



PCPR 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

COLLEGE SUCCESS MATTERS

August 15-16, 2016 • Arcadia University • Glenside, PA

Professional Development Concurrent Sessions Monday, August 15, 2016

SESSION 1 – 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Title: #BlackLivesMatter and #BlackExcellence: Lessons on Race and Possibilities for Today's Colleges and Universities

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Dr. Brian Peterson, University of Pennsylvania, Director of the Makuu Black Cultural Center

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 102

This session will provide practitioners, administrators, leaders, and others with strategies to enhance students' academic and cultural experiences against the backdrop of continued violence against Black citizens at the hands of law enforcement, campus-based concerns regarding racism and lack of racial sensitivity, and the growing student activism aimed at creating change.

Title: G.R.I.T. Evaluation

Session Theme: Resiliency and Grit

Presenter: Jeffrey Jones, Greater Days Ahead, CEO

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 202

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to explore the concept of grit. Come find out "What makes you resilient?" Define real resilience and understand how to know if you have grit, as well as the difference between grit and grinding. Use all of these core elements to uncover your G.R.I.T. success blueprint and ways to further develop them in students in order to maximize their success level in the college experience.

Title: Going Away to College: Helping Philadelphia High School Students Succeed

Session Theme: Academic Readiness

Presenters: Stuart Nachbar, EducatedQuest.com, Founder/Publisher, Jessica Hess, Lycoming College, Director of Admissions, David Stewart, Elizabethtown College, Director of Multicultural Admissions

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 203

This panel discussion is an opportunity for college access and success professionals to hear about student recruitment and student success from multi-cultural admissions professionals at private colleges that are located beyond commuting distance from Philadelphia. These admissions professionals actively and successfully recruit new students from the city's public and charter schools to pursue an educational experience further from home. Come learn about some of the adjustment issues students face after they arrive on their respective campuses, how a student's academic preparation impacts their success as well as ways that students and college faculty and professionals work together towards success.

Title: The Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success

Session Theme: College Access, Admissions and Preparation

Presenters: Candace Powell Kinard, EduDreamer, Consultant, J.T. Duck, Swarthmore College, Director of Admissions

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 204

Come learn about The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success; a new initiative that brings together a diverse set of colleges and universities to elevate the importance of college affordability and college success for all students. Get a sneak peek at the technology tools that have been developed to create greater college access for under-resourced students and to innovate the process of applying to college for all students. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Coalition's technology and application platform, how the Coalition may (or may not) influence your work, and how one college is working to introduce the Coalition to under-resourced students and communities.

Title: The Scholly Scholarship Program

Session Theme: Financial Aid

Presenter: Christopher Gray, Scholly, CEO/Founder

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 301

Scholly and the Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable have entered into a partnership to help more students maximize their scholarship opportunities. Attend this session to learn more about the partnership between PCPR and Scholly. Hear directly from Christopher Gray, the CEO/Founder of Scholly and one of Oprah's recently named 100 Super Soul Givers, as he unfolds the Scholly Story present and future.

SESSION 2 – 1:30- 2:45 PM

Title: Resilience Through Coping: A Journey of Hope

Session Theme: Resiliency and Grit

Presenter: Phillip Roundtree, Mental Health Expert

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 102

This session will allow participants to learn about Resilience through Coping: A Journey of Hope, a program designed to inform, educate, and support students, their educators, and other supportive staff impacted by mental health within the higher education system. Participants will gain awareness of the challenges students with mental health issues and diagnoses face across settings, as well as create a working knowledge of how to utilize formal resources for support. In addition, they'll learn factors that can impact the mental health of students within higher education.

Title: Addressing the Twice Exceptional Dilemma

Session Theme: Resiliency and Grit

Presenter: Kat Murray, Mind Empowerment Tutoring, Owner

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 202

This session will allow participants to learn more about the needs of students classified as Twice Exceptional Learners from both a biographical and academic perspective. The National Educational Association notes that services are offered to students who are gifted and students who have learning differences in an arbitrarily exclusive manner. In order to qualify for services, students must be identified as either Gifted or as having a Learning Difference. This approach ignores students who can score high marks in some subjects, in spite of experiencing debilitating "learning quirks," such as AD/HD, dysgraphia, dyslexia, and auditory processing disorders. In many cases, parents are forced to either celebrate the students' giftedness, or attempt to ameliorate learning deficits. Students' social needs in these cases, especially in terms of the student-teacher relationship, are often ignored in the name of expediency. Hear about the experiences of the presenter who succeeded in academically rigorous Engineering courses while

Title: Addressing the Twice Exceptional Dilemma (continued)

hiding her own subtle learning challenges. Recent information from the July 2016 Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Conference will be included in the session.

