

**2019  
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING®  
CONFERENCE**

**July 18, 2019**

**Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois**



## **Conference Agenda**

**8:00 am – Registration Check-In Opens** (South Entry)

**8:00-8:30 am – Continental Breakfast** (Exhibit South)

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

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- **Keynote – Changing the Odds: Pathways to Young Adult Success**
  - *Merita Irby, Managing Partner, Big Picture Approach Training & Consulting and Co-Founder and Executive Vice President, The Forum for Youth Investment*
- **Flash Talk – Illinois Equity in Attainment Initiative**
  - *Lisa Castillo Richmond, Managing Director, Partnership for College Completion*
  - *Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, President, Chicago State University*

**10:15-10:35 am – Break**

**10:35-11:25 am – Interest Sessions**

**11:25-11:40 am – Break**

**11:40 am - 12:30 pm – Interest Sessions**

## 12:30-2:15 pm – Lunch Buffet & Program (Exhibit South)

- **Student Panel – *Beating the Odds: The Experience of Youth in Care Transitioning to College***
  - *Moderator, Bridget Wesley, Associate Director, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago*
  - *Latavhia Boykins, Student, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign*
  - *Brandon Mendoza, Student, Wright College–City Colleges of Chicago*
  - *Delores Stallworth, Student, Dental Hygiene Program*
  - *Darrion Thompson, Recruit, US Army*
- **College Changes Everything Champion Award Presentation**
- **ISACorps 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition**

## 2:15-2:30pm – Break

## 2:30-3:20 pm – Interest Sessions

## 3:20-3:30 pm – Break

## 3:30-4:20 pm – Interest Sessions

## 4:20 pm – Adjourn

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# Interest Sessions

**Round 1 – 10:35-11:25 am**

- **Session 1A: *Official Practices vs. Developmental Practices***

How does the latest in the Science of Learning and Development help us step back and take a look at how we do business? In this interactive session we will explore ways to engage in cross-system conversations about “developmental practices” and the extent to which staff working directly with young people feel supported in (or constrained from) using them in their day-to-day work.

**Presenter:** *Merita Irby, Managing Partner, Big Picture Approach Training & Consulting and Co-Founder and Executive Vice President, The Forum for Youth Investment*

- **Session 1B: *Building a Collective Data Muscle: A Practical Workshop for Using Data to Inform Collaborative Work*** (South Pavilion 4)

This workshop will provide tools to both figure out what data can help answer questions practitioners have about their community or work, and what to do with the information once they obtain it. Attendees will learn about data resources available to them and practice using easy-to-use data protocols that can inform their efforts.

**Presenters:** *Emily Rusca, Director of State Policy & Strategy, Education Systems Center at NIU; Melissa Figueira, Senior Policy Associate, Advance Illinois; Ashyra Haynesworth, Policy & Program Fellow, Education Systems Center at NIU; Helen Zhang, Policy Associate, Advance Illinois*

- **Session 1C: *Using State Policy to Drive a Uniformed Framework for College and Career Readiness*** (South Pavilion 5)

Within Illinois, the state education agencies have adopted a uniformed Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) framework to align and structure the college and career readiness work being done by the agencies. The framework outlines career, postsecondary, and financial literacy benchmarks for students by grade level. Since adopting this shared framework, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has begun helping schools through the process of creating and implementing their own PaCE frameworks. This presentation will cover the process ISAC uses to help schools with the creation of their own customized framework, as well as the 3-step process for assisting schools with the implementation of their framework.

**Presenters:** *Sara Espinosa, Manager, Outreach and Professional Development, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Kalene Heaton, Professional Development Specialist, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 1D: *Expanding Educational and Employment Outcomes with Illinois College 2 Career*** (South Pavilion 6)

For the first time Illinois educators, students, and parents have access to information that shows educational and employment outcomes for graduates from more than 100 two- or four-year Illinois colleges. These results come from real-time successes of a college's graduates including degree attainment, financial impact, job stability, career earnings, and earnings growth after graduation. Learn how to access this information using a smart phone or computer and what it means for student success and prosperity if they stay in Illinois.

