



Beautiful Harmonies: Blending Faculty, Staff, and Student Voices for Success

University of North Alabama

Florence, Alabama

October 19 and 20, 2023

Schedule Overview:

Thursday, October 19, 2023

3:15-4:00 pm Registration

4:00-4:45 pm Round Table Poster Presentations

- **Developing Intra-institutional Partnerships for a More Holistic Approach towards Student Success** (Alyson Bergner, Wren Aris, Gabriel Paduganan, Victoria Ellis, Disksha Chottani, and Andrea Hunt, University of North Alabama) This presentation focuses on ways to develop intra-institutional partnerships that address how diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice are connected to student success. This presentation describes purposeful recruitment and retention efforts; partnerships with academic units; and collaborations in student affairs for co-curricular experiences and civic engagement.
- **Reflective Practice in the English Classroom** (Meredith Sides, Calhoun Community College) Reflection is a beneficial practice to both students and instructors and is particularly well-suited for English classrooms. Discover some of the research guiding this practice, learn how one instructor weaves reflection throughout her English classes, and leave with some ideas to incorporate into your own classroom!

- Secondary and Post-Secondary Instructors' Perceptions of College Readiness in Gateway English (Haley Nix, Wallace State Community College)
- Can I Do That, Dave? Leveraging AI for Student Success (Anissa Graham, University of North Alabama) The constant chatter about AI and its threats and benefits for students of writing and literature can be overwhelming. This presentation will offer practical suggestions for using AI in your classroom to promote critical thinking and reflection.

5:00-5:45 pm Concurrent Session 1

- Mental Health and the First-Gen Student (Dr. Acquanetta M. Pinkard, Alabama State University) This presentation will explore the rising rates of mental health challenges of students on today's college campuses and what that looks like for first-generation students. Participants will explore the barriers to mental health services for those students who identify as first-generation as well as explore ideas for teaching, coaching, and advising first-generation students who are facing these challenges.
- Will They Tell Their Story? (Leslie Johnson, Purdue Global) How can we connect on a personal level with students if we don't know their story? Are we providing opportunities and encouraging students to tell their story? What are some practical and real ways we can "lend an ear" to students and show them that we truly care?
- The College that Reads Together Succeeds Together (Brianna Dye, Brandi Gindhart, Symmetris Gohanna, Bradley Sides, Calhoun Community College) A campus-wide reading initiative helped shape a positive, community-building focused culture at Calhoun Community College. In "The College That Reads Together Succeeds Together," members of the Common Read committee will discuss the program and its accomplishments so that other institutions can read and succeed together.

6:00-7:30 pm Welcome, Dinner, Awards

Friday, October 20, 2023

7:30-8:15 am Late Registration

8:30-9:30 am Welcome and Keynote Address: Embracing Belonging as a Model for Student Success (Salaam Green) The speaker will address fundamental principles toward building an inclusive community of belonging and equity for student achievement in higher education

9:45-10:30 am Concurrent Session 2

- Embracing Belong as a Model for Student Success Continued (Salaam Green) This session will offer attendees opportunities to explore the principles outlined in the keynote.
- Harnessing Technology Tools to Enhance Teaching and Learning (Cynthia Steele, Alabama State University) The use of effective technology tools creates a learning environment that allows students to think critically, freely share their viewpoints, and authentically collaborate. Participants will gain awareness of different digital tools to stimulate students' interest in lectures and discussions.
- Unlocking Gen Z Potential by Adapting to Individual Learners (Sydney Smith, Hawkes Learning) Today's students are tech-savvy and prefer interactive, multimedia, individualized learning experiences. Discover a dynamic 3-mode learning path that adapts to learning styles of Gen Z students. Personalized instruction coupled with relevant content allows students to apply course concepts, create meaningful connections and fosters genuine mastery. Win a \$25 Gift Card!
- The Video Essay: Improving Student Engagement with Multimodal Texts (Mary Hudson, Calhoun Community College) The video essay is an emerging academic genre with potential for deeply engaging students who struggle with traditional writing assignments. Explore strategies for implementing video essay assignments in your course and offer students an alternative assessment that helps them discover their academic voice in our technology-driven modern world.

