

2016 COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING CONFERENCE

July 21, 2016 • 8 am – 4:30 pm

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL



Conference Agenda

8 am – Registration/Check-In Opens & Continental Breakfast (South Entry)

8:30-10:15 am – Morning Plenary Session (Exhibit South)

- Welcome & Opening Remarks
- Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce Panel Discussion – *College Access, Completion, and then Completion for What? Better Serving Students and the Regional Economy through Collaboration*
 - Moderator – Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, President, Danville Area Community College
 - Dr. Douglas Baker, President, Northern Illinois University
 - John Rico, President and CEO, Rico Enterprises and Co-Chair, Illinois Workforce Innovation Board
 - Jason Keller, Economic Development Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
 - Jeff Mays, Director, Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Collaboration by Design: Lessons About Collective Impact
 - John Burnett, CEO, Community Education Coalition
 - Jack Hess, Executive Director, Institute for Coalition Building

Across generations of leaders, the City of Columbus, Indiana has cultivated a living laboratory for how the public, private, and social sectors can work together using the power of a community to transform its learning system. This presentation tells a sixty-year story about the community's collective work, shares the lessons learned, and illustrates the process used to develop the potential of both people and place. The community's narrative unpacks the concept of collective impact by demonstrating both its principles and its practices for transforming a social system by ultimately cultivating the relationships among people who shape those systems.

10:15-10:30 am – Break

10:30-11:30 am – Interest Sessions

- **Session 1A: *Employer Engagement through Project-Based Learning*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Participants will learn about employer engagement through the mechanism of the Research and Development (R&D) Learning Exchange's initiatives: the STEM Challenges and Mentor Matching Engine. STEM Challenges are customized, interdisciplinary, problem-based learning projects that offer high school students the opportunity to investigate and provide innovative solutions to problems relevant to Illinois industry, while being supported by STEM professionals. The Mentor Matching Engine is an online platform that connects high school students to STEM professionals who help to guide students through their independent research projects. Members of the Illinois Science and Technology Institute, the lead organization for the R&D Learning Exchange will lead this session focused on the development of industry partner relationships to foster deeper employer engagement in the classroom.

Presenters: *Emily Cooper, Director of Programs, Illinois Science & Technology Institute; Allie Barwise, Managing Director, Illinois Science & Technology Institute*

- **Session 1B: *The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Workforce Education Strategic Plan*** (South Pavilion 4)

ICCB is engaged in a strategic planning process designed to ensure the community college system remains a leader in the complementary fields of workforce training and education and becomes even more responsive to changing employer and student needs throughout the state. This Workforce Education Strategic Plan will expand and enhance Illinois' ability to attract, retain, and grow businesses and develop educational opportunities to support students' success in the workforce and enhance the community college system's ability to accommodate the economic and workforce shifts occurring now and into the future. In this session, learn how the workforce strategic plan came about and what has been accomplished to date, including some of the major findings from last year's Workforce Education Strategic Plan regional meetings and next steps for completing the plan. Join this session and provide your input.

Presenters: *Jennifer Foster, Deputy Director, Adult Education and Workforce, ICCB; Lavon Nelson, Senior Director, Workforce Development, ICCB*

- **Session 1C: *Building Collective Capacity: The Practice of Community Collaboration*** (South Pavilion 2)

Building on the morning plenary session's lessons learned about community collaboration and collective impact, this session presents an interactive experience that teaches a process for stakeholder engagement and shares a collection of collaborative frameworks and tools that act as a common language and common approach for working together at a community level. A disciplined engagement process creates a kind of "community operating system" that guides and shapes a conversation among a diverse group of stakeholders and provides a framework for their shared work together. A good engagement process creates a common language and a common approach that enables people to work together on grand challenges at a community level.

Presenters: *John Burnett, Chief Executive Officer, Community Education Coalition; Jack Hess, Executive Director Institute for Coalition Building*

- **Session 1D: *Match and Fit: Broadening and Expanding the College Search and Application Process for First Generation College Students*** (South Pavilion 3)

Chicago Scholars, a non-profit that provides an innovative college access, success, career readiness and leadership development program for Chicago's young leaders, will present preliminary outcomes from their evidence based 8-session college counseling model used to guide

students and their parents and mentors through the college admission and decision process. The session will focus on an analysis of pre and post assessments that measure the impact of this 8-session counseling model implemented in nearly 500 students' college applications, admissions, and enrollment decisions. This model is expected to yield nearly a 100% college acceptance rate and 95% college enrollment rate. Findings of this study will offer best practices and strategies that can be implemented to support high school students through the challenging college admissions process.