**Presenters:** *Troy McMillan, Career Systems/Labor Market Outreach Specialist, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Ewa Gallagher, Workforce Outcomes Manager, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

- **Session 1E: *Bridging the Gap: Education, Hunger, and Homelessness*** (Bremen Room)

This session will provide a landscape view of hunger and homelessness issues students face in pursuing their education goals and how these issues affect their education journey. Attend this session to learn how to best support very-low income students and families dealing with food and housing instability and the resources available to help them, including connecting students to public benefits, partnering with local public housing authorities, and other practical tips.

**Presenters:** *Beth Malik, Associate Director- Law Project, Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Ashley Thompson, Education Navigator, Chicago Housing Authority; Grant Vitale, Education Navigator, Chicago Housing Authority; and Ashley Ryan, Education Navigator, Chicago Housing Authority*

- **Session 1F: *Supporting Our State's Immigrant Populations*** (North Pavilion 1)

Given the current climate being faced by our immigrant students, this session will provide information on resources available to them and their families. Participants will walk away with a better understanding on how they can actively support the educational success of our immigrant students.

**Presenters:** *Luis Narvaez, Project Director, Chicago Public School; Laura Mendoza, Immigration Organizer, The Resurrection Project*

**Moderator:** *Tanya Cabrera, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Inclusion, University of Illinois at Chicago*

- **Session 1G: *The Teacher Shortage: Opportunities for Students and Communities*** (North Pavilion 2)

The Illinois teacher shortage is acute in some regions of the state and some subject areas and growing. As a result, many Illinois students do not have access to the teachers they need to prepare them for college and career. To address this challenge, counselors can utilize helpful workforce information and guide students to promising careers in teaching and communities can build pathways into the teaching profession.

**Presenter:** *Jim O'Connor, Project Director, Advance Illinois*

- **Session 1H: *Reducing Remediation: Opening College Access and Accelerating College Success*** (North Pavilion 3)

In Illinois, too many students are placed in developmental education and too few of those students make it to graduation. The solution: To look at more than just a single test to identify students who really need remediation and to establish evidence-based course structures that help move students to graduation. This session will share tools to help institutions implement new placement measures and co-requisite support models.

**Presenters:** *Sarah Labadie, Associate Director of Policy, Women Employed; Emily Goldman, Policy Manager, Partnership for College Completion; Adriane Hutchinson, Dean of Academic Development, McHenry County College; Lisa Crizer, English Faculty, McHenry County College; Laura Middaugh, Math Faculty, McHenry County College; Heidi Boring, Math Faculty, McHenry County College*

- **Session 1I: *Leveraging Partnerships to Empower First Generation and Low-Income College Students to Secure a Strong Job After Graduation*** (North Pavilion 6)

This session makes the case for how educational institutions, corporations, and nonprofit organizations can draw on each other's resources and expertise to support the college-to-career transition, specifically for first generation and low-income college students. Institutions of higher education are positioned to support career development by developing institution-wide career milestones. Employer partners provide industry expertise and are positioned to get students job-ready, including the reframing of volunteerism as learning and development and tapping into corporate social responsibility. Nonprofit organizations bring programmatic expertise and offer unique opportunities to engage students in authentic learning experiences. Session attendees will be equipped with tangible tactics to access existing experts and resources that provide students with the skills, confidence, networks, and experiences that result in strong first jobs.

**Presenters:** *Marthe Leach, Program Manager, Braven; Dr. Natasha Kohl, Manager of Career Development, National Louis University; Melissa Platt, Braven Leadership Coach & Commercial Banking Training Specialist, CIBC*

**Break – 11:25-11:40 am**

- **Session 2A: *The FAFSA Does Not Go to College*** (South Pavilion 3)

Completing the FAFSA is a major milestone on a student's path towards postsecondary education. A lot of attention (deservedly) has gone towards FAFSA completion campaigns in recent years. There is, however, a tendency to forget that not only is there more along the path after the FAFSA, but each student's path will undoubtedly be different. This session aims to explore the idea that submitting the FAFSA does not necessarily equal college readiness. After examining this topic through the diffusion principle of forced adoption vs optional adoption, attendees will leave with a framework on how to analyze their own communities and come up with a plan on how to address this with their student population.