Title: A Human Resources Perspective on the Absolute Essentials in Making the Transition from College to the Workplace

Session Theme: School to Work Readiness

Presenter: Michael Robinson, Temple University, Director of Community Outreach and Hiring

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 203

This session will help college access and success professionals understand the current trends in hiring as well as highlight strategies to help recent college graduates transition from the classroom to the workplace. Hear about employer's expectations, the top mistakes job seekers make and well as smart ways to negotiate salary. Participants will explore the difference between "impotent resumes" and "potent resumes" along with learning a few expert interview tips from a Human Resources professional.

Title: A Financial Aid Overview from Financial Aid Administrators

Session Theme: Financial Aid

Presenters: Ron Felder, PHEAA, Higher Education Access Partner, Latanya Byrd, Director of Financial Aid, Orleans Technical College, Holly Kirkpatrick, Arcadia University, Executive Director of Financial Aid and Enrollment Management, Dustin Rogers, Community College of Philadelphia, Admissions Recruiter

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 204

Hear from a panel of financial aid administrators and enrollment services specialists who deal with the daily issues and updates as they relate to current and future financial aid practices. Learn how different institutions are approaching the new "prior, prior year" process. Is it all hype? Come find out for yourself.

Title: Addressing the Summer Melt Phenomenon

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Deneysis Labrada, Let's Get Ready, Success Program Manager

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 302

This session will look at ways to alleviate the summer melt phenomenon and help your students bridge the gap between high school and college. Let's Get Ready is a non-profit that provides low-income high school students with free SAT preparation, admissions counseling and other support services needed to gain admission to and graduate from college. Hear about their transition programming that utilizes near peer coaches and a texting model to offer guidance and tools to ensure that incoming freshmen successfully matriculate to college. This workshop will provide an overview of Let's Get Ready's model and allow participants an opportunity to plan how their organization can adopt similar practices.

SESSION 3 – 3:00-4:15 PM

Title: Why Aren't We Graduating! The Biggest Secrets About Life On Campus!

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Gavonne Dixon, The College Kickout Entertainment, Speaker & Author

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 102

This session will explore the three major deterrents to young adults trying to obtain a college degree. Real life situations along with statistical data will be used to show how sex, drugs and money can be a big problem for college-aged students. Combining the stories of those who stayed, played, and borrowed but didn't graduate, while also, showcasing how these issues are affecting millions of college students everywhere; participants will be able to analyze real life situations on a college campus, then process the

Title: Why Aren't We Graduating! The Biggest Secrets About Life On Campus! (continued)

information to determine the best solution(s). Session participants will be able to walk away with numerous skills and attitudes that will decrease the chance of failure and increase the chance for success for current day college students.

Title: See It Through: How to Engage and Goal Set with Students

Session Theme: Goal Setting and Student Engagement

Presenter: Tania Neptune, UIF/OnTrack, Assistant Director of College Readiness

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 202

This session will explore strategies that teachers, counselors and/or practitioners can use to assist students with goal setting while also engaging them in their own learning.

Title: Candid Conversations for College Bound Students of Color

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Terry Pittman, Urban League of Philadelphia, Youth Programs Manager

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 203

The session will support preparing Counselors and Advisors for the conversations and topics they should be having with students of color looking to attend college. Come get some tangible talking points and activities that can support your students in their college access experience. Make sure that your students are firmly grounded before they begin their college experience.

Title: Professional Networking for Youth Workers

Session Theme: Building a Network of Professional Providers

Presenters: Dr. Nancy Peter, Education Consultant, John Price III, Project Manager/Acting Director, Out-of-School Time Resource Center

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 204

Why do youth workers network? We are often looking for employment, seeking program funding, recruiting staff and volunteers, identifying resources for students, the list is long and complex. This hands-on workshop will review the many reasons for and benefits of networking, explore ways to network successfully, identify local and national networking opportunities, and introduce simple networking activities.

Title: Quit Playing Checkers on a Chessboard

Session Theme: Academic Readiness

Presenter: Mike Gross, MikeGrossOnline

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 301

This session is a call to action. You already know and have what it takes to be successful. Our goal is to reinforce and reinvigorate your belief in the power and potential of You. At the end of this presentation, you will be clear on your personal "why", recognize the limiting beliefs holding you back and have the beginning of an action plan to start building your goals and dreams. This is a perfect opportunity for "motivated procrastinators," the ambitious achiever, and those looking to refocus on what's most important in their lives. Come be inspired, so that you can inspire your students.

Professional Development Concurrent Sessions

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

SESSION 4 – 10:30.-11:45 A.M.