Presenters: *Dr. Toinette Gunn, Vice President of Programs, Chicago Scholars; Jaime Garcia, Director of College Access, Chicago Scholars*

- **Session 1E: *Models of Civic Engagement for Student Success*** (Bremen Room)

Illinois Campus Compact and Robert Morris University Illinois will share two examples of successful civic engagement practices that support student success and retention. ILCC will share the national Campus Compact peer to peer model Connect2Complete and RMU will discuss their partnership with Junior Achievement both inside and outside the classroom. Time will be left at the end to discuss how to implement these practices more broadly to support students across Illinois.

Presenters: *Natalie Furllett, Executive Director, Illinois Campus Compact Executive Director; Larry Nieman, Dean, School of Business Administration, Robert Morris University*

- **Session 1F: *Developing a School DREAM Team in the Absence of a DREAM Act*** (South Pavilion 5)

This session will discuss what the DREAM Act would bring to undocumented students in the state of Illinois, as well as what the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program has done to help Dreamers in their pursuit of a college education. Presenters will discuss what school service personnel can do to motivate and encourage immigrant students to push for a Comprehensive Immigration Reform and set a pathway for college and career success for these students.

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

Moderator: *Luis Narvaez, Director of Strategic Projects, Chicago Public Schools*

- **Session 1G: *Integrating Information Platforms: Informed Student Choice, Career Readiness, and Workforce Outcomes*** (South Pavilion 1)

Session participants represent a distinctive partnership between several state agencies to develop unique information sources on prospective student choice for a post-secondary education, student characteristics by post-secondary institution, and workforce outcomes for education/program completers. The comprehensiveness of these information sources is extraordinary and, in addition, session participants will demonstrate the synergistic value of integrated information platforms.

Presenters: *Jeff Mays, Director, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Ramnath Cidambi, Managing Director, Information Technology, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Eric Lichtenberger, Deputy Director, Information Management & Research, Illinois Board of Higher Education; George Putnam, Economist, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

Moderator: *Jeff Mays, Director, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

- **Session 1H: *FAFSA Simplification – What's Here and What's on the Horizon and College Readiness Financial Literacy Curriculum Implementation*** (South Pavilion 6)

With the start of Early FAFSA this fall, advocates are already looking to the next steps of FAFSA simplification through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Carrie Warick of NCAN will discuss what new changes Congress could consider, NCAN's recommendation for improving the user experience of the FAFSA, and the next generation FAFSA completion campaign launching this fall. To complement the FAFSA information, you'll also learn about collaborative delivery models for college readiness financial literacy opportunities in high school classrooms and developing stakeholder partnerships to streamline student receipt of paying for college information. This session will review federal and state policy changes, present curriculum and financial literacy support materials from a variety of credible resources and warehoused online in an electronic library, and discuss the outreach that financial aid staff and ISACorps members can provide to local school districts.

Presenters: *Carrie Warick, Director of Partnerships and Policy, National College Access Network; Maureen Amos, Director of Financial Aid, Northeastern Illinois University and President of the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA); Beth Metzler, Vice President for Programs and Partnerships and STEM Finance Learning Exchange, Econ Illinois; Tracy N. Drechsler, Manager, Higher Education Partnerships American Student Assistance*

Moderator: *Terri VanMeenen-Misfeldt, Financial Aid Advisor Coordinator, Western Illinois University*

11:30-11:40 am – Break

11:40 am-12:40 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 2A: *Forming Partnerships to Build Pathways and Work-Based Learning Opportunities in Peoria*** (South Pavilion 6)

Peoria Pathways to Prosperity is a joint effort between Peoria Public Schools, the Peoria Federation of Teachers, The City of Peoria, Illinois Central College, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, the CEO Council, and the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, working to build career pathways for Peoria Public Schools students and connect them to career development opportunities in Greater Peoria. This session will review the history and structure of the Pathways initiative, and focus on strategies outlined by Pathways, work being done within Peoria Public Schools, use of Career Cruising and implementation of Inspire, recruitment of employers to provide work-based learning opportunities for students, and discussion of barriers, successes, and future directions of the Pathways initiative.