**Presenter:** *Jacqueline Moreno, Managing Director, College Access Initiatives, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 2B: *School Counselor Competencies for Postsecondary Access Counseling*** (South Pavilion 4)

This session will present the work of the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance (CWFA) and the Post-Secondary Counseling Working Group to develop a set of skills and competencies that are essential for school counselors to demonstrate to effectively help students move from high school to a post-secondary career or school option. The skills and competencies include what counselors know ("knowledge and skills"), what they do ("habits and practices") and what they believe ("beliefs and mindsets").

**Presenters:** *Alexandra Novakovic, Associate Professor, DePaul University; Melissa Ockerman, Associate Professor, DePaul University; Matt Liberatore, Director of Professional Learning & Student Services, District Director of AVID, High School District 214*

- **Session 2C: *Career Outcomes for Illinois High School Seniors: Building an Information Pipeline*** (South Pavilion 6)

Information is now available on high school seniors based on student demographics, academic performance, institution characteristics, post-secondary learning pathways, and career outcomes. Session participants will present three different products for the delivery of career information on Illinois High School seniors: a smartphone-enabled web-based portal for students/parents; a data-analytic platform for institutional researchers; and, a dashboard for local school administrators. The information contained in each of these product environments is crafted to the needs of the specific stakeholder group.

**Presenters:** *Ewa Gallagher, Economist, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Erin Mitchell, Data Scientist, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Patrick Payne, Director of Data Strategies and Analytics, Illinois State Board of Education*

**Moderator:** *George Putnam, Acting Director Labor Market Information, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

- **Session 2D: *On Their Own? Foster Youth Transitioning into College*** (South Pavilion 5)

This session highlights the experience of students who recently transitioned into college. As foster youth, navigating the transition is complicated by confronting a new level of independence without the same 'safety net' of family and resources that other students

might receive. Attendees will learn about the obstacles and joys of the experience, and how they, as college personnel, agency staff and non-profit providers, can best support their students and clients in similar situations.

**Presenters:** *Latavhia Boykins, Student, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign; Brandon Mendoza, Student, Wright College–City Colleges of Chicago; Delores Stallworth, Student, Dental Hygiene Program; Darrion Thompson, Recruit, US Army*

**Moderator:** *Bridget Wesley, Associate Director, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago*

- **Session 2E: *Addressing Barriers to Program Implementation: A Tool for Community Reflection*** (Bremen Room)

This session will share a new tool for community collaboration that helps stakeholders identify and address barriers to program implementation. Using examples from communities around the country, participants will learn how to use each step in the tool. Session participants will have the opportunity to work through each step and think about applications for their own work. This is a useful tool for communities and organizations working on initiatives to support student success and other ways to support Illinois' goal to increase the proportion of Illinois adults with high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025.

**Presenter:** *Tara Smith, Senior Program Manager, Jobs for the Future (JFF)*

- **Session 2F: *What Predicts Early College Success?*** (North Pavilion 1)

Indiana has taken multiple steps to promote success among high school graduates during their early college years. In this study, REL Midwest examined the early college success of Indiana high school graduates who entered Indiana public colleges, identify measures that predict early college success, and examine the role of financial aid in students' early college success. The findings from this study have helped state agencies better support the college and career readiness of Indiana youth.

**Presenter:** *Elizabeth Davis, Senior Researcher, REL Midwest*

- **Session 2G: *Pathways to a Brighter Future: Narratives and Stories of Latinx Student Perception at Community Colleges*** (North Pavilion 2)

This workshop explores the narratives of Latinx students who successfully complete associate's degrees in community colleges. An analysis of nine Latino students' college experience was examined to determine the types of barriers that were evident. Takeaways: understand the barriers which Latinx students faced at a community college; learn how to provide a culturally-sensitive support system for students and their family; dismantle deficit thinking by highlighting the voices and experience of successful Latinx students; and identify new partners and develop a system of support to help Latinx students to reach their higher education goals.

