

Sample List of Sessions Presented at the 2017 NCAN National Conference: *Making Waves for Postsecondary Access and Success*

8 Big Ideas for Student Retention

Increased transparency and a greater focus on outcomes are leading to new strategies aimed at improving student retention and, ultimately, graduation rates. This interactive session will explore eight ideas that are proven to be effective at boosting retention rates. Participants will have the opportunity to share strategies that have worked at their institutions.

A Student Centered Way of Working

Have you wondered how to integrate student and parent input to develop statewide resources for under-served populations? Learn about how we developed a student and parent feedback loop to help inform and direct college access resource through a state-wide College Knowledge Communication Suite for districts and schools to increase awareness of college opportunities and pathways for high school aged students. Materials include monthly one-pagers, e-mails, social media and text messages for 9-12th graders on the topics most frequently requested by students.

Aligning Mission, Programs, and Financial Strategies for Mission Optimization

College Summit and CollegeSpring have both taken steps to restructure their financial models and operations after identifying their most important performance metrics and programmatic components, and have developed sustainable financial models that allow them to scale their impact, including reliance on earned income. At this session attendees will learn about the approaches these two organizations have taken and reflect on and discuss their own successes and challenges in developing programmatic and financial models that will allow them to most effectively and efficiently deliver on their mission.

Beltway Buzz: Where Higher Ed Stands in Washington

Eight months into the 45th presidency, how have college students fared? In this session, the presenter will share timely updates on the work of the Trump Administration and Congress as related to NCAN members' target student populations. Possible topics include: federal student aid, immigration, AmeriCorps and more. Attendees will also hear about NCAN's federal policy priorities and learn how they can become involved advocates, including what advocacy they can do in their hometowns to support pro-student policies in Washington. Questions and examples of local work will be encouraged.

Beyond Diversity: Making Racial Equity Real

In this session, participants will learn/review key concepts on race with a focus on improving educational outcomes for everyone. Participants will learn how to generally apply a structural race lens to their work and begin to understand how they could potentially move their organizations/institutions to center racial equity. The session is presentation-based, with time built in to engage with the material and think about how to plant seeds for deeper racial equity work within their own organizations/institutions.

Beyond Scholarships: How Foundations and Organizations are Rethinking Approaches to Promote Equity

Moving the needle to create equity is no easy task. In order to create measurable change, foundations and other educational organizations must be willing to take risks and try new innovative approaches to support students. In this session, a panel of individuals from foundations and college access organizations will describe current nontraditional scholarship programs and interventions currently implemented across the country. Attendees will learn how these innovative approaches can be applied to promote postsecondary success among traditionally underserved students.

Can't Stop Racism Without Talking About Race

Want to talk about race? But your leadership and/or coworkers aren't there yet?

Come learn about Education Opens Doors' (EOD) story about pushing past the discomfort and getting real about race. In 2014, the National Facing Race conference was hosted in Dallas, challenging EOD to take a hard look at whether we were explicitly dismantling or reinforcing racism in our work. In this session, you will learn about the strengths, challenges, and opportunities in our approach to addressing racial equity and discuss what strategies you can use in your own organization.

Creating a Communications Strategy Boost to FAFSA Completion

Significant changes to the FAFSA this year presented a great opportunity to increase college attendance but only if students knew how and when to complete the FAFSA. This panel will present strategies used by a state aid agency, a traditional CBO, and a CBO specializing in social and digital technology to raise FAFSA awareness and motivate completion. It will include help attendees develop a multi-phase strategy for addressing different points in the financial aid cycle as well as best practices when faced with emergencies like the failure of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool this past spring.

Determining College and Career Readiness to Improve First-year Student Success

Participants will be introduced to a four-part framework for college and career readiness and an instrument that determines student readiness in 42 critical areas derived from 20 years' research on entry-level college courses. Participants will learn how student mastery of key content knowledge, key cognitive strategies, key learning skills and techniques, and key transition knowledge and skill enables more students to do well in the first year and be on track to complete in a timely fashion. The instrument will be demonstrated, and relevant research on its effectiveness presented.

Developing Effective College Access Professionals to Support Students To & Through College

Ensuring students make it to and through college starts with developing college access professionals to be effective in their work and impactful with students. To be successful, college access professionals need high-impact practices, which come from: ongoing professional development and building and cultivating a mentoring culture for professionals. We will discuss best practices to build college access programs and to maximize the staff you have to meet your objectives through professional development and strong mentor relationships.