Title: Financial Aid and the new Federal Student Aid “Prior, Prior Year” Application Process

Session Theme: Financial Aid

Presenter: Fred Stennis, Federal Student Aid

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 102

This session will cover the recent updates in the FAFSA process. These changes will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017-18 application cycle, changes to the opening and submission of the FAFSA will occur, as well as reporting income from earlier tax years will be allowed. Hear the most current updates on these and other federal financial aid policies.

Title: Derailing the College Dream: The Long-term Effect of Poor Placement Test Scores on College Completion

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Nicole Henderson, Montgomery County Community College, Dean of Student Affairs

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 202

This session will provide participants with needed information to guide future decisions and provide direction for program development, which supports students’ success in navigating placement testing and degree completion. President Obama’s American Graduation Initiative called for America to lead the world in degree completion by 2020 and increase “ladders of opportunity into the middle class.” Despite this call, nearly 60% of the students who arrive on college campuses are identified as underprepared and begin in developmental and/or remedial classes, thereby negatively impacting persistence and degree attainment for these students. Developmental education is a complicated process and many students who begin in developmental education usually drop out before earning a degree or certificate.

Title: College and Career Readiness: What’s the Difference?

Session Theme: School to Work Readiness

Presenter: Nancy Campbell, NWC: Edunomics, Consultant

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 203

This session will look at the difference between college and career readiness. Only in fairly recent years have college readiness and career readiness not been considered mutually exclusive concepts. But how does this shift in mindset play out with secondary teachers and counselors? Participants in this session will have an opportunity to discuss how these two vital preparatory skills compare, as well as strategize about how to integrate them into their own practice.

Title: Maximize Instructional Techniques and Student Learning

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenter: Lorrainer Harmer, Harmer Educational Consulting, Educational Consultant

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 204

This session is for participants looking to expand their instructional practices. The interactive session will provide you with practical strategies that will inspire you to motivate, excite and engage students through the use of differentiated instruction. Everyone has different ways of learning and interacting with the world. Therefore, a variety of instructional strategies should be used to accommodate the full range of abilities in the classroom. It’s time to make teaching and learning fun, again!

Title: Customizing Your Career in College Access (A Panel Discussion)

Session Theme: Building a Network of Professional Access and Success Providers

Presenters: Melissa Rowe, Capture Greatness!, Founder, Jennifer Carroll, Temple University, Academic Advisor, Ayana Lewis, Esq., School District of Philadelphia, Partnerships Coordinator, Anthony Miller, String Theory High School, Dean of Students, Natasha Torrence, Arcadia University, Creative Manager – University Relations

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 301

Millennials are unique in that they have surpassed previous generations in formal education, have skills & knowledge that didn't exist two decades ago, and are experiencing an ever evolving and transient job market. This session will combine dynamic voices from the education community to discuss ways that current day professionals are extracting essential skills and making them transferable for different industries, blending two or more fields to create a unique career path, and strategies to help our students approach college & career preparation from an authentic place, for them.

SESSION 5 – 1:15-2:30 PM

Title: From Deliberate Practice to Delightful Results

Session Theme: Academic Readiness

Presenter: Cassandra Allen, CollegeBoard

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 102

Join the College Board to learn how you can support students as they prepare for the October SAT School Day and PSAT/NMSQT administrations. This session will highlight the free SAT practice powered through Khan Academy and share best practices for using Khan Academy in the classroom and in non-school-based settings. We will also review the student online score report and identify areas where you can support further learning development.

Title: Looking at the Impact of a First-Year Experience Program on Persistence Rates of African-American Males

Session Theme: Issues Affecting College Completion and Success

Presenters: Dr. Craig Smith, Montgomery County Community College, Director of Retention and Success, Nicole Henderson, Montgomery County Community College, Dean of Student Affairs

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 202

The session will look at the effectiveness of a First Year Experience program in increasing persistence rates for African American male student participants at a predominantly white, mid-sized regionally accredited public university. Research findings identifying issues affecting completion and success will be highlighted throughout the session.

Title: S.M.A.R.T Student Loan Advice

Session Theme: Financial Aid and Literacy

Presenter: Sonia Lewis, The Student Loan Doctor LLC, CEO

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 203

Upon completion of higher education comes the promise of opportunity and social mobility. However, the use of student loans to finance that education comes with the consideration of debt repayment. In this session, learn how student loan debt can play a role in affecting a graduate's credit score, their first time home buying experience and their overall standard of living. Learn the S.M.A.R.T way and uncover tangible solutions to make repayment a realistic and viable option for millennials to consider.

