

**National Partnership for Educational Access 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Journeys to Success: Equity and Access for All Students*  
April 5-7, 2017  
Hyatt Regency Cambridge

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM REGISTRATION FOR PRE-CONFERENCES AND SITE VISITS**

If you are attending a pre-conference or site visit, please come to the first floor lobby to check in and pick up your nametag and materials.

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

It Takes a Village: Nonprofit Collaboration, College Partnerships, and Student Support to Improve Citywide College Success

- Eric Esteves, *Director of the Social Innovation Fund*, The Boston Foundation
- Liliana Mickle, *Special Assistant to the Vice Provost*, University of Massachusetts Boston
- Matt Waldman, *Senior Director of College Services*, The Steppingstone Foundation
- Presenter, TBD
- Presenter, TBD

Description: This interactive and engaging workshop will challenge you to examine your organization's partnerships and strategic planning, while you think critically about how best to serve your students striving for college success. Together, we will look closely at the lessons learned by the Success Boston initiative, their nonprofit community, and Boston students as they participate in a citywide effort to improve access and success in higher education. Since 2008, the Success Boston initiative has been connecting Boston's community organizations, colleges, and nonprofits to work toward a singular mission: to improve college graduation rates for all Boston students. This unique challenge, organized through The Boston Foundation, has been steeped in data, collaboration, and many lessons learned on how to support a diverse body of students in higher education. This pre-conference session will not only address these best practices, but will also ask participants to start thinking about how they can facilitate strong connections for their institutions and organizations.

Location: Molly Pitcher

Advising Students and Families through the Independent School Financial Aid Process

- Mark Mitchell, *Vice President*, School and Student Services By NAIS (SSS By NAIS)
- Aicha Thomas, *Client Services Associate*, School and Student Services By NAIS (SSS By NAIS)

Description: The independent school financial aid application process can seem complex and overwhelming for many families. Yet, it is a critical component for underrepresented students and families to gain access into independent schools. In this workshop, we will walk through the application, highlighting the items that are critical to get right and how schools tend to use the information. Explore how to help parents avoid the top mistakes applicants often make and pick up tips for educating families throughout the process. Participants will come away from this training with greater confidence in answering families' questions about how the process works and what they should expect.

Location: Haym Saloman

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM SITE VISITS**

Please join us for site visits to schools and organizations in the Boston area.

Option One: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs (OEOP)

Option Two: Boston College

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS HOUR**

Please join fellow community-based organizations and schools for a networking partnership hour, specifically geared towards helping you strengthen relationships across different settings to better support underrepresented students. We encourage you to use this time to connect with as many people as possible and leave with as many business cards as you can. Come prepared for active networking!

Location: Crispus Attucks

**4:00 PM – 7:30 PM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN**

Conference registration and check-in will open prior to the welcome reception. Registered conference attendees are invited to pick up a nametag, program, and conference materials during this time. Registration will also be open on Thursday morning of the conference.

Location: Charles View Ballroom Foyer, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM WELCOME RECEPTION**

Please join us for our kick-off welcome reception and network with other conference attendees.

Welcome:  
Kelly Glew, *President*, The Steppingstone Foundation

Location: Charles View Ballroom, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017**

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM BREAKFAST AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Conference registration will be open and registered attendees can check in to pick up a nametag, program, and conference materials at this time. Network with other conference attendees over breakfast and join a Breakfast Roundtable facilitated discussion.

Location: President's Ballroom

**7:30 AM – 8:15 AM CONCURRENT BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES**

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Connect with your fellow conference attendees in structured dialogue at our Breakfast Roundtables in the general session ballroom. There will also be an area in the ballroom designated for first-time conference attendees and new NPEA members.

### Supporting Low-Income and First Generation Students: College Match and Fit

- Toinette Gunn, *Vice President, Programs*, Chicago Scholars
- Ashley Tittlemore, *Executive Director of College Access Programs, and Director of Upward Bound Math and Science TRIO Program*, Central Carolina Community College

Description: Many first generation college students have limited access to college guidance and counseling, specifically with regard to determining which schools would be a good match and fit. The role of the college counselor has never been more important than it is today. Counselors can profoundly influence students' college decisions and future plans. Join Chicago Scholars and Central Carolina Community College in a lively discussion about how best to support first generation college-going students.