Presenter: *Brent Baker, Peoria Pathways to Prosperity Coordinator*

- **Session 2B: *Finish Up Illinois: Strategic Plan and Guiding Principles for Next Steps*** (South Pavilion 3)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board worked with the Office of Community College Research and Leadership at University of Illinois on an effort we called **Finish Up Illinois**. We pulled together a stakeholder group with two-year and four-year public and private colleges and universities and others to look into ways the state might develop programs to reach adults in Illinois with some credit, but no degree. Key findings from the work, including discussion of most potentially effective models, will be presented.

Presenter: *Daniel Cullen, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 2C: *Regional Solutions to Workforce Readiness*** (South Pavilion 1)

Nearly 70 secondary and post-secondary partners in the Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network collaborate for regional solutions to workforce readiness. Learn about several of the team's products, including regional and local data reports on current workforce needs, emerging and fast-growing jobs, high-demand skills, local career pathway documents and more. Future work includes metrics and benchmarks for communities to track progress toward their workforce readiness goals.

Presenters: *Diana Robinson, Director, Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University; Edith Njuguna, Director of Policy and Programs, Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University; Joanne Kantner, Dean of Adult Education and Transition Programs, Kishwaukee College; James Carlson, Superintendent, Seneca Township High School District #160*

Moderator: *Amy Jo Clemens, Senior Research Associate, P-20 Center for Engagement at Northern Illinois University*

- **Session 2D: *Learn More, Earn More with Key Illinois Career Tools*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Greek philosopher Diogenes Laertius said "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth." Are we educating our youth so they become thoughtful adults with meaningful careers that help sustain our economy? Learn how to help our youth navigate the career development arena and select current and future in-demand jobs using tools from the *Illinois Career Information System* and *Illinois workNet*. This session will focus on how youth can use job specific data to find in-demand careers and the steps they need to take NOW to prepare for college, career and successful employment.

Presenters: *Troy McMillan, Career and Labor Market Outreach Specialist, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Chelsea Jones, Web Portal Site Content Specialist, Southern Illinois University Carbondale/Illinois workNet*

- **Session 2E: *Student Voice in College Persistence*** (South Pavilion 5)

Youth will present work from Chicago Public Schools student perspective on the successful and challenging resources available to contribute to college persistence and success. Facilitators will share anecdotal data from current high school and first/second year college students to highlight the supports needed to create effective and successful postsecondary plans. The audience will engage with presenters on the varying nuances in student experiences that contribute to the need for diverse resources.

Presenters: *Juan Rodriguez, Student Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge; Unique Boyd, Student Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge; Emily Soriano, Student Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge; Viviana Lima, Student Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge*

- **Session 2F: *High School, to College, to Industry: Educating Throughout the Professional Life Span*** (Bremen Room)

Community colleges are charged with supporting the student through secondary offerings, through formative college years, and through their professional life. In 2016, Waubensee Community College's Emergency Medical Technician program was awarded the national Excellence in Action Award by CTEAdvance. The partnerships that have been developed through employer engagement and lessons learned about what works to meet student needs throughout their lifespan will be discussed.

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

- **Session 2G: *The Illinois Longitudinal Data System: What is it? What's been accomplished? How can it support college access and completion?*** (South Pavilion 2)

This session will provide a general overview of recent progress on the establishment of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS), including an update on technical architecture development, governance activities, and creation of various end-user reports. The session will also include an interactive discussion with participants on ILDS priorities that address their needs including data related to successful transition of students from high school to college, and community college to four-year universities; career pathways metrics, and reaching the 60% by 2025 goal.

Presenters: *Elliot Regenstein, Illinois Longitudinal Data System Governing Board Chair; Jonathan Furr, Executive Director, Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University*

- **Session 2H: *Strategies for Early Awareness of College Opportunities*** (South Pavilion 4)

Early awareness programs set expectations for middle school students that college is financially possible, encourage them to pursue a college prep curriculum in high school, and enroll in college. This session will feature three different approaches to early awareness programs from around the Midwest. Youth Leadership Academy in Elgin, IL, works with students beginning in the 6th grade, who attend a leadership institute two Saturdays a month throughout middle and high school. A YLA student will join this workshop. I Know I Can in Columbus, OH, uses the College:BluePrint curriculum with middle school students and their families in after school sessions. The Baldwin Promise, of Michigan, has transformed the college going culture of their community by reaching out about their scholarship to students starting in middle school. Attendees will learn how to implement these various approaches to early awareness as well as a brief overview of the research on early awareness nationwide.

