Standing Together in a Changing Landscape: A Call to Action

Please review the information in this document, including the topic suggestions (pages 1-4), presenter FAQs (pages 5-6), and presenter expectations (pages 6-7) prior to submitting your workshop proposal. Questions? Please contact Carrie Tate, NPEA Assistant Director, at ctate@tsf.org or (617) 939-5027.

Active Learning Conference

This year marks NPEA’s 10th annual conference and a true milestone in our work supporting the educational access field through sharing best practices and critical resources. As we celebrate this achievement, we are more focused than ever on the concrete learning and takeaways that benefit the field. For the 2018 conference we will provide ample opportunities for active learning leading up to, throughout, and following the conference. Participants will arrive actively engaged with the content and involved in conversations that will help them utilize the conference in the most effective ways possible. As an attendee, you should be ready to learn, willing to roll up your sleeves, prepared to network, and eager to grapple with critical topics to promote positive change. Our goal is for all participants to leave with as much actionable information as possible, and to create a culture and community of continuous learning that starts before and extends well beyond the conference.

Topic Ideas and Suggestions

NPEA is interested in hearing varying perspectives from all those representing the educational access and success field, including school- and non-school-based direct service programs; independent, public, and charter schools; colleges and universities; other education nonprofits; funders; and more. We encourage workshop proposals that fall within the following categories, as well as others related to the conference theme and educational access and success.

**College Affordability:** These sessions will address the rising cost of college and how attendees can best support students and families as they navigate the complex world of FAFSA, college savings, loans, gap funding, student debt, and more.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:
• **Financial aid:** Financial aid assistance for entry into secondary schools; FAFSA support; accessing scholarships and grants; gap funding; financial literacy; college savings; financial aid for undocumented students

• **Rising cost of college:** Research, trends, and strategies around the rising cost of college tuition and the impact on low-income, first generation students and families

• **Student loan debt:** Advising students and families through student loan debt and repayment

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** These sessions will address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in program, school, organization, and institutional settings, such as racial or gender equity, intersectionality, socio-economic diversity, systemic inequities and/or implicit biases, creating inclusive environments, culturally-relevant and responsive pedagogy, and more.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

• **Diverse student populations:** Supporting undocumented students; working with immigrant students and families; supporting socio-economic diversity in school and program settings; differentiating instruction; culturally-relevant and culturally-responsive pedagogy

• **Inclusive campus environments:** Multicultural campus initiatives; recruiting and supporting underserved students; first generation student persistence efforts; affinity groups; addressing microaggressions; hiring, developing, and retaining a diverse staff/faculty

• **Systemic and structural inequity:** Exploring root causes of education outcome disparities; addressing issues of racism, discrimination, and oppression; understanding privilege and power; supporting marginalized student populations; overcoming structural barriers to equitable access and opportunity; policy and resource inequities; implicit bias

• **Advocacy and social justice:** Empowering/supporting student activism; education policy and reform; organizing and engaging students, families, colleagues, and communities; using advocacy to change policies or practices; dismantling white supremacy culture

• **Research:** Connecting research to practice; understanding and applying the work of leading researchers (e.g., Christopher Emdin, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Tony Jack, Shaun Harper, Dorinda Carter-Andrews) with proven results

**Elementary and Middle Grades:** These sessions will offer innovative and emerging best practices for supporting underrepresented students in K-8 on the path to college.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

• **Programming:** Academic enrichment; creating a college-going mindset; family engagement and support

• **Transitions:** Preparing students for school transitions (e.g., public to private or charter, elementary to middle, middle to high); preventing summer learning loss

• **Middle-achieving students:** Interventions and support for middle-achieving students; curriculum and academic preparation; asset-based practices and support
• **K-8 and secondary/post-secondary partnerships:** Partnering across sectors for student success; high-impact collaborations (e.g., city, district, schoolwide, K-16)

**Management and Sustainability:** These sessions will share strategies that nonprofit, higher education, and school leaders can use to drive, manage, and grow programs and initiatives.