**Presenter:** *Dr. Myra Gaytan-Morales, Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Programs, University of Lake County*

**Moderator:** *Rodolfo Ruiz-Velsco, Multicultural Student Access and Success Coordinator, College of Lake County*

- **Session 2H: *Cultivating Partnerships to Change Lives: Creating Successful Academic Resource Programs for Diverse TRIO Students*** (North Pavilion 3)

This session will describe strategies utilized by TRIO programs to develop programmatic efficacy by building and sustaining meaningful partnerships that provide important resources to students. These TRIO programs work with institutions of higher education, community organizations, Fortune 500 companies and business consultants to provide a holistic array of college and career readiness opportunities. The strategies discussed during this session are adaptable, and effective to assist our diverse students in reaching academic success.

**Presenters:** Mercedes Terrazas, Student Support Services Specialist, Project Achieve / TRIO Student Support Services, Joliet Junior College; Miguel Millett, TRIO Director, Educational Talent Search, Kennedy King College

- **Session 2I: *Leveraging Community Based Partners to support Career Readiness*** (North Pavilion 6)

In this session, participants will learn about how community based partners foster career readiness at all ages and will learn how to find these partners using the ACT Now Afterschool Map and Database. Participants will workshop strategies for leveraging these partners to support their organizations' goals.

**Presenters:** Susan Stanton, Network Lead, ACT Now; Faith Knocke, Youth Development Associate, ACT Now; Emma Vibber, ACT Now Quality and PD Specialist; ACT Now; Ashal Yai, ACT Now Intern, ACT Now; Sarah Gregg, ACT Now Intern, ACT Now

#### Lunch Program and Break – 12:30-2:30 pm

#### Round 3 – 2:30-3:20 pm

- **Session 3A: *Storytelling through Data: Engaging Stakeholders & Improving Data Literacy*** (South Pavilion 3)

While the contexts, inputs, resources, and activities may vary for various stakeholders, our ultimate goal is the same – advocating for students and improving their educational and vocational opportunities and outcomes. Effecting sustained change in economically and otherwise marginalized communities requires the efficient use of data. Strategically leveraging data can provide grantees opportunities to: (1) promote team-based strategic planning, data literacy, and stakeholder engagement; (2) maximize your ability to be responsive to students' needs, and; (3) provide policymakers and key stakeholders empirically-driven results around successes of promising and proven practices.

**Presenter:** Dr. Shawn Bergman, Director of Research, Vela Institute

- **Session 3B: *Building a Program While Flying It: Creating a College and Career Coordinator Position - Year One*** (South Pavilion 4)

Learn about the first year successes and failures of Meridian CUSD #223 as it formulated, developed, implemented the new position of a College and Career Coordinator and created a College and Career Center within Stillman Valley High School. We will discuss the multi-stakeholders initiative of students, parents, board members, administrators, counselors, and teachers who began to re-imagine how to best help our students transition to the post-secondary world. We will discuss the assigning of resources, the creation of an evaluation tool, CTE education, dual credit, AP courses, credit recovery, PSAT, SAT AP, ASVAB testing, career field trips, creating a modified

PaCE framework, developing senior exit plans, and collaborating with local universities, manufacturers, and employers to create a post-secondary plan.

**Presenters:** *Edward Liegl, College and Career Coordinator, Meridian CUSD #223; Leslie Showers, High School Principal, Stillman Valley High School*

- **Session 3C: *Developing a Mentoring Program for College and Career Success*** (South Pavilion 5)

This session will provide three perspectives on the power of mentorship and how to productively run a mentoring program. From recruiting high-quality, committed volunteers, to training them effectively, and keeping them engaged and sustained. Attend this session to learn how to best recruit, train, and engage volunteers to support students as they access, persist, and graduate from college.

