

*Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.*

**National Partnership for Educational Access 11th Annual Conference**  
*Raising Our Voices: Bold Innovations That Empower Students*  
*April 3-5, 2019*  
*Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, Chicago IL*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION**

**The Parent Factor**

- Elyse Danckers, *Executive Director*, Waukegan to College
- Laura Rios, *Program Manager*, Waukegan to College

Many schools and community-based organizations face challenges in how to engage parents in their programming. With programming focused on engaging with parents, this workshop will provide detailed examples of how parents are integrated into the Waukegan to College's leadership and operations. Parent leaders of Waukegan to College will present their roles in leading the organization, as well as in recruiting and onboarding new families. They will also share how Waukegan's new *Parents Educating Parents Program* is aimed at helping the broader community understand the paths to academic success and college. Participants will learn specific strategies for engaging with parents and developing community leaders, leaving with concrete tips and tools for ways to increase parent engagement.

Location: TBD

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM COMMUNITY SITE VISIT EXPERIENCES**

Please join us as we visit Chicago Scholars and the University of Chicago to learn about their strategies, programming, and best practices for supporting underserved students.

Chicago Scholars Site Visit:

Attend this site visit and learn about NPEA's 2018 Award of Excellence recipient, Chicago Scholars. Chicago Scholars is a seven year college access, college success, and career and leadership development organization working to shape Chicago's next generation of diverse leaders. Chicago Scholars are academically ambitious first generation college students from under-resourced communities in Chicago. The seven-year program helps them to navigate the complex transitions into college, through college, and beyond to a career. On average, just 48% of Chicago Public School students who enroll in college receive a four-year college degree within six years. By contrast, 86% of the Chicago Scholars graduate from college in six years. Come learn what Chicago Scholars is doing to transform the landscape of our city by selecting, mentoring, supporting, and advocating for the next generation of diverse leaders. *Bus transportation will be provided for all NPEA site visit participants, departing from the conference hotel promptly at 1:00pm and returning at approximately 4:00pm. Lunch will be provided during the visit.*

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University of Chicago Site Visit:

Please join us for a site visit to the University of Chicago. You will have the opportunity to learn how this respected institution is supporting low-income, first generation, underrepresented students on campus while engaging in a roundtable conversation with guest speakers from a number of on-campus student support offices and initiatives. Attendees will also hear an update on the current admissions cycle at the university, tour the campus, and have an opportunity to network with other site visit attendees. *Bus transportation will be provided for all NPEA site visit participants, departing from the conference hotel promptly at 1:00pm and returning at approximately 4:30pm. A light snack and coffee break will be provided during the visit.*

**4:30 PM – 6:30 PM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

You will have time to register and pick up your conference materials prior to and during the *Empower Each Other* Welcome Reception.

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM *EMPOWER EACH OTHER*: WELCOME RECEPTION**

**Conference Welcome**

- Kelly Glew, *President*, The Steppingstone Foundation

Please join us as we kick off the 2019 Conference! You will have the opportunity to enjoy light appetizers and network with fellow attendees before an exciting two days of workshops and events. As we come together to discuss bold innovations and empowering students, we encourage you to use this time to empower your peers and colleagues to be leaders and advocates for students. We will provide prompts to help guide and inspire your conversations.

Location: Wolf Point Ballroom

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM SCREENING OF AMERICA TO ME**

Please join us as we watch an episode of the recent documentary series *America to Me*, which is set in one of Chicago's most progressive public schools. After the one hour viewing, the audience will engage in a moderated discussion.

Moderator: Nate Pietrini, *Executive Director*, High Jump

Location: LaSalle

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019**

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM BREAKFAST, NETWORKING, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, AND REGISTRATION**

Conference registration will be open and registered attendees can check in to pick up a nametag, program, and other conference materials at this time. Connect with your fellow conference attendees in structured dialogue at our Breakfast Roundtables in the general session ballroom and breakout rooms. There will also be an area in the ballroom designated for first-time conference attendees and new NPEA members.

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom Prefunction

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## 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM OPTIONAL BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES

### **First-Time Attendees and New NPEA Members**

Description: Join this informal breakfast roundtable to meet other first-time conference attendees and new NPEA members, and to hear tips and strategies from veteran attendees about how to make the most out of your conference experience.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **So You Want to Start a Program in a New City? First Build Partnerships That Help You Understand the Community**

- Kate Hurlock, *Director of Expansion*, Horizons National

Description: Are you considering expanding to a new community? Unsure about where to start or who to contact? Starting in a new community can be challenging. Using strategies that are focused on partnerships and long-term success has allowed Horizons National to expand to new cities across the country, including Chicago, where several other organizations are doing amazing work to address the significant need of students living in poverty. This roundtable will be an interactive discussion. Come learn about best practices and challenges related to expansion.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **A Clearer Path for Students: Introducing the College Board Opportunity Scholarships**

- Andee Bowden, *Associate Director, Community Partnerships*, Access to Opportunity, The College Board
- Lacey Allen, *Associate Director for Scholarships Strategy*, Access to Opportunity, The College Board

Description: The journey to college doesn't come with directions, and many students don't have access to the information and resources needed to help them navigate this complex process. During this roundtable, you'll learn about the College Board Opportunity Scholarships, a new scholarship program that guides students through the college planning process and offers them a chance to earn money for college for each action they complete. The program launched in December, beginning with the Class of 2020, and will award students with \$5 million in scholarships each year. Scholarships range from \$500-\$40,000, and half of the scholarships are reserved for students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **Building Mental Resilience and Reframing Self Care**

- Kaela Farrise, *Assistant Director of Admissions and Programs*, Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs

Description: When self-care is mentioned, it is often discussed in terms of replenishing ourselves so that we may be available and ready to help and serve others. This roundtable will begin by sharing representations of self-care from prominent people of color like Audre Lorde, Zora Neal Hurston and Janet Mock, as well as examining different representations of self-care in popular media. The group will then think through their own personal self-care frameworks. Participants will leave with