Presenters: *Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, Executive Director, Youth Leadership Academy; Ayana Richardson, Executive Director, Baldwin Promise; Blossom Barrett, Grants Specialist, I Know I Can*

Moderator: *Carrie Warick, Director of Partnerships and Policy, National College Access Network*

12:45-2 pm – Lunch Buffet & Program (Exhibit South)

- College Changes Everything Champion Award Presentation

2-2:15 pm – Break

2:15-3:15 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 3A: *Engaging Employers & Students through Career Expos*** (South Pavilion 6)

Rather than having a booth at an expo to recruit customers, more and more companies are attending expos where they can interact with youth to talk about their industry, get the kids interested in a career field, then talk about the high school classes needed and which higher education schools offer related degrees and certificates. Career expos engage both students and employers through meaningful connections.

Presenters: *Devan Gagliardo, Program Director, Community Foundation of Grundy County; Bridget French, Executive Director, Alignment Rockford*

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

- **Session 3B: *Using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds to Support Degrees and Credential Attainment*** (South Pavilion 1)

Using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds to Support Degrees and Credential Attainment - This session will focus on the ways WIOA funds can support college and career readiness for low-income/skilled adults, those unemployed and disconnected youth. Additionally, this workshop will demonstrate how to leverage WIOA funds with PELL Grants, and other funding sources, to provide special populations with the opportunity to attend post-secondary/higher education, return to college for those unemployed, or as appropriate receive remediation as part of contextualized program.

Presenter: *Julio Rodriguez, Deputy Director – Office of Employment and Training, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*

- **Session 3C: *Financial Barriers Facing First Generation College Students*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

Beyond filing the FAFSA and simple loan counseling, this session explores the financial realities and knowledge gaps affecting first generation college students as they navigate the complex investment of higher education. Recent research, promising practices, and easily implemented interventions and student supports will be presented for discussion.

Presenters: *Jacqueline Moreno, Managing Director, College Access Initiatives, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Joanne Dashiell, Manager, Professional Services, American Student Assistance*

- **Session 3D: *Engaging Afterschool Programs to Support College and Career Readiness*** (South Pavilion 4)

Students in afterschool programs across Illinois are engaging in service learning experiences, mentoring partnerships, experiments, and civics exercises that help them to explore new subjects and invest them in attending college and pursuing their career goals. Afterschool programs play an integral role in supporting college and career readiness for all students. This workshop will discuss the data that shows the important link between afterschool and college preparedness, provide next steps on how to build these partnerships, and discuss the qualities of successful afterschool programs.

Presenters: *Shallie Pittman, Youth Development Associate, ACT Now; Susan Stanton, Network Lead, ACT Now*

Moderator: *Susan Stanton, Network Lead, ACT Now*

- **Session 3E: *Mentoring for College Success and Career Readiness*** (South Pavilion 2)

Mentoring is a powerful tool to support college and career success for first-generational college students. Interested in starting your own mentoring program or learning more about mentoring? Come hear from 3 different organizations serving Chicago youth on how they use mentoring to support high school and college students in developing college aspirations, persisting and graduating from college, and being career ready. We will cover topics such as how we each recruit and train mentors, how mentors work with our students, and the powerful outcomes we have seen from this type of intervention.

Presenters: *Brenan Smith-Evans, iMentor, Deputy Director; Brian Socall, Director of College to Careers, Chicago Scholars; Samantha Robinson, Illinois Senior Program Coordinator, America Needs You*

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

- **Session 3F: *Playbooks for College and Career Readiness*** (South Pavilion 3)

In this joint session, LINK Unlimited Scholars and Big Shoulders Fund outline student-centered approaches to college and career readiness. LINK offers a blueprint of best practices in helping African-American high school students navigate the complex college and career selection process. Big Shoulders details its comprehensive programming to support 9th-12th grade students, college counselors, and school administrators. Both organizations provide insight into the supports and resources necessary to improve the student experience preparing for college and career.