**Presenters:** *Kate Danielson, Executive Director, Foster Progress; Jasmine Young Paulhill, Program Manager, Foster Progress; Richard Porter, National Director of Post-Secondary Success, iMentor; Aleya Jones, Illinois Program Coordinator, America Needs You*

- **Session 3D: *Middle School Career Exploration Efforts*** (South Pavilion 6)

How can we provide ways to better prepare kids earlier for their lives after high school? Illinois Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is supporting students, starting in middle school, to explore careers and provide them with important skills and behaviors that can help them make successful transitions to life after high school. This session will provide information on what Illinois GEAR UP is doing to support their students explore careers and initiatives occurring in middle schools.

**Presenter:** *Kim Korando, Illinois GEAR UP, Illinois Student Assistance Commission*

- **Session 3E: *The Role of Data in Targeted School Improvement*** (Bremen Room)

This presentation will focus on how to effectively use the vast amounts of data to drive targeted school improvement. As a school counselor, curriculum and academic advisement requires counselors to understand how the data applies to individual students, as well as the whole school community. This presentation will show how one school uses data to drive its targeted school improvement and how the process can be duplicated.

**Presenter:** *Kristin Wilson, Counselor, Fieldcrest High School*

- **Session 3F: *Perkins & Retention: A Dynamic Duo for CTE Student Success*** (North Pavilion 1)

A two-year case study on Perkins Post-Secondary Title I Funds supporting the pilot role of Career and Technical Education Retention Specialist intended to improve student outcomes and drive student success by providing retention services and transitional support to students in selected academic programs. Topics include: Perkins Grant elements, activities, resources, PIP and expected outcomes, CTE Retention goals, methods, impact and future projects. Take away: Retention and student success initiatives through use of Perkins Title I Funds and key elements contributing to the success of CTE Retention efforts.

**Presenters:** *Belinda Tijerina, CTE Retention Specialist - Technology, College of DuPage; Amy Tarter, CTE Retention Specialist - Business, College of DuPage*

- **Session 3G: *Supporting Student Learning through Faculty Coaching*** (North Pavilion 2)

Instructional coaches from National Louis University's Undergraduate College (UGC) will share insights from developing a faculty coaching model that supports instruction for all students. Participants will learn about the history of UGC, its commitment to college access and career pathways, the classroom visit and debrief model, and how insights gained from this process drive faculty professional development. Learn how we are creating a model that develops responsive instructors who engage a wide range of learners.

**Presenters:** *Lydia Mantis, Instructional Support Leader, National Louis University - Undergraduate College (formerly Pathways); Phuong Thai-Garcia, Instructional Support Leader, National Louis University - Undergraduate College (formerly Pathways)*

- **Session 3H: *How Rehabilitation Services Helps Students with Disabilities Transition to College and Work*** (North Pavilion 3)

The Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services is a state agency that has been providing resources for students and adults to receive counseling and guidance, attend college, participate in vocational training and receive job placement and job retention services for over 50 years. Known as a best kept secret, it is time to share what we do to assist people with a wide range of disabilities to find and keep jobs

**Presenter:** *Kim Pieczynski, Manager, Quality Assurance, Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services*

- **Session 3I: *Understanding the Value of Work-study Programs Through the Parent, Employer and Student Lens***. (North Pavilion 6)

This session will take a close look at the qualitative and quantitative data gathered from participating high school seniors, parents and employers who participate in Fulton, IL High School's work-study program. The session will further explore the value each stakeholder reported and discuss why high schools should offer this type of program for high school students.

**Presenter:** *Robert Gosch, Principal, Fulton High School, River Bend CUSD 2*

**Break – 3:20-3:30 pm**

**Round 4 – 3:30-4:20 pm**

- **Session 4A: *Combating Community Barriers through Higher Education*** (South Pavilion 3)

The goal of this session is to identify some of the top issues in Chicago plaguing students at Kennedy King College and students attending other institutions throughout Illinois. We will identify best practices and advising techniques for working with students facing barriers as a result of these identified issues. This session will highlight key conversation components and resources utilized to help students at City Colleges of Chicago persist.