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different practical ways to track the basics of self-care that they can pass on to students when depression, school, or life in general feels like too much.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **College Student Satisfaction and Persistence: A 2018 Study**

- Candice Clawson, *Director of Undergraduate Affairs*, Prep for Prep

Description: What causes students of color at our nation's top colleges to succeed? How do they perceive campus programs and interventions on their path toward graduation? Join us as we discuss the results of a 2018 survey that sheds light on the student experience, in their own words.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

## **8:15 AM – 9:45 AM OPENING GENERAL SESSION: ALUMNI AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PANEL**

### **Welcoming Remarks:**

- Maurice Swinney, *Chief Equity Officer*, Chicago Public Schools

### **Alumni Panel Moderator:**

- Benjamin Serrano, *Alumni Support Manager*, High Jump (High Jump, Latin School of Chicago)

### ***Raising Our Voices* Alumni and Young Professionals Panel:**

- Angelica Alfaro, *Chief of Staff - Commissioner Marcelino Garcia*, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; *Alumna*, Noble Network of Charter Schools
- Jauwan Hall, *Deputy Political Director*, National Democratic Training Committee; *Alumnus*, Chicago Urban League
- David McClelland, *Industrial Sales Engineer*, ExxonMobil Fuels & Lubricants Company; *Alumnus*, MITES and Schuler Scholar Program
- Kwasi Yeboah Jr., *Communications & Graphics Designer*, Chicago Teachers Pension Fund; *Alumnus*, Chicago Scholars
- Shelly Zhou, *Program and Development Associate*, Minds Matter National; *Alumna*, Minds Matter

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

## **10:00 AM – 11:15 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

### **Agile Project Management and Response to Intervention (RTI): An Interdisciplinary Counseling Approach for Increasing College Access Outcomes**

- Jon Siapno, *Director of College and Career Counseling*, Making Waves Academy

Description: Too many students lack access to individualized college and career counseling services in schools. The approach to college and career counseling at Making Waves Academy draws on *Agile*, a management framework for software development, and *Response to Intervention*, an academic intervention framework, to offer underserved students a multi-tiered student support and counseling services delivery model that is responsive to students' changing needs. This workshop is intended for leaders interested in replicating a model that can yield bold increases in college access outcomes.

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Skill Level: Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Building SEL Awareness Through Reflection of Social Identity**

- Maggie Lopez, *Social Emotional Learning Specialist*, Umoja Student Development Corporation
- Sonjanita Moore, *Social Emotional Learning Manager*, Umoja Student Development Corporation

Description: In this workshop, participants will engage in and be guided through a series of self-awareness activities that reflect on social identities. Through various activities, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss and unpack the visible and invisible aspects of their inner selves. Building on an awareness of race, class, gender, and ethnicity, participants will identify personal factors that can present obstacles to equity work. Establishing a foundation of social and emotional awareness allows us to be present for others as empathetic listeners.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Educational Equity for All Students: Empowering Undocumented Students and Families by Building Collaborative Models of Supports**

- Aidé Acosta, *Director of Alumni Supports*, Noble Network of Charter Schools
- Nicole Desgrosellier, *Founding Dean of College Counseling*, Noble Network of Charter Schools
- Reina Garcia, *DREAMer Supports Manager*, Noble Network of Charter Schools

Description: In this session, the presenters will provide attendees with the opportunity to discuss innovative solutions for supporting undocumented students and immigrant families. Noble Network of Charter Schools has partnered with philanthropists, colleges, and nonprofits on ways of creating college pathways for undocumented students, coupled with a robust program of support towards college success. In 2015, the Pritzker Access Scholarship (PAS) was established for Noble alumni. Through PAS, Noble has changed the status quo for college access by offering a scholarship to at least 75% of their graduating seniors not eligible for financial aid. In its fourth year, at least 60% (of the original cohort) are on track to earn a bachelor's degree in just four years, and over 70% will earn a bachelor's degree by May 2020. Participants will gain valuable tools and resources to create a model of support for undocumented students and immigrant families at their schools or organizations.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Inspiring to Aspire!: College Access Activities and Partnerships to Promote College Access With Young Students**

- Princess King, *Assistant Director of College Services*, Elon Academy
- John Pickett, *Assistant Director of Scholar Support*, Elon Academy

Description: For over seven years, the Elon Academy, a college access program in North Carolina, has successfully partnered with local elementary and middle schools to promote college access to younger students. In this workshop, you will learn how to get young students excited about college. Workshop participants will leave with lesson plans, activities, and resources for use with K-8 students, and will learn how to create opportunities for near-peer mentoring through the use of high school and college age students as facilitators for college access events. Additionally, the presenters will address how to add family components to the partnerships, as well as offer tips on how to assess the impact of these partnerships. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to

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synergize, brainstorm, and plan with the presenters and fellow attendees on how they can leverage their own resources and partnerships to inspire young local students to aspire toward college.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Leveraging Data to Measure Effective Program Implementation and Educational Access**

- Vincent Quan, *Policy Manager*, J-PAL - North America/MIT
- Sophie Shank, *Senior Policy Associate*, J-PAL - North America/MIT

Description: How can we be more strategic about using data and measuring success? In this session, the presenters will share evidence from recent evaluations of college access programs, discuss the value of collecting data on program implementation and student outcomes, and share best practices to help organizations refine their approach to collecting and using data. The presenters will share key takeaways from recent impact evaluations of college access programs, explore an in-depth case study of a specific program, and guide participants through the program's theory of change. Participants will learn about best practices for using data to measure program implementation and impact. The session will conclude with an interactive activity, during which participants will work on generating a theory of change for their own programs and identify key measurement outcomes. Attendees will be guided through a reflection on the theory of change process and will receive resources on data and evaluation.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **MyCoalition: Expanding Access Through Innovation**