10:45-11:30 Concurrent Session 3

- **Small Investment, Big Dividends: Exploring the Benefits of Membership in Professional Organizations** (Meredith Sides, Calhoun Community College and Annette Cook) Join two NOSS leaders and former ALSSO Presidents as they discuss the many benefits student success professionals gain from being a member of professional organizations like ALSSO and NOSS and ways you can get more involved with these organizations. Results from a recent research study on the topic will also be covered.
- **Creating a Fulbright Culture on Your Campus** (Matthew Price, University of North Alabama) This session will discuss how a university partnership create competitive applicants for the US Student Fulbright program. The US Student Fulbright program is the Department of State's flagship student exchange program. Fulbright recipients go on to win Nobel Prizes, MacArthur grants, and Pulitzer Prizes. Over the past six years the University of North Alabama went from 0 Fulbright awardees to 14. Crucial to this success was both the student and UNA's Fulbright advisor leveraging a variety of different campus resources, the same resources central to student success. This session will discuss those partnership strategies and how other colleges can create Fulbright recipients.
- **Streamlining Student Success Initiatives through Cross-Campus Collaboration** (Kristen Thompson, University of Alabama in Huntsville) Learning centers and faculty have the shared goal of supporting student success, but have different roles and areas of expertise. Collaboration is essential to maximize resource utilization, streamline communication and administrative processes, and cultivate a campus environment that supports student success.
- **Dual Enrollment: Lessons from the Trenches** (Stephen Rizzo, Beville State Community College) In World War I, casualties were extremely high in trench warfare because military tactics had not kept pace with the changing realities of 20th century military technology. Trench warfare, a form of siege warfare, had worked for thousands of years.... until it didn't. Not that dual enrollment is a war zone, however as educators we do need to adapt to prevent unnecessary learner casualties. This presentation is based on my experiences as a dual enrollment instructor for the last decade and the changes that have occurred during that time... and hopefully some insight into how educators can adapt and better serve dual enrollment students.

- **Collaboration and Holistic Student Support** (Elizabeth Taylor and Kerry Brackett, Miles College) Exploration into collaborative efforts across campus to increase a sense of inclusivity and belonging for traditionally underrepresented students attending an HBCU. This session will focus on how to engage diverse students in a meaningful manner by providing holistic support using the intrusive advising model.

11:45 am-1:00 pm – Lunch, Panel, and ALSSO Business Meeting

1:15-2:00 pm Concurrent Session 4

- **Habits of Mind = Notes in the Symphony of Success** (Kimberly Garnett, Southern Union/University of South Carolina) Using the “Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing,” this presentation will explore the habits of mind for successful college writers as well as provide practical examples of using these habits in your curriculum. One might even say that these harmonic habits of mind could become the notes in the student’s symphony of success!
- **Seamless Transition: From Adult Education to College Graduate** (Crystal Hicks and Stephanie Maddox, Beville State Community College) This session will discuss the partnership between the Adult Education program, TRIO Educational Opportunity Center, and TRIO Student Support Services. This purposeful collaboration aims to provide a seamless transition from secondary credential graduates to post-secondary college enrollment with student success support services through college graduation.
- **Doing More with Less** (Megan Simmons, LMSW and Jeremy Martin, University of North Alabama) Adaptability has become a critical skillset in postsecondary education, especially coming out of a worldwide pandemic. Expand your toolbox with tips and tricks that a regional institution in northwest Alabama used to do more with less. Even in the most unexpected circumstances, resources can be right at your fingertips.
- **It’s Time to Shine: Creating STAR Performances** (Valerie Cox, Lisa Fletcher, and Felisha Taylor, Calhoun Community College) Calhoun’s STAR Institute will share their story; provide games, small group discussions, Q & A, and prize giveaways. This session includes transitioning tutoring from 100% online back to a modified in person and virtual environment, training and support for tutors and faculty to bring about a STAR performance for students.

2:00-2:30 pm Closing Session