Title: Comfort Zone: Preparing First-Gens for Success in the Classroom

Session Theme: Academic Readiness

Presenter: Robin-Renee Allbritton, Temple University, Adjunct Professor, Juwan Bennett, Temple University, PhD Student & Mentoring Center Coordinator for Criminal Justice GSA

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 204

Although many programs prepare first-generation students academically, many of these students are often ill-prepared to socially transition into the college classroom environment. Hear from a current college professor about expectations of college freshmen, so that you can help to build these skill sets in your students and reduce potential attrition rates of first-generation students.

Title: FAFSA Completion Demonstration

Session Theme: Financial Aid

Presenter: Fred Stennis, Federal Student Aid

Location: Brubaker Hall, Room 307

Receive hands on instruction directly from a representative of the US Department of Education. Learn how to maneuver the FAFSA and FSA ID website through computer based training. Also, get the answers to the questions that continue to intrigue you so that you will be able to provide top notch support of FAFSA and FSA ID processes for your students. This session is mandatory for those who want to serve as PCPR FAFSA Completion Coaches.

Conference Speakers



Isaiah Thomas

Isaiah Thomas is a coach, educator and mentor from Philadelphia, PA. He is the newly appointed Director of Community Affairs for the City Controller's Office and the Co-Founder of the Thomas & Woods Foundation. In addition, Thomas is the Athletic Director, Head Boys Basketball coach and Softball coach at Sankofa Freedom Academy, a Bme Community Leader and an Urban Philadelphia Professional Network (UPPN) Connector.

Thomas previously served as Associate Dean of Students at Sankofa Freedom Academy and an adjunct Professor in the Human Studies Department at Lincoln University. Prior to that Thomas volunteered as the Executive Director for Mature Cradle Inc., a non-profit organization that provided athletic and

performing arts programs for children and families across the city. He was also the Board Chair of Rising Sons, Inc., an organization that seeks to empower inner-city youth by providing resources and positive role-models, a Philly Roots Fellow, and a New Leaders Council of Philadelphia Fellow and Board member.

For fourteen consecutive summers, Thomas was involved with Freedom School programs in various capacities. Through this experience, he has sought to instill the meaning and value of servant leadership to children throughout country. His roles have included Project Director and Ella Baker Consultant/Trainer for the Children's Defense Fund and Communities in Schools. He is also a former Consultant/Trainer for the United Way and has been employed by various other charitable organizations.

From 2009-2010, Thomas was a Legislative Assistant to former State Representative Tony Payton Jr., where he provided constituent service to the families and youth of the Frankford community. Through this position, he learned the difference he could make as an elected official with a servant-leader mindset. At age 26, he decided to run for City Council At-Large and as the youngest candidate running, gained more than 31,000 votes in the May, 2011 Municipal Primary. He ran again at the age of 30 and gained more than 47,000 votes in the May, 2015 Municipal Primary.

Isaiah Thomas (continued)

Thomas is alum of Penn State University, where he received his Bachelor's of Science in Psychological and Social Behavior with a minor in English. He also holds a Master's degree in Education from Lincoln University.



Sarah Robbins

Sarah Robbins is an educator, mentor, project director, youth advocate and Philadelphia native. She is committed to working for both systemic and intrapersonal change to improve ecosystems that affect our youth. She works to create access points to creatively rigorous learning environments and extracurricular activities while advocating for the resources, programs and policy changes needed to support the mental, emotional and physical well being of our Philadelphia youth.

Sarah has been involved in education, advocacy, community projects, and art infused youth programming for over 10 years. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts from New York University's TISCH School of the Arts with a double major in Acting and Studies of the African Diaspora. While in undergrad, Sarah participated in the Grassroots Performance Project, an initiative grounded in, fueled by and connected to various community organizations that used art to bring a community's work and concerns to the forefront of public spaces. In her senior year, Sarah began an internship at Brooklyn International High School, working with the Social Studies Chair to integrate drama and storytelling into their curriculum. It was there, amidst a surge of youthful energy, bottomless creativity, and collective passion for social justice that Sarah fell in love with teaching.

She began teaching in Philadelphia with the vision of creating an ambitiously academic and artistic learning space where students could be inspired to grow, create, collaborate and challenge one another every day. While teaching, Sarah earned her Masters in Urban Education from University of Pennsylvania. After six years of teaching elementary and middle school, Sarah began working with high school aged youth. She coordinated a GED to College program at District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund for 17-21 year olds who had "dropped out" or been pushed out of schools. There, she focused on designing and managing a comprehensive program that enabled students to grow academically, creatively, socially, and professionally. Sarah is currently Lead Coordinator at District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund. She is leading a pipeline initiative created to increase the persistence of approximately 75 youth from a local public high school to and through post secondary education in STEM related careers through a multifaceted partnership with local universities and organizations.