- Stephanie Gonzalez, *Associate Director of Admission for Diversity Recruitment*, Williams College
- Rebecca Kahn-Witman, *Senior Admissions Counselor*, The University of Chicago
- Dalinda Martinez, *Associate Director of Member Engagement*, Coalition for College
- Karen Eley Sanders, *Associate Vice Provost for College Access*, Virginia Tech
- Sara Urquidez, *Executive Director*, ASP Dallas

Description: The Coalition for College is a group of more than 150 colleges and universities across the United States that is committed to making college a reality for all high school students. MyCoalition is a set of free online college planning tools that helps students learn about, prepare for, and apply to college. With an easy-to-use application, interactive collaboration space, and a convenient digital storage locker, MyCoalition empowers students to make smart college choices for success in school — and beyond. The Coalition has been a catalyst for innovation in both the outreach work and application processes of member colleges and universities. Come learn about the work of member schools, who will describe adjustments, opportunities, and ideas that have emerged. The session will conclude with a moderator-led conversation about opportunities that lie ahead.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Passions, Values, and Skills: Creating Opportunities for Student-Driven Career Exploration**

- Jessica Brady, *Senior Program Manager, OppNet Partnerships*, The Opportunity Network
- Alisa France, *Program Manager of College Success*, The Opportunity Network
- Chelsea Frosini, *Senior Program Manager, Curriculum and Student Events*, The Opportunity Network

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Description: As educators, it is our responsibility to empower the young people with whom we work to define their own paths towards career success. In this session, learn how to guide students to consider career exploration as a discovery of their assets – passions, values, and skills. Using an engaging model, learn how to create an event for your program that provides students the space to identify their interests and take action by exploring available enrichment opportunities to learn more about careers, including ready-to-use materials and post-event follow-ups. Participants will leave this workshop with an actionable plan to host a career exploration event for their students at any grade level, new tools to guide personal reflection and career exploration, and additional resources for continued student support.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Location: tbd

### **The Power of Pre-College Programs: Working Together to Empower Students**

- Christopher Cofer, *Executive Director, Summer Session*, Syracuse University
- Jill Kohlberg, *Executive Director*, Noble Network's Summer of a Lifetime
- Marylyn Scott, *Senior Associate Dean of Admissions, Office of Admissions*, Bucknell University
- Seth Williamson, *Partner Scholar Program Manager*, Brown University
- Shelly Zhou, *Programs and Development Associate*, Minds Matter

Description: Many universities establish partnerships with foundations, community-based organizations (CBOs), and individual schools to support high school students to attend a summer program on a college campus. These experiences are especially transformational for low-income high school students and students from school systems focused on teaching to standardized tests. In this workshop, the presenters will discuss partnership strategies and models that university-administered summer programs use to partner with CBOs and high schools in order to identify and support students interested in having a college-like experience while still in high school. This workshop is for schools and organizations are interested in developing summer program opportunities on their campuses, or those who work directly with high school students in partnership with university administrators. Participants will learn about the pre-college landscape at universities across the country and discuss ways to offer these experiences to high school students that are transformative and affordable.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

## **11:30 AM – 12:45 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

### **Connection and Collaboration to Combat Challenges in College Affordability**

- Aileen Aragones, *Director of Program Implementation and Training*, College Possible Chicago
- Blenda Chiu, *Managing Director of Programs*, Bottom Line
- Kevin James, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, Better Future Forward

Description: As low-income, first generation college students and direct-service providers work to empower and help students navigate college options, understanding the complexity of the college affordability problem is amongst the most critical conversations. In this session, presenters will define financial aid challenges on the macro level, as well as provide context for the implications of financial aid policy for student-level situations. Participants will engage in case study discussions, where they will explore how to advise students through different financial aid challenges. Finally, presenters will share information regarding an innovative option to combat financial challenges: an income-sharing agreement.

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Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **International Education and College Readiness**

- Anthony Allen, *Founding Director*, The Student Diplomacy Corps
- Madelaine Eulich, *Associate Director*, The Student Diplomacy Corps
- David Rucker, *Executive Director*, Friends of University Academy
- David Smith, *Director*, Roaring Fork Pre-Collegiate

Description: The Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC) partners with youth-serving organizations around the country to engage underrepresented high school students in international education programs that build college readiness, independent living skills, global citizenship, and unleash potential. SDC is specifically designed for underrepresented students who typically are first in their family to go to college. Along with representatives of two youth-serving partners (Roaring Fork Valley Pre-Collegiate Program based in Carbondale, Colorado and Friends of University Academy in Kansas City, Missouri), SDC will share their partnership model, pedagogy, and innovative approaches to using international education as a powerful tool for underrepresented youth.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Pardon Me For Making You Uncomfortable: Helping Students Navigate Challenging Conversations Around Race and Inclusion in the 2019 Educational Landscape**

- Cassandra Geiger, *Program Director*, *Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools*, Northwestern University
- Demisha Lee, *Chief Program Officer*, Evanston Scholars
- Nicole O'Connell, *Director of Programs*, Schuler Scholar Program

Description: In the current political climate, conversations around race, ethnicity, income, and gender identity have become increasingly difficult to navigate for adults with life experience. Imagine the cognitive dissonance of a high school student who identifies as a student of color, low-income, and/or transgendered as they move through their daily life. In this workshop, participants will explore their own self-awareness of the struggles students are facing every day in the classroom. The presenters will share experiences and tools for educating ourselves and becoming comfortable with our own unconscious bias and for allowing us to best support our students. Relevant research will be shared on the social-emotional impact students face from suppressing their identity development out of fear of backlash or defensiveness. The presenters will use media, interactive exercises, and best practices from their own organizations to transform learning into practice and to help attendees identify personal areas of discomfort as it relates to diversity and inclusion.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Location: tbd

### **Parent Engagement Through the College Admissions Process**

- Imani Gilliam, *Dean of Programs*, New Jersey SEEDS
- Sharon Zucker, *Dean of Guidance*, New Jersey SEEDS