**Presenters:** *Brianna Dark-McClay, Academic Advisor, City College of Chicago, Kennedy King College; Tunisha Potter, Academic Advisor, City Colleges of Chicago, Kennedy King College*

**Moderator:** *Dr. Zalika Landrum, Associate Dean of Student Services, City College of Chicago, Kennedy King College*

- **Session 4B: *Making It: Latino Students' Pathway to College*** (South Pavilion 4)

This session will feature the screening of a 30-minute documentary produced by REL Midwest on evidence-based practices to support Latino students on their pathways to postsecondary education. The program discusses instructional practices teachers can use to support Latino students in high school and strategies and approaches to encourage Latino student success in college. The program also features stories from students, families, and educators at Cesar Chavez High School in Detroit and Migrant Student Services at Michigan State University. Following the screening, REL Midwest will facilitate a discussion with session participants regarding the content of the program and applications to their own work.

**Presenter:** *Emily Loney, Researcher, REL Midwest*

- **Session 4C: *Future Ready Students: Utilizing a Comprehensive Counseling Program to Build College & Career Readiness*** (South Pavilion 5)

A comprehensive counseling program can transform how students approach school and prepare for postsecondary success. Follow the journey of one district as they developed a comprehensive counseling program that fostered family partnerships, created course pathways and built student college & career readiness. In this interactive session, participants will learn the process that Naperville #203 utilized to develop a college & career focused 6-12th grade counseling curriculum; embedding concepts from the Illinois PWR-Act.

**Presenters:** *Jill Hlavacek, Director of Innovation & Learning, Naperville Community Unit School District 203; Lisa Xagas, Director of Student Services, Naperville Community Unit School District 203*

- **Session 4D: *Strategic Career Planning*** (South Pavilion 6)

Learn about a set of free tools where students and staff use a strategic approach to develop and implement a career plan. Staff and students can use the communication features to provide guidance to help the students reach their goals.

**Presenter:** *Natasha Telger, Integration and Training Coordinator, Illinois workNet*

- **Session 4E: *Mind Mapping Community Connections with the Financial Aid Verification Process*** (Bremen Room)

This interactive session will use Google MindMap to assess methods of collecting financial aid verification documents soon after College Decision Day. Building community connections between the college, high school and family to understand the verification process allows for earlier summer transition, packaging of awards, access to resources and student persistence.

**Presenter:** *Maureen Amos, Executive Director of Financial Aid, Northeastern Illinois University*

- **Session 4F: *IBHE Outreach Efforts within the Illinois Department of Corrections*** (North Pavilion 1)

The Illinois Board of Education has been taking part in several re-entry summit events within the IDOC over the past 4 years. IBHE staff will present on the efforts to work with and educate an often forgotten student base. By providing information regarding

post-secondary educational opportunities in the state, financial aid access and availability, occupational licensure, as well as best practices when choosing a school, the IBHE hopes to impact recidivism rates and provide for greater access to Illinois' educational resources.

**Presenters:** *Adam Campbell, Assistant Director - PBVS Division, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Michelle Shaver, Assistant Director - PBVS Division, Illinois Board of Higher Education*

- **Session 4G: *OER Adoption Strategies*** (North Pavilion 2)

Open Educational Resources (OER) is gaining momentum in higher education. States and institutions are making strides in increasing OER usage. OER provides an opportunity to reduce textbook costs as a financial barrier for students. This session will discuss OER efforts nationally and in the state, institutional strategies for developing OER initiatives, and resources for further exploration.

**Presenter:** *Jeff Newell, Deputy Director for Information Technology, Illinois Community College Board*

- **Session 4H: *Pathways to Completion: Early Advising Meets Early College Credit*** (North Pavilion 3)

This session focuses on the implementation and development of early college credit opportunities that focus on student outcome and persistence. Additionally, this presentation will highlight an early college advising model focused on postsecondary partner engagement alongside the high school counseling model.

**Presenters:** *Matthew Liberatore, Director for Professional Learning and Student Services, High School District; Erin Torrisi, Early College Program Supervisor, High School District 214*

**Adjourn – 4:20 pm**