Examples of topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- **Staff development and retention:** Developing leaders; capacity building for sustainability and growth; recruiting and retaining diverse faculty/staff
- **Program expansion/replication:** Scaling curriculum, programming, social impact; national and regional affiliate fundraising strategies; data-sharing
- **Infrastructure and long-term planning:** Comprehensive strategic planning; communication strategies; marketing/branding; organizational culture; high-impact partnerships; board and trustee development
- **Funding/development:** Ensuring financial sustainability; funder and grant-maker perspectives; fundraising; community and/or corporate partnerships
- **Data collection and analysis:** Data infrastructure and management; using data to tell a story; data-driven decision-making; evaluation and assessment

**Program/Student Services:** These sessions will offer lessons learned, best practices, and resources for building, implementing, refining, and/or sustaining programming or student services within an organization or school setting.

Examples of topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- **Resiliency:** Promoting strength-based strategies to encourage resilience for students, families, and communities; helping students overcome barriers; delivering culturally sensitive and trauma-informed support
- **Partnerships:** K-12 partnerships; secondary/post-secondary partnerships; cross-sector collaborations
- **College readiness and persistence:** College counseling and advising; college application process; high school to college transitions; academic enrichment
- **Career readiness/workforce development:** Curriculum and training; career prep tools and resources; fostering student leadership; building post-secondary networks
- **Community and family engagement:** Encouraging partnerships among families, schools, and communities; family engagement programming and resources
- **Tools and resources:** Mobile technology, tools, and resources for student success; STEM/STEAM; standardized test prep; innovative curricula

**Research, Data, Evaluation, and Policy:** These sessions will address current research, data, and policy in the field of educational access and success, as well as practical tips, tools, and lessons learned.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Current research and data:** Achievement gap; undermatching; social-emotional and non-cognitive measures; summer learning loss; first generation students; family engagement
• **Data collection and analysis:** Using data to improve practice; data-driven decision-making; evaluation and analysis strategies; policy implications on access field; tools and resources for tracking students; staff performance evaluations

**Secondary Schools and Higher Education:** These sessions will offer best, innovative, and emerging practices related to supporting underrepresented students during the high school years (including public, independent, and charter) and on the path to and through college.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Supporting student success:** Creating positive learning environments and school/campus cultures; supporting student transitions; student retention and persistence; mentoring
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Socioeconomic, racial, and cultural diversity on campus; creating a culture of inclusion
- **Middle-achieving students:** Interventions, support, and college advising for middle-achieving students; college persistence supports
- **Career readiness and success:** Curricula on workforce development and importance of building professional networks; counseling and advising; corporate social responsibility; social media and networking
- **K-12 and higher education partnerships:** Partnering across sectors for student success; CBO/college collaborations; student persistence initiatives; high school to college transitions

**Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** These sessions will address current research and practices around fostering and assessing resiliency, social-emotional learning, non-cognitive skill development, growth mindset, identity and character development, and non-academic factors in student success.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Social-emotional skills:** Fostering grit, resilience, social intelligence, and a growth mindset in K-16 students; assessing social-emotional skills and growth
- **Research:** Connecting research to practice; understanding and applying the work of leading researchers (e.g., Angela Duckworth, Carol Dweck, Mandy Savitz-Romer) with proven results
- **Identity and character development:** Students of color; undocumented students; character development; social-emotional and non-cognitive skill development; mentoring; independent and post-secondary campus culture; intersectionality
- **Early interventions:** Social-emotional learning, non-cognitive skill development, and college-going mindsets in work with K-8 students

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*Please review presenter frequently asked questions on the following page.*
PRESENTER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The information below may be helpful in addressing your questions about presenting at the NPEA Conference.

What does an active learning conference mean for my presentation?
The 2018 conference will provide opportunities for active learning and engaging with attendees leading up to, throughout, and following the conference. In your proposal submission, you will be asked to think about and commit to promoting active learning in your workshop by providing hands-on, engaging learning experiences, tangible ideas and action items, and concrete takeaways that attendees can bring back to their work in schools or programs. Attendees should have a voice and the opportunity to interact with you and each other during the session. It is our hope that attendees will leave your session prepared for continuous engagement with the material, concepts, and/or ideas you shared in your presentation.

Do I need to register and pay for the conference?
Yes. All workshop presenters and co-presenters must register and pay for the conference in order to present. NPEA offers a discounted conference registration rate of $490 for all individuals selected to present a workshop.