Description: Most parents strongly support their students' pursuit of higher education, but families from under-resourced communities often face unique challenges when it comes to this pursuit. Some of these challenges include fear of financing the education, reluctance to leave home, and lack of knowledge around the enormous number of higher education institutions in the United States, among others. In this session, presenters will emphasize the significance of parent involvement and support throughout the college admissions process. They will also address best practices for working

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as a team that includes the student, parent(s) or guardian(s), college counselor, guidance counselor, and/or community-based organization. New Jersey SEEDS is a statewide access organization that has developed strong partnerships with schools and colleges to help change the lives of motivated, high-achieving students from low-income families for the past 26 years.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Location: tbd

### **Partnering for Persistence: Supporting Students From Recruitment Through Graduation**

- Stephanie Gonzalez, *Associate Director of Admission for Diversity Recruitment*, Williams College
- Taaha Mohamedali, *Director of College Thrive*, The Academy Group
- Alisa France, *Program Manager of College Success*, The Opportunity Network
- Ashley Pallie, Associate Dean of Admissions, Pomona College

Description: As the nation continues to become more diverse, higher education professionals focus more resources on recruiting and enrolling underserved and/or underrepresented students. Our work, however, does not stop there. It's not enough to focus our recruitment policies and practices on access and inclusion if the work doesn't continue on campus. Join the presenters to discuss how community-based organization and college partnerships can help selective universities rethink their role in recruitment to better address inclusion and persistence.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Show Your Work: Creatively Engaging Corporate Partners in College and Career Readiness**

- Aaron Dworkin, *President, ASAS National Network*, After-School All-Stars

Description: Many nonprofits have corporate partners, but few maximize their relationships to support their college and career readiness programming goals. In this workshop, After-School All-Stars will share their experiences working with numerous corporations on their national "Show Your Work" and "CEO: Career Exploration Opportunities" programs. The session will offer replicable hands on activities and invite corporate partners to share their best practices and challenges with nonprofit partnerships. The session will also highlight strategies for finding and leveraging new resources and partners to support students on their journeys.

Skill Level: Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **The Right Answer is Not Always C: Understanding the SSAT**

- Christina Dotchin, *Director of Business Development*, The Enrollment Management Association
- Keith Wright, *Director of Psychometrics*, The Enrollment Management Association

Description: Community-based organizations received more than 8,000 SSAT score reports last year. Today's parents ask appropriately tough questions about the high-stakes tests their children are taking. Presenters from The Enrollment Management Association will help demystify admission testing, SSAT test development, and provide guidance in interpreting scores and discussing them with families. Presenters will review the pieces of a score report, provide context and understanding of the scaled scores and the SSAT percentile, cover the SSAT's development and scoring, discuss ways in which test fairness is ensured, highlight the team that creates, analyzes, and scores the SSAT, and cover its validity as a predictive tool. This session will also discuss The Character Skills Snapshot -- a new online character assessment for students applying to grades 6-12 -- and the future of assessing character skills in the admission process. You will leave this session feeling confident about both reviewing the SSAT and talking about it with students and their families.

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Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Using a Values-Based Curriculum to Promote Social-Emotional Learning and Leadership Development**

- Priscilla Andrade, *Program Director*, Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP)
- Emelyn Guevara, *Associate Director for High School Programs*, Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP)

Description: The Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP) believes students need a safe and supportive community to flourish in their academic and leadership development. TEEP promotes leadership by employing a values-based curriculum and three essential community practices: 1) Restorative Justice, 2) Trauma-Informed Care, and 3) Racial Equity Awareness and Learning. The implementation of these tools allows TEEP to center student voice and promote social emotional learning. When students are heard and empowered to engage with confidence, they are better able to excel in their cognitive development. By focusing on values and mentorship instead of rules and punitive discipline, TEEP cultivates authentic engagement from middle and high school participants as well as college-aged alumni. Join presenters from TEEP to learn about how you can create a culture of safety, affirmation, inspiration, and empowerment in your own programs and schools. By the end of this workshop, participants will leave with tools that promote healthy and authentic relationships with the youth you serve.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **12:45 PM – 1:45 PM NETWORKING LUNCH**

Please join your colleagues for informal networking over lunch. The Keynote General Session with Na'ilah Suad Nasir will take place in the same room immediately following.

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **1:45 PM – 3:15 PM KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION**

#### **National Partnership for Educational Access and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Award for Excellence in Educational Access**

We extend a very special thank you to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for generously sponsoring the Award for Excellence in Educational Access for the fourth year in a row. The Award for Excellence recognizes an NPEA member organization, program, or school for excellence in supporting underserved students on the path to and through college.

#### **Remarks from 2018 Award for Excellence Recipient**

Dominique Jordan Turner, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, Chicago Scholars

#### **2019 Award for Excellence Presenter:**

- Alan Royal, *Senior Program Manager, Outreach and Partnerships*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

#### **Keynote Speaker Introduction:**

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Shawna Young, *Executive Director*, Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)

**Keynote:**

- Na'ilah Suad Nasir, *President*, Spencer Foundation; and *Author*, *Racialized Identities: Race and Achievement for African-American Youth* (2011)

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

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| <b>3:30 PM – 4:45 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> |
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**Behind the Veil: New Data on the Experiences of Students of Color at Predominantly White Independent Schools**

- Jackson Collins, *Associate Executive Director*, Prep for Prep

Description: This workshop will present the findings of recent doctoral research on the experiences of students of color who attend predominantly independent schools. In particular, the study focused on the sense of belonging, emotional well-being, and racial coping self-efficacy for students of color. This mixed methods research study had 525 participants from 74 independent schools from eight states in the Northeast. The students who participated in the study ranged from 7th grade up to one year out of college in the 2016-2017 school year. The presenter will share statistical and narrative data that make a case for a reexamination of how we support students of color and engage the broader school community. The findings presented in this workshop will also illuminate specific areas of student support and specific pain points for students of color at predominantly white institutions.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