Presenters: *Danielle Tubbs, Assistant Director, Academic Programs and College Access, Big Shoulders Fund; Tom Zbierski, Senior Director, Scholarship Programs and School Relations, Big Shoulders Fund; Jawann Pollard, College Access Program Manager, LINK Unlimited Scholars*

Moderator: *Rebecca Lindsay-Ryan, Senior Director, Academic Programs and External Affairs, Big Shoulders Fund*

- **Session 3G: *To&Through in Action: Case Studies on How Chicago Schools Are Using Data to Boost Students to and through College*** (Bremen Room)

The To&Through Project empowers educators, policymakers, and families with the research, data, and training they need to move more students to and through high school and college. Learn from practitioners how Chicago high schools are using To&Through research and data to drive significant improvement in the district's high school graduation and college enrollment rates, transforming college from what is possible to what is probable.

Presenters: *Augustine Emuwa, Assistant Principal, Sullivan High School; Eugene Robinson, College and Career Specialist, Chicago Public Schools; Lauren Shepherd, Manager of College Completion Initiatives, Thrive Chicago*

Moderator: *Jenny Nagaoka, Deputy Director, UChicago Consortium on School Research*

- **Session 3H: *A Walk in Their Shoes: One Size Does Not Fit All*** (South Pavilion 5)

Experience college through stories of a diverse group of 10 adult learners committed to earning a college degree. Shared through common threads connecting their interviews, this presentation offers a rare glimpse into the importance students placed on successful transitions, early successes, acceptance on campus, and developing student identity. Session attendees will learn the single common denominator of student persistence that emerged from this study and implications for higher education administrators, faculty, and staff.

Presenter: *Dr. Deborah Barnett, Assistant Dean of Students, Southern Illinois University*

3:15-3:25 pm – Break

3:25-4:25 pm – Interest Sessions

- **Session 4A: *Best Practices in Collaborating with Industry Professionals: “You can’t be all things to all people.”*** (South Pavilion 4)

This session will be a review of best practices on how to collaborate, engage, and program with industry professionals, CBOs, and higher education institutions. The session will focus on how we best serve our population of low income underserved students of color. We will provide examples of how Genesys Works Chicago and Bottom Line have leveraged our partnerships with industry professionals, college and university personnel, and other CBOs to best prepare our college students for the workforce.

Presenters: *Melinda McIntire, Director of Alumni Services, Genesys Works Chicago; Julia Logan, Alumni Coordinator, Genesys Works Chicago; Hannah Lee, Senior Success Counselor , Bottom Line*

- **Session 4B: *Leveraging Workforce Credentials as Pathways to Degrees*** (South Pavilion 5)

Learn about strategies for engaging faculty, agency personnel, and credentialing advocates to embed industry-recognized credentials in degree programs. Find out how workforce data, implementation surveys, and program assessments were used to inform a technical assistance project for institutions of higher education. This session will also highlight an Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) study of two- and four-year institutional partnerships to create flexible pathways for degree and credential attainment. Promising practices will be highlighted.

Presenters: *Stephanie Bernoteit, Ed.D., NBCT, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Nancy Latham, Ph.D., Professor Early Childhood Education, School of Teaching & Learning, Illinois State University; Brenda Klostermann, PhD, Associate Director & Assistant Research Professor, Illinois Education Research Council, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville*

Moderator: *Stephanie Bernoteit, Ed.D., NBCT, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 4C: *Holistic Approaches: Models for Engaging Parents and Families for School and Community Improvements*** (South Pavilion 1)

During this session you'll hear from parents and practitioners who are working to make improvements to education through engagement and community organizing. Topics discussed will include: parent engagement (listening to needs of our families, helping parents set goals, creating plans, and taking action on the issues affecting their lives); the FAMLEE Engagement Model (a framework created for developing comprehensive partnerships geared towards student, family, and community success outcomes); alternative methods for educating students; and re-engaging other family members in the educational process to increase the likelihood of success for students. In addition, the FAMLEE model presents opportunities for family members to re-establish and work towards their own educational goals.

Presenters: *Brian Johnson, Project Counselor, Project SUCCESS, Chicago State University; Sydnie Monegan, Project Counselor, Project SUCCESS, Chicago State University; Dr. Nayshon Roseborough, Director, Project SUCCESS, Chicago State University; Laura Rios, Program Manager, Waukegan to College (W2C); Teresita Correa, President of Waukegan to College Parent Leaders' Team and Chairperson of its Community Service Committee; Martha Padilla, Member of Waukegan to College Board of Directors and Community Organizing Core Team and Resource Development Committee*

Moderator: *Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, ACT Now Coalition*

- **Session 4D: *Ready, Set, Enroll!*** (Bremen Room)

Initiating the conversation about post-secondary education with prospective first generation college students is crucial in ensuring successful college enrollment. Transitioning from high school to college can be overwhelming to students as they face a daunting application process. The prospect of making important financial decisions and adapting to a new learning environment is particularly exciting, yet intimidating, for families going through this process for the first time. As Corps Members from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, we understand many of the challenges these students face. We look forward to providing our audience with sound strategies and advice to successfully mentor and assist students in the future.