Effective Practices in Parent Engagement: Working with Families to Support Student Success

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to learn best practices for encouraging and increasing parent participation in college related events and activities at their school/organization. The interactive activities will help participants explore the importance of building a team, planning and implementation strategies, developing communication tools, tracking results, and debriefing/reflecting. Learning Objectives include Become familiar with research related to parent and family engagement, Explore best practices for parent-friendly outreach, logistics, content and assessment, Identify strategies they can implement at their site to encourage and increase parent engagement, Participants will leave

this session with new strategies to increase family engagement, a plan for outreach, logistics, content and assessment to implement at their organizations, a tool to assess current parent engagement strategies, activities that they can replicate with their staff and parents

Encouraging Early FAFSA for Student Choice

The early FAFSA was a game changer for students, families, high schools, and the outreach and financial aid communities. Various campaigns were utilized by student financial aid agencies to promote the October 1 FAFSA and provide financial aid award offers early. Informing families early about financial aid opportunities allow students more time to make college choices. This panel will present the strategies used by state aid agencies to successfully offer early financial aid awards to students.

It IS A Different World: The Role of HBCUs in the Postsecondary Experience

The ACCESS College Foundation and Norfolk State University (NSU) partnered to bring five original cast members of the television show "A Different World" to NSU to discuss the merits of college and the choice of an HBCU. The cast members have created a venture known as the ADW Tour where they are interested in talking to students on campuses across the country -- both HBCU and PWI. There are many adults today who went to college because they saw "someone who looked like them" on a prime-time television show and were inspired to attempt and achieve their own postsecondary education.

Kansas City Scholars: A Strategic, Community-Engaged Postsecondary Initiative

Community engagement for a social purpose is often necessary to obtain meaningful change. The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation led a community-engaged development process for the purpose of planning and implementing a new scholarship and student support program, Kansas City Scholars (KCS). The purpose in designing this program in collaboration with community stakeholders was to create a postsecondary education assistance program that will have widespread community participation, not only during the program's design phase, but in program implementation. We will share the community-engaged approach to planning and implementing a bi-state, region-wide, transformative program.

Naptime to Networking: Connecting College and Career Success K - 16

Equipping students from high-need circumstances with the necessary skills to be career ready and competitive on a global playing field requires strategy and skill. This session will highlight strategies and a 'persistent connections' framework used for more than 10 years to close the equity gap as we journey with our students and families from kindergarten through postsecondary completion. This high energy session, will allow participants to engage in activities that will enhance their work with students from 5 to 25 years of age.

Postsecondary Access and Success for Young Men of Color: The Practitioner's Perspective

How are young men of color distinct from other underrepresented students? What unique approaches work to help them access and complete a postsecondary degree? Come hear representatives from college access and success initiatives around the country offer their expertise and experience.

Putting Analytics-Driven Advising to the Test

Research suggests that students' lack of "college know-how" – the ability to navigate campus complexity, choose a major, or register for the right courses at the right time—is a major barrier to success. Yet, only 34% of institutions require students to meet regularly with advisors, and fewer are equipped with data to inform advising. Come learn how 11 public universities, known as the University Innovation Alliance, are deploying and studying analytics-based advising to diagnose when students are off track, intervene early, and increase success for low-income and first-generation students.

Social Emotional Learning Skills: Using Them to Help Students Succeed

In this interactive workshop, college success professionals will learn more about social emotional learning: what it is, how it can help students, and how to start using it in their programs. Social emotional learning involves the skills necessary to increase awareness of and manage emotions, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. In a school setting, this translates into students who learn: to be more aware of how emotions are guiding their decisions, not to overreact to stressful situations, how to ask for help, and be more effective in challenging situations.

State Policy Change: Two Case Studies to Help you Navigate Your Capitol's Waters

Effecting state policy change can seem like a daunting and intimidating task. Conversely, it is the one of the most important things we can do as college access/success champions to ensure students are not left behind following budget and policy discussions at the state level. This session will start with an inventory quiz for all participants, followed by two case studies of policy change happening in Connecticut. The session will tie strategies from these studies back to the inventory quiz to ensure participants are able to leave with tools that were missing before joining the session.

Supporting Undocumented Students in Accessing and Succeeding in College: Resources and Best Practices

Participants will learn about the distinct needs of undocumented students, promising practices about how to counsel them accordingly, information about the college admissions, financial aid policies, and current legislation that affects them, and strategies of how to pay for college including scholarships and other aid. We will discuss how to maximize college credits via dual and concurrent enrollment, and how the transfer process can benefit undocumented students. We will also highlight specific resources and best student supportive practices for educators in the post-election climate, including the Sanctuary and Safe Zone Movement. Finally, participants will have the opportunity to apply the concepts learned to case studies.

Transition to College: Parents and Students Working Together to Navigate the College Process

Learn about Families In Schools' Transition to College program, a parent engagement curriculum that was designed to help support the transition of low-income and first-generation students as they move from high school to college. This interactive session will focus on FIS' best practices for developing tools and resources for students and their families that encourage college readiness; and will provide participants with a first-hand experience of interactive facilitation techniques and activities from the curriculum.