**Exploring Earlier: Helping Students Discover College and Career Opportunities at a Younger Age**

- Kevin Fudge, *Director of Advocacy*, American Student Assistance

Description: This session outlines different ways higher education, K-12, and community-based organizations can work together to engage students earlier in the educational timeline -- as early as middle school -- on creating individualized pathways to post-secondary success and future career opportunities. The presenter will provide an overview of American Student Assistance's pilot programs with local Massachusetts schools and Boys and Girls Clubs aimed at helping middle school students understand their own proclivities, boost academic preparedness, and better align their high school classes with career and educational goals. Participants will learn promising practices and practical tips for engaging today's students at an earlier age to better understand themselves, their education, and their career opportunities, as well as how to destigmatize career and technical education in the minds of students and families. The session will also explore solutions for dealing with the aftermath when students make ill-informed higher education decisions without a clear plan.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

**How to Guide Your Students to STEM Degree Success**

- Ayinde Alleyne, *College Support Coordinator*, BEAM
- Lynn Cartwright-Punnett, *Senior Director of Programs*, BEAM
- Aisha Lhabaik, *Student*, Northwestern University; and *Alumna*, BEAM

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Description: A 10th grader walks into your office and says they want to be an engineer: what do you do next? How does that student's identity impact the likelihood they will finish a STEM degree? What can you do now, or even earlier than 10th grade, to support their success? In this workshop, the presenters will discuss how STEM college readiness differs from broader college readiness. They will talk about the broader landscape of who is graduating with STEM degrees, and what happens to students who enter college intending to major in STEM fields. The presenters will also define precursors to STEM success and how to support students in middle school, high school, and college, whether you work in a school or community-based organization.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Partnering to Reach 100% Graduation Rate and Break the Intergenerational Cycle of Poverty**

- Lindsey Luczynski, *Director of Strategic Partnerships*, Charles R. Drew Charter School
- Peter McKnight, *Principal, Senior Academy*, Charles R. Drew Charter School
- Daniel Shoy, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, East Lake Foundation
- Rachel Weaver, *Director of College and Career Readiness*, Charles R. Drew Charter School

Description: The East Lake Foundation was formed to revitalize a suffering inner city neighborhood and turn it into a vibrant community where all residents can thrive. Drew Charter School, a diverse, mixed-income public charter school serving 1,829 students in PK-12th grade, is both a critical partner and the educational centerpiece of the revitalization. The East Lake Foundation provides support for and strategic collaboration with Drew's Office of College and Career Readiness, which offers an innovative school counseling structure that consistently proves its effectiveness: the first graduating classes of 2017 and 2018, mostly comprised of first generation college students, achieved 100% and 98% graduation rates respectively, ranked first in the district for college persistence (82%), and collectively earned more than \$14M in scholarships. This session will offer strategies for replication, including reallocating resources, leveraging integral partnerships, and redefining counselor roles.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Progressive Pathways to Post-Secondary Success**

- Adrian Esquivel, *Deputy Director*, Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance
- Emily Rusca, *Director of State Policy and Strategy*, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University

Description: The Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance (CWFA) has come together with a number of local education funders to advance a shared interest in promoting the development of an education and workforce system with a seamless transition from secondary to post-secondary programs. Together, they formed a new fund within the CWFA, the Pro Path Fund, with the aim of improving that seamless transition by expanding the universe of transparent and accessible Progressive Pathways to Post-Secondary Success. Progressive Pathways allow individuals to alternate between and combine periods of education/training and employment, and thereby progressively build toward college and career success over an extended period of time. The Pro Path Fund wants to be part of changing the "college for all" mindset, replacing it with the vision of a well-connected and transparent career pathway system with multiple entry points and multiple exit points for all. This session will feature an overview of what is required to drive consensus, as well as provide best practices and detail the specific work underway. Participants will leave with takeaways for considering this work in their own communities.

***Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.***

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Where Are We Now? The Bucknell Community College Program Stronger than Ever!**

- Caro Mercado, *Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Partnerships*, Bucknell University

Description: In 2005, Bucknell University expanded an existing partnership program with five area community colleges in Pennsylvania and Maryland to identify high-achieving, low-income non-traditional students to participate in a six-week summer bridge program with opportunity to apply and secure full tuition scholarships to the University. In its 13th year, over 200 students have successfully transferred into Bucknell to complete their four year degrees within two to three years. In 2018, it added a sixth community college partner institution to the program. As a two-tiered comprehensive academic and co-curricular partnership program, the Bucknell Community College Scholars program continues to serve diverse and underserved populations to achieve success at a highly selective campus. Join this session to learn more about how this transformative program has beaten the odds and graduated these non-traditional students to bigger and better futures.

Skill Level: Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Circle Up! Community Building Circles for Youth Development**

- Sarah-Bess Dworin, *Director*, Restoring Community

Description: Circle Up! shows just how easy it is to integrate circles into daily classroom life and other youth development settings. By experiencing a circle in this workshop, participants will uncover key elements of circles, an essential component of a restorative culture. In addition to learning a formal circle approach, participants also practice circle variations in order to differentiate the practice to diverse groups in varied settings. With easy-to-implement circle strategies like micro-circles, spiral circles, and fishbowl circles, educators can find ways to 'circle up' large and small groups of students. In addition to circle styles, the presenter will share ways circles can be applied to establish norms at the beginning of the school year, foster academic conversations, and offer emotional support in challenging times. Participants will leave with an appreciation for the power of circles to foster meaningful relationships and understanding among community members, and they will gain resources to facilitate circles of their own.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Merchants Hotel North

### **Wanna Hangout? Using Online Hangouts to Foster Community and Cultivate Social-Emotional Wellness**

- June Folliard, *Manager, Scholarship Programs*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- Yoon-Chan Kim, *Educational Adviser*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

Description: This workshop session will demonstrate the utility of online hangouts to meet students where they are, strengthen community among students from different areas, address non-academic factors in student success, and foster socio-emotional wellness and character development among those from diverse backgrounds. By showcasing one example of an online video platform, presenters will discuss ways to address student needs through curricula that focus on non-academic factors of student success, such as social and emotional learning and character development. The session will not be a broad discussion on the state of social media, an advertisement for a particular online hangout platform, or comments from a technophile. Instead, participants will leave with

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practical and useful information about online hangouts and options for trying this model with students in their own programs and schools.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

#### **4:45 PM – 5:15 PM RESOURCE-SHARING FAIR**

Please join other conference attendees in visiting the Exhibit Tables and learn about a range of helpful resources. Bring your business cards and have your contact information ready to share during this active learning opportunity.