Presenters: *Jaime Camargo, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Manuel Talavera, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 4E: *High Impact Practices for Improving Retention & Success: Assessment & Focus Groups, Conference Style Programming and Motivational Interviewing*** (South Pavilion 2)

This panel discussion will introduce participants to ways that give students voice and how campuses can implement practices to support students in addressing challenges that interfere with their success. Outcomes can be improved with the use of assessments and best practices for implementing focus groups to determine the needs of students for campuses to accommodate, as well as the planning of conferences focused on topics leading to improving retention and academic success and the use of the conversation approach of motivational interviewing to support behavior change. The session will be interactive with brief presentations on each approach and participants will be provided with resources to find out more about each.

Presenters: *Richard Rutschman, Sr. Program Manager - Professional Development Facilitator, Center for College Access & Success, Northeastern Illinois University; Jacqueline Strapp, Student Success & Retention Coordinator, Kishwaukee College; Joe Bright, TRIO Tutoring and Career Advisor, TRIO Student Support Services, Sauk Valley Community College; Tedra Mewhirter, TRIO Transfer Advisor, TRIO Student Support Services, Sauk Valley Community College*

- **Session 4F: *A Roadmap Through Community College Transitions*** (South Pavilion 3)

This session covers the transitions into, through, and out of community colleges, where missteps often send students astray. We cover how high schools can better prepare students for college, common blind spots and misconceptions about college pathways, identity-development supports to increase completion, and transitioning smoothly from college into careers. The audience will learn effective strategies for college structure, advising, and career services, as well as ways that colleges and employers can work together effectively.

Presenters: *James Rosenbaum, Professor of Education Policy and Sociology, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University; Chenny Ng, Education Policy Researcher, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University; Jiffy Lansing, Researcher / Doctoral student, Human Development and Social Policy, Chapin Hall/Northwestern University; Claudia Zapata-Gietl, Doctoral student, Human Development and Social Policy*

Moderator: *James Rosenbaum, Organization: Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University*

- **Session 4G: *Moving the Conversation from Access to Success: Creating a College Success Formula*** (Samuel Tinley Room)

This workshop will highlight research that illustrates some of the barriers to college success for African-American students, and will illustrate how LINK Unlimited Scholars utilized the Gallup-Purdue Index to inform the support programming offered to our collegiate scholars. The session will encourage brainstorming and peer exchange surrounding college success work being done in other organizations. The tangible outcome of this workshop will be a framework by which attendees can build their own college success formula.

Presenters: *Alpachino Hogue, Director of Educational Programs, LINK Unlimited Scholars; Khair Sadrud-Din, College Success Program Manager, LINK Unlimited Scholars*

Moderator: *Jawann Pollard, College Access Program Manager, LINK Unlimited Scholars*

- **Session 4H: *Social and Emotional Strategies to Support Student College Persistence and Success Through Graduation*** (South Pavilion 6)

For many first generation college students, the mere idea of college can be a barrier to the admissions process, completing graduation requirements, or ending high school strongly. Research

has shown that a “college-going” mindset should begin as early as elementary school; this session will therefore focus on parent resources and strategies, student attitudes, belief systems and the social emotional barriers that may positively or negatively impact academic and college success. The session will explore student feelings around leaving home and cultivating a new life at college. It will also offer strategies to addressing the social emotional needs of students, including relationship-based models, in helping them to persist and graduate.

Presenters: *Dr. Sharon Y. Alexander, Principal, Bednarcik Junior HS; Cindy Degand, Curriculum and Instruction Team, Umoja Student Development Corporation; Dominique Davis, Director of College Success, Chicago Scholars; Sonjanita L. Moore Ed.S,M.Ed, NBCT, SEL Specialist, Umoja Student Development Corporation*

4:30 pm – Conference Adjourns

**Thank you for participating and helping Illinois reach Goal 2025:
*to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with
high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025***