### Increasing College Access and Completion through College Savings Accounts

- Monica Copeland, *Senior Program Manager, Children's Savings*, Corporation for Enterprise Development
- Laura Owens, *Chief of Staff*, National "I Have a Dream" Foundation
- Emily Westergaard, *Executive Director*, Des Moines "I Have a Dream" Foundation

Description: Research shows that children with college savings accounts will be up to seven times more likely to attend college than those without an account. This is true regardless of the family's income, race, or educational attainment. Join this discussion about best practices for encouraging and supporting families to open college savings accounts.

### Crossing the Finish Line: Best Practices for Supporting First Generation College Students Through College Graduation

- Ays Necioglu, *Vice President, SEO College Scholars*, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity

Description: Less than 20 percent of low-income students graduate from a four-year college in eight years. SEO Scholars has a 90 percent college completion rate for that same demographic. More than 75 percent of their Scholars graduate in four years and over 90 percent finish in six years. Join this discussion to learn best practices and share your own ideas for increasing graduation rates for first generation students.

### Developing Ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Your School

- Courtney Portlock, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, The Diversity Quotient; and *Assistant Head of Upper School*, Stuart Country Day School
- John Steele, *Founding Member and Senior Associate*, The Diversity Quotient

Description: Coalition building around diversity, equity, and inclusion is often difficult. Join a discussion about how to build momentum in this task, from assessment of community values, to goal setting, to strategy implementation. You will also have the opportunity to discuss real-world successes and challenges that both public and independent schools face when pursuing these goals.

### Support for College Students with Foster Care Experience

- Judi Alperin King, *Executive Director*, The Wily Network
- Jennifer Schoen, *Director, Opportunity Scholarships and Outreach Programs*, Northeastern University

Description: Almost every college access nonprofit works with students in foster care at some point. Foster care alumni face many challenges on their path to and through college. Nationally, the college graduation rate for foster care alumni is less than three percent. Join this roundtable to hear best

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

practices and learn about a partnership between Boston-area colleges and a nonprofit organization seeking to improve graduation outcomes for foster care alumni attending four-year residential colleges.

Establishing Cultural Sensitivity In the Classroom

- Tyrone Black, *Director of Student Advancement*, Wooster School

Description: How do we create an atmosphere of inclusivity in the classroom and encourage students to proudly share their cultural identity without feeling like they are being judged? Join this roundtable to discuss identity and stereotypes, explore the difference between diversity and inclusion, and share your own ideas, experiences, and best practices around encouraging cultural sensitivity in the classroom.

**8:15 AM – 10:00 AM OPENING GENERAL SESSION: JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS  
ALUMNI PANEL**

**Welcome:**

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

**Speaker Introduction:**

- Channa Srey, *Senior Manager of College and Career Pathways*, The Possible Project; and *Conference Planning Committee Member*, National Partnership for Educational Access

**Welcoming Remarks:**

- TBD

**Alumni Panel:**

**Moderator:** Nnaemeka Ekwelum, *Graduate Student*, Harvard Graduate School of Education (The Steppingstone Foundation)

**Panelists:**

- Bernadine Desanges, *Program Manager of Student Development and Leadership Programming*, John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, Northeastern University (Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School)
- Shaun Hamilton, *Senior Investment Advisory Associate*, Andersen Tax LLC (Northeastern University Torch Scholars Program)
- Doreen Kelly-Carney, *Co-Director of College Placement*, Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School
- David Lamour, *Director*, *Teen Advantage*, Steps to Success (Steps to Success)
- Daniela Ramirez, *Graduate Student*, Northeastern University (Excel Academy Charter Schools)

Location: President's Ballroom

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

Building an Organizational Learning Culture From the Inside Out

- Alexis Bayley, *Organizational Learning Specialist*, Aim High
- Alec Lee, *Executive Director*, Aim High

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Description: Representatives from Aim High, a free summer learning and enrichment program that expands opportunities for low-income middle school students and their teachers, will share their journey of building an organizational learning culture over the course of Aim High's 30-year history. This process includes a recent implementation study of Aim High conducted by Stanford University's John W. Gardner Center. In this session, you will learn about the components of an organizational learning culture, assess where your organization is in the process, and leave the workshop with a commitment to use tools that promote organizational learning.