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom Prefunction

#### **5:30 PM – 7:00 PM NETWORK WITH PURPOSE RECEPTION**

Please join us to relax after a busy day and network with your friends and colleagues.

Location: Wolf Point Ballroom

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019**

#### **7:30 AM – 8:45 AM BREAKFAST, NETWORKING, AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

Network with other conference participants, share what you have learned at the conference thus far, and consider joining a Breakfast Roundtable.

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

#### **7:45 AM – 8:30 AM OPTIONAL BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES**

##### **First-Time Attendees and New NPEA Members**

Description: Join this informal breakfast roundtable to meet other first-time conference attendees and new NPEA members, and hear tips and strategies from veteran attendees about how to make the most out of your conference experience.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

##### **Telling the Story: Staying Mission-Centered When Communicating with Multiple Constituents**

- Amanda Sommerfeld Case, *Co-Director of College Placement*, Purdue University
- Jessica Hauser, *Executive Director*, Downtown Boxing Gym

Description: The purpose of this roundtable is to create a space where attendees can discuss dilemmas and strategies involved in communicating program visions, objectives, and needs to multiple constituents. The facilitators will invite reflections on how those involved in youth programming can communicate in positive ways for different audiences (students, staff members, and funders/board members) while remaining mission-centered and acknowledging the ways in

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which systemic forms of oppression impact our work. Roundtable attendees will be invited to brainstorm challenges and best practices for their work with various constituents.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **Difficult Conversations Made (Slightly) Less Difficult**

- Lauren Boros, *Principal*, The Noble Academy

Description: Has someone said or done something that has felt 'off' to you? Did you have the follow-up conversation? Those conversations are difficult, but are also necessary to create a work culture of healthy conflict that ultimately achieves the best results for our students. In this roundtable, participants will engage with a protocol for having difficult conversations and will practice using real-world examples and role-play conversations to become more fluent in the practice, ultimately becoming drivers of healthy organizations.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

### **An Educational Model for the Most Racially Diverse Generation in American History**

- Luthern Williams, *Head of School*, New Roads School

Description: Luthern Williams, Head of School at New Roads School in Santa Monica, and Mario Johanson, Director of Student Life, Equity, and Inclusion, discuss how to intentionally and systemically educate authentically diverse students to reach their full human potential, how to foster a school culture that prepares students for the Digital Age, and how to deal with the messiness and opportunities of managing an authentically diverse culture that invites each student to be who they are and helps them appreciate the full spectrum of humanity.

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

## **8:45 AM – 10:00 AM MORNING GENERAL SESSION AND KEYNOTE**

### **Keynote Speaker Introduction:**

- Toinette Gunn, *Executive Director*, Chicago Debates

### **Keynote:**

- Donnell Butler, *Senior Associate Dean for Planning and Analysis of Student Outcomes*, Franklin & Marshall College

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

## **10:15 AM – 11:30 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

### **A Conversation with Donnell Butler: Keynote Follow-Up**

- Donnell Butler, *Senior Associate Dean for Planning and Analysis of Student Outcomes*, Franklin & Marshall College

Description: You are invited to join Donnell Butler in a follow-up session to his general session keynote. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, learn about additional ways to best support underrepresented students on college campuses, dive more deeply into concepts shared during the keynote, and more.

***Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.***

Skill Level: All Levels

Location: tbd

### **BEACON Pathways: A Journey through Impactful and Collaborative Program Development**

- Erik Miller, *Director, Center for Community and Learning Partnerships*, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Jesse Solomon, *Executive Director*, Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE)

Description: Currently, computer science drives Boston's workforce as well as the state of innovation throughout our society. Labor reports outline that computing occupations are the number one source of all new wages in the United States and represent over half of all projected new jobs in STEM fields, making computer science an in-demand college degree. Despite all of this, computer science as a field needs a race and gender shift, since the majority of graduates (84%) are white males. BEACON Pathways, a collaboration between Dearborn STEM Academy (a Boston Public School) and Wentworth Institute of Technology, strives to increase the attendance, retention, and graduation rates of diverse populations pursuing STEM degrees, with a particular focus on computer science. Participants will leave with concrete best practices and ideas for how to support high school and college students who are interested in STEM and computer science degrees.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Character Strengths, the Character Collaborative, and Partnerships For College Access**

- William Carlos Herald, *Director, Chicago College Advising Corps*, University of Chicago
- David Holmes, *Executive Director*, Character Collaborative
- Keith Wright, *Director of Psychometrics*, The Enrollment Management Association

Description: The Character Collaborative joins college admission deans, college counselors, educational reformers, testing experts, and researchers to elevate character attributes in the college admission process. The work of the Collaborative is grounded in research by Angela Duckworth, James Heckman, and other leading scholars that demonstrates that character strengths predict success in school, work, and life. This session will discuss and demonstrate innovative work by the Collaborative and its members to assess character strengths and embed character as a meaningful factor in the college admission process. The presenters will discuss the implications of this work for expanding access to higher education for underserved populations. Participants will be invited to help shape the work of the Collaborative in the years ahead, especially as it pertains to improving access and equity for all youth.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Curriculum Counts! Building an Inclusive Curriculum for All Students**

- Marcus Deveso, *Assistant Director, Director of High School Prep and College Prep*, Buffalo Prep

Description: This workshop will provide the framework for shifting learning programs from a standards/test-based curriculum to a culturally-relevant, culturally-sustaining curriculum that uses each student's cultural values and experiences as assets to the teaching and learning process. The session will provide practical and "real life" details based on the successes and challenges in the transformation of a learning program. Participants will see the evolution from a traditional curriculum that was a reflection of the dominant canon of learning to a curriculum that is a dynamic reflection of the lived experience of our students and our community.