Does the registration fee cover hotel or travel?
No, the workshop presenter registration fee covers the cost of your attendance as well as breakfast, lunch, and other opportunities each day of the conference. Please book and pay for your hotel and travel accommodations separately.

Will I need to make my own hotel reservations?
Yes. You can find information about our room block on our website. Please make your own travel and hotel arrangements, and book your hotel room early to ensure you receive the discounted conference rate of $199 (plus taxes), which is available until March 14, 2018 or until the block is full.

I can’t stay for the full conference. Can I just come and go for my session and could this lower my registration fee?
Unfortunately, no. You are welcome to come and go from the conference as you please, however this will not lower your fee. We are unable to make any exceptions to the presenter registration fees, but we are pleased to offer the discounted rate to all accepted presenters.

I would like to include a student presenter in my session. Do they have to pay to attend?
• We love having students participate in the conference workshops! We are pleased to offer a special student rate of $250 for the full conference. We cannot accommodate complimentary registrations for students.
• If you plan to include students in your presentation, please ensure you have the funds to cover their attendance prior to submitting your proposal.
Is it possible to add or change presenters for my presentation?

• You must notify us immediately if you anticipate any changes to your workshop presenter lineup. Please keep in mind your proposal is reviewed and evaluated as submitted, so if accepted, you must be prepared to replace any presenters who can no longer participate.
• Should you choose to add presenters to your presentation after being accepted, please communicate the presenter expectations and registration fees to them and submit their title, bio, and email address to us as soon as possible and no later than February 1, 2018. After this date, we will be unable to make edits to the conference program.

What A/V equipment do you provide for workshops?

• All workshop rooms are equipped with a projector, screen, and a standard VGA cable connection for PC laptops.
• You must bring your own laptop for your presentation. If you are bringing a Mac, please plan to bring a Mac adaptor/connector for the projector.
• Internet access is not a standard provision at our conference, but we are able to meet a limited number of presenter WiFi requests on a first-come, first-served basis, so please inquire as soon as possible if you plan to use WiFi.
• Most breakout rooms will not require microphones; we will provide microphones at our discretion where necessary. Additional A/V equipment (including speakers, flipchart paper, slide advancers, etc.) is available for a fee.
• Please contact Carrie as soon as possible to make arrangements for any additional A/V needs.

When will I be notified about the status of my proposal?
NPEA will be in touch regarding the status of your proposal by mid/late-November 2017.

PRESENTER EXPECTATIONS

By submitting a proposal to NPEA, I understand that, if accepted:

• I, along with my co-presenters, must register for the conference and pay the reduced conference presenter rate of $490 per person by Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Complimentary or further discounted registrations are not available for presenters even if the presenter does not plan to attend other conference offerings.
• I am responsible for my travel and hotel expenses and I have communicated the costs to my program or school.
• A submission of a proposal implies a commitment to deliver the presentation as outlined in the proposal.
• My proposal demonstrates a commitment to active learning by providing takeaways that attendees can bring back to their work in a variety of professional and education settings.
• All materials for my presentation must be submitted to NPEA by the established deadlines.
• My handouts and presentation must match the accepted proposal.
• I am responsible for bringing my own laptop and adaptors for my presentation.
• A projector, LCD screen, and speaking podium will be provided, and I will plan my presentation accordingly.
• Any presentation materials or photos taken during the conference may be used on the NPEA website or in marketing materials.
• NPEA may promote my workshop presentation on social media (including Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn) leading up to, during, and after the conference.
• I agree to participate in a brief workshop presenter orientation virtual meeting/call with the NPEA staff to review presenter expectations, guidelines, and tips.

What We Provide

• Theater-style setup with a projector, LCD screen, and speaking podium
• Adaptor cable for PC laptops only for the laptop-to-projector connection

What We DO NOT Provide

• Laptop, adaptor cord for Mac laptop-to-projector connection, internet access*, speakers/audio for presentation*, flipchart paper and easel*. Most breakout rooms will not require microphones; we will provide microphones at our discretion where necessary.
  *Available for purchase from hotel A/V – please inquire if selected to present.

Thank you for your interest. If you have additional questions, please contact Carrie Tate, Assistant Director of NPEA, at ctate@tsf.org.