunteer Jobs Program; Jeanne Kitchens, Associate Director, SIU Center for Workforce Development and Illinois workNet*

Moderator: *Peggy Luce, Generations Serving Generations and ITLaunch*

- **Session 3C: *The Changing Rules of Workplace Engagement*** (South Pavilion 3)

For the first time in our nation's history we will see four generations in the workplace, each with slightly different levels of preparation and expectations. We also add to the mix with a wide range of racial and ethnic backgrounds to have the most diverse workforce this country has ever experienced. This is the first generation where your boss may very well be younger than you. Will this result in greater conflicts or unique collaborations? Will new technology trump seasoned experience? How will Career Service offices prepare new graduates to navigate and succeed in this diverse work environment? Our session will review intergenerational language, identify unique career expectations, and share best practices in career preparation for each generation.

Presenters: *Pamela Bozeman-Evans, Senior Director, Career Development and Internships, North Park University; Ignatius (Pasi) Musaindapo, Career Programs Manager, North Park University*

Moderator: *Renee Martinez, Career Education Specialist, North Park University*

- **Session 3D: *Strategies for Seamless Transfer and Completion Through Articulation Initiatives*** (South Pavilion 1)

City Colleges of Chicago has a partnership with Chicago Public Schools to award college credit for Career Technical Education students. Through this initiative students receive college credits on a CCC College to Career pathway for the coursework they've completed in high school.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education provides a grant to foster partnership between two and four year early childhood educator preparation programs. The Illinois Board of Higher Education will share the findings from an early implementation study of the grantees' efforts to develop options for seamless transfer, the attainment of stackable professional credentials, and degree completion in the field of early childhood.

Presenters: *Freda Richmond, Early College Manager, City Colleges of Chicago; Ajha Bixter, Early College Apprentice, City Colleges of Chicago; Stephanie Bernoteit, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Brenda Klostermann, Associate Director and Assistant Research Professor, Illinois Education Research Council; Eric Lichtenberger, Deputy Director, Institutional Research and Information Systems, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

Moderator: *Stephanie Bernoteit, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 3E: *Meeting Diverse Populations Where They Are to Get Them Where They Need to Be*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Community colleges are responsible for reaching out to diverse populations within their district to provide them with the education that will help them enter the workforce. In 2014, Waubensee Community College received the Dual Credit Enhancement Grant from the Illinois Community College Board with the goal of enhancing and developing a Legal Interpreting program. A partnership was developed with local high schools which targeted Hispanic students. This partnership and the outcomes will be presented.

Presenter: *Michelle Evans, Assistant Dean for Health Professions and Public Service; Waubensee Community College*

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

- **Session 3F: *E-Advising – Using Social Media to Increase College and Career Access*** (Bremen Room)

The purpose of this session is to educate college advisers, counselors, teachers, and other post-secondary team members on the importance of social media and effective college advising. Educators will learn how to effectively use Social Media to increase college applications, promote college events, increase scholarship and FAFSA awareness, and help students and parents prepare for the college and career planning process. From the presentation, individuals will be able to connect with students in a new way to disseminate college information, and dramatically change the college-going culture at their respective high school through an increase in student participation via social media.

Presenters: *Symphoni Henry, College Access Adviser at Manual Academy (Peoria Public Schools, District 150), Illinois College Advising Corps; Yesenia Olvera, College Access Adviser at Thomas Kelly High School (Chicago Public Schools), Illinois College Advising Corps*

Moderator: *Symphoni Henry, College Access Adviser, Illinois College Advising Corps*

- **Session 3G: *What happens to US when THEY don't finish?*** (South Pavilion 6)

Current trends in the lack of educational persistence and completion, coupled with the impact on the future of the U.S. will be examined. Research suggests that as of 2012, college enrollment increased from 26% (1990) to 41%. Yet in 2013, 19% of 20-24 year olds were neither enrolled in school nor working. This session will cover ideas aimed at increasing access to and completion of higher education among low-income and first generation college students.

Presenters: *Dr. Nayshon T. Roseborough, Director, Project SUCCESS Educational Opportunity Center, Chicago State University;*

Moderator: *Brian Johnson, Recruitment Counselor, Project SUCCESS Educational Opportunity Center, Chicago State University*

- **Session 3H: *It Takes a Village to Send a Child to College*** (South Pavilion 5)

We all know this African proverb, but what does that village look like for college access workers in Illinois? Join a panel of veteran professionals as they explain how parents, schools, churches and Kevin Bacon are parts of that village, and how all work together in assisting youth to attend - AND complete - college.

Presenters: *J.P. Paulus, President, Do-Gooder Consulting; Elyse Danckers, Executive Director, Waukegan to College; and Peter Kim International Student Director/Counselor, Peoria Christian School*

Moderator: *Mike Dessimoz, Board Chair, Illinois College Access Network*

4 pm – Conference Adjourns

Thank you for participating and helping Illinois reach Goal 2025!