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Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **K-12 to Career: Building Pipelines to College and Career through Mutually Beneficial Cross-Sector Collaboration**

- Lucia Lopez, *Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission*, DePaul University
- Amanda Parada-Villatoro, *Director of College Access*, DePaul University
- Eric Williams, *Postsecondary Network Specialist Manager*, Chicago Public Schools

Description: Increasing underserved students' college access and attainment is critical to upending cyclical poverty and shattering glass ceilings. Of equal importance is increasing students' access to high-paying, in-demand careers. Cross-sector partnerships bridging K-12, higher education, and the private sector, by focusing on mutual interests, can lead to innovative college and career pipeline models that empower disadvantaged students to consider pathways previously unknown to them or considered out of reach. Highlighting the *High School Actuarial Day*, hosted at DePaul University in partnership with Chicago Public Schools and the Casualty Actuarial Society, this session will discuss how cross-sector collaborations can pave the way for new approaches in sealing leaky pipelines to professional fields for underserved students.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Problem-Solving Tools for Group Facilitators**

- Yully Cha, *Consultant*

Description: Meetings can be an expensive use of organizational resources – your time is a limited and high-demand resource. Come to this hands-on session ready to share and learn how to get more out of your collaborative efforts. Attendees will gain actionable information about facilitating meetings, including tools such as Six Hat Thinking. Attendees are encouraged to bring a real-life work challenge to the session and the presenter will use the group process to select one or two challenges to practice a few optimizing tools. This group activity will include a sample agenda to get more out of the prework opportunity before the meeting, applying decision-making and problem-solving models to the practice case, and information for how to get to actionable next steps by the end of the meeting. This session will be hands-on, so bring your ideas and enthusiasm!

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Relationship-Based College Counseling**

- Jessica Wenzel, *College Counselor*, Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School

Description: Students from low-income backgrounds often have experienced trauma in their lives that affects their self-confidence and trust in others. Being the first in their families to apply to college can cause additional stresses, insecurities, and other triggers. In this session, educators will learn how to utilize trauma-informed care and relationship-based techniques in their college counseling practice and in work with students. Attendees will walk away with tangible activities, practices, and plans for how to better serve those who may not seek out the help they need due to their own pasts.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Location: tbd

***Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.***

**Using Data to Drive Successful Collective Action: How Collaborative Networks of Schools, Nonprofits, and Funders Can Share Responsibility For Improving Student Outcomes**

- Colette Stanzler, *Principal*, Root Cause

Description: Do you find gaps in the services being provided among the school systems and nonprofits with which you work? Are there redundancies and duplicate services being provided to students? Do some groups of students receive more services than they need, while others receive fewer? If you encounter these challenges, do you have opportunities to work with schools and service providers to collaborate, intentionally coordinate services, and use shared data to reach more students with greater efficiency and impact? Join Root Cause, a for-purpose consulting group, for an interactive workshop to discuss the challenges related to using data to coordinate services. Explore models in which service providers have successfully aligned and monitored their work around an agreed upon set of common outcomes. Using examples from collective action initiatives in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville, Massachusetts, and Guilford County in North Carolina, the session will discuss opportunities to coordinate schools and nonprofits around using data to ensure youth meet agreed-upon milestones and critical outcomes.

Skill Level: Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH**

Please enjoy a networking lunch with your fellow conference attendees.

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION PARTNER LUNCH**

**Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Lunch – pre-registration required**

- Alan Royal, *Senior Program Manager, Outreach and Partnerships*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation  
Please join the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for a special lunch session to meet with staff and learn about the Foundation's work in advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need through scholarships, grants, and thought leadership. Learn more about the Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program, a pre-college program for high-performing 7th grade students with financial need.

Location: tbd

**12:45 PM – 2:00 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

**Post-Secondary Education in Canada: An Innovative Case Study in Collaboration and Partnerships**

- Eric Mezin, *Executive Director*, Council of Educators of Toronto
- Leisha Sladden-Atkinson, *Program Manager*, Council of Educators of Toronto

Description: The Council of Educators of Toronto (CET) was the first Canadian organization to join the NPEA community of practice. It is the only network of its kind in Canada, and includes all the educational institutions of Toronto - four school boards, six colleges, and four universities - which came together in 2009 to help break the cycle of violence and poverty in the city through a shared vision of greater access to post-secondary education (PSE) for disenfranchised youth. The CET has translated this vision into a unique, innovative, and effective approach to collaboration and partnerships, not only among member educational institutions supporting the needs of non-

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traditional and underserved learners, but also across the larger Toronto network of community-based organizations. This workshop will present the lessons learned from this approach and how they might work in the United States, sharing concrete, replicable strategies and ideas designed to promote service coordination, leverage limited resources, and foster systemic change through research and measurable outcomes.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Best Practices for Working with Newcomer English Language Learners**

- Joanna Dimas, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees
- Sofia Martinez, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees
- Gladys Cortez Montiel, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees

Description: In this session, 10,000 Degrees (a college access and success nonprofit based in the greater San Francisco Bay Area) will share critical best practices for supporting English Language Learners (ELLs) with high school completion and enrolling into a post-secondary institution or program. Presenters will define what it means to be classified as an ELL, debunk myths, and provide tips for best supporting ELLs. 10,000 Degrees has first-hand experience working with ELLs and focuses on bringing awareness to students and families regarding the college admission and financial aid process. 10,000 Degrees also helps students explore technical and vocational careers, in addition to other resources and opportunities in the community in order to ensure student success. With the growing population of ELLs in the country's public education system, it is essential to know how to identify, support, and empower ELLs and their families throughout their educational journey.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Location: tbd

### **Building Students' Agency and Non-cognitive Skills: A Framework for Classroom and School Implementation**

- Suzanne Herko, *Student Agency Coordinator*, Gateway Public Schools
- Sharon Olken, *Executive Director*, Gateway Public Schools

Description: At Gateway Public Schools, we know that the success of our diverse student body is dependent upon much more than teaching academic content and traditional skills. In order to achieve equitable outcomes for our students, Gateway Public Schools focuses on helping students grow their agency as learners through the mastery of a set of non-cognitive skills and habits that support their development across all subject areas. The presenters will share information on their five key areas of non-cognitive skills: 1) Academic Strategies, 2) Academic Habits, 3) Self-Awareness and Growth Mindset, 4) Self-Advocacy, and 5) Collaboration and Community Skills. This workshop will provide resources for teachers, administrators, and community-based partners. Teachers will gain concrete strategies and tools to integrate into daily lessons and classrooms, administrators will leave with a professional development framework and strategies for supporting this work by teachers, and community partners will learn practical strategies to support students in non-cognitive skill development.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Can You Hack It? Using Design Thinking to Solve Problems**

- Jonathan Chaparro, *Founding Chicago Site Director*, Braven

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Description: Problem-solving and teamwork are two of the top skills employers look for in a new hire. In the Braven Accelerator, teams of college students, called Fellows, learn and practice the design-thinking, problem-solving framework needed in order to solve a complex, persistent challenge for a real company partner. Join this workshop and participate in a mini design thinking hackathon where you will work in teams to solve a real-world career-preparation challenge. Attendees will produce an innovative prototype while learning and practicing design-thinking - a framework that can be applied to challenges in your own work with students or colleagues.

Skill Level: Advanced

Location: tbd

### **Development vs. Program: Building a Bridge Between Offices to Best Serve Students**

- Jared Epler, *Director of College Counseling*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
- Jenara Gardner, *Manager of Philanthropy*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
- Cecily White, *Director of Graduate Support*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Description: Students of color, low-income students, women in STEM fields, and first generation students are underrepresented. Let's face it - sometimes there is some tension between those who raise the money and those who are working the front lines supporting students! Why not discover new ways to communicate more effectively, work better together, and ultimately better serve your students? This workshop will focus on how to collaborate with your development/fundraising office to: 1) Create culturally competent language for fundraising appeals and efforts, 2) Discover best practices for tracking and sharing data and outcomes, 3) Research and apply for grant funding, and 4) Recruit, train, and engage volunteers to support your work.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **So You Wanna Be A ... ?: Creating Comprehensive Career Pipelines for Underrepresented Students**

- Erica DeBiase, *Director of Academic and Career Development*, The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants
- Erik Miller, *Director, Center for Community and Learning Partnerships*, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Diane Scott, *Co-Director of Placement*, Academy of the Pacific Rim

Description: Students of color, low-income students, women in STEM fields, and first generation students are underrepresented in most college environments and career pathways. Career exposure, preparation, and experience can be a key player in college access and success work, especially as college costs escalate, financial aid budgets shrink, and the conversations about return on investment for higher education intensify. One way for underrepresented students to shorten time-to-degree may be greater exposure to and experience of career pathways before they get to college. This workshop will share two models for community partnerships to create comprehensive career pipelines for underrepresented students that include high schools, a variety of higher education institutions, business/industry, and professional associations. Participants will come away with ideas for how to create similar pipeline programs in their communities.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Supporting Effective Transitions from 8th to 9th Grade**

- Rachel Graham, *Director of Programs*, Success Bound, Lefkofsky Family Foundation

***Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.***

- Elly Leman, *Success Bound Coach*, Success Bound, Lefkofsky Family Foundation

Description: Success Bound prepares middle schoolers for high school and beyond. This work begins in the 6th grade, with a focus on teaching students the importance of grades, attendance, and enrolling in their best match-and-fit high school. In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the research behind the importance of the middle grades and collaborate around the best strategies to help students have a successful transition to 9th grade. Participants will walk away able to articulate the importance of the middle grades and the potential challenges students face in the transition to high school. Moreover, participants will have tangible tools from Success Bound to help 6th-8th grade students advocate for themselves, build their own Success Team, begin to formulate a postsecondary plan, and develop a student profile outlining their strengths.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Location: tbd

### **Transforming the Trauma: How Do We Build Resilience in Our Scholars?**

- Lisa Fornwald, *Site Director*, North Cook Young Adult Academy
- Christine M. López, *Principal*, Lopez Consulting, Inc.

Description: Data indicates that more than half of all children in the United States have experienced some form of trauma, and 35% of children have experienced more than one type of traumatic event (Centers for Disease Control, 2017). These Adverse Childhood Experiences and toxic stressors manifest outwardly and are most commonly seen with students acting out in class. During this session, attendees will explore educational research findings about self-regulation, learning more about how these theories can be applied in schools to create programs that positively change children's lives to assist them in reaching their highest potential. Attendees will learn how breathing techniques, guided imagery, and yoga play an important role in healing from trauma, allowing students to excel by building safe spaces for them to flourish.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Location: tbd

## **2:15 PM – 3:30 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION**

### **Keynote Sponsor Remarks and Introduction:**

- Audrey George, Executive Director, Horizons for Youth

### **Keynote:**

- Eve L. Ewing, *Assistant Professor in the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago*; and *Author, Electric Arches (2017) and Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side (2018)*

### **Closing Conference Remarks**

- Karin Elliott, *Executive Director*, National Partnership for Educational Access

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom

## **3:30 PM – 4:00 PM BOOK SALES AND SIGNING: EVE L. EWING**

Eve L. Ewing will sign copies of her books immediately following the closing Keynote General Session.

*Please note: the agenda is subject to change prior to the conference.*

Location: Sauganash Grand Ballroom Prefunction