Location: Haym Saloman

Skill Level: Experienced in the Field

### Diversifying Support Services for Diverse Learners

- Ashley Allen, *Director of Postsecondary Programs*, Horizons for Youth
- Shalanda Dexter, *Diverse Learners Program Coordinator*, Horizons for Youth

Description: Almost a quarter of the U.S. population possesses some type of disability that impacts their learning. Among those, 13 percent receive special education services from their school. Unfortunately, many do not receive the early intervention or even the proper diagnosis needed to be successful academically or to prepare for a postsecondary education. Horizons for Youth has been working with students of all academic abilities since its inception 25 years ago. This year, they formalized their support services for diverse learners by creating the Diverse Learner Program. Please join Horizons for Youth as they discuss their program's successes and challenges. They will share information for how to: 1) identify diverse learners; 2) support them and their families from elementary school through college; and 3) utilize existing resources to build capacity in current programming to address the specific needs of diverse learners.

Location: Paul Revere A

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field

### Roadblock or Pathway: The New SAT, ACT, and Test Optional Schools

- Akil Bello, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*, The Princeton Review
- Lisa Guisbond, *Assessment Reform Analyst*, National Center for Fair and Open Testing
- James Murphy, *Director of Tutoring*, The Princeton Review – New England

Description: For most students, admissions exams are one of the biggest challenges in the journey to college. Anxiety over the tests has grown as the SAT underwent a major change in the past year and the ACT went through a quieter transformation. While some view the exams as roadblocks to access, many states and districts are including school day testing and test prep in their curriculum because they believe the exams are pathways to opportunity. Amidst all this tumult, a growing number of colleges and students are following a test optional path. Join three experts for a workshop dedicated to understanding the current state of affairs with admissions exams and developing best practices to help students choose the best option for them.

Location: Paul Revere BC

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

### Helping Families Navigate College Applications and Financial Aid

- John Hupalo, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, Invite Education

Description: Advising families on how to navigate the jargon and acronym-laden process of planning for and financing college leaves many professionals as overwhelmed and anxious as the families seeking their counsel. This interactive session will empower you with the information, tools, and services you need to demystify the college application and financing process. You will have the

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

opportunity to share your experiences with and hear from a 30-year veteran of the education finance industry and co-author of Amazon's #1 New Release in Education, *Plan and Finance Your Family's College Dreams* (2016). The presenter will offer an analysis of the issues as well as clear ideas on the steps you can take to help families pursue a path to a great college fit that is academically and socially appropriate and affordable.

Location: William Dawes

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field

Establishing a University-Sponsored, Multi-Year College Access Program: Lessons Learned

- Cassandra Geiger, *Program Director*, Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools
- Jason Klugman, *Director*, Princeton University Preparatory Program
- Leah Merrifield, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement and St. Louis College Readiness Initiatives*, Washington University in St. Louis
- Abel Ochoa, *Director*, University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program

Description: In this workshop, the presenters will share their knowledge and experience in establishing programs within a private university setting in order to serve urban high school students, many of whom are first generation and/or low-income college-bound students. From recently established to decades-old programs, you will learn about strategies, data, and insights from four different multi-year college access programs. Participants will discuss best practices for starting similar partnerships, as well as how to grow and manage similar models.

Location: Molly Pitcher

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

“Do The Right Thing” Pedagogy

- Mario Benabe, *STE(A)M Educator*, South Bronx Community Charter High School

Description: “Do The Right Thing” Pedagogy is at the intersection of culturally sustaining/relevant pedagogy and critical pedagogy. This workshop will facilitate an important conversation around how educators can practice this pedagogy within the context of their programs and schools by ensuring students’ realities and identities are used as an anchor for instruction. Participants will explore various models and best practices, interact with like-minded educators, and stay connected through social media with the hashtag #DoTheRightThingPedagogy.

Location: Crispus Attucks

Skill Level: All Levels

Creating a Community-Based Circle of Care: Working with Students from Age Five to 25

- Timothy Crellin, *Founder and Executive Director*, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Jeremy Kazanjian-Amory, *Senior Manager of College Access and Success*, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Bella Vidaña, *Coordinator, Junior Counselor in Training Program*, St. Stephens's Youth Programs

Description: What does it mean to be a community-based organization? How can creating long-term relationships with students and families help to ensure lifelong success? How can creating clear partnerships between schools and community-based organizations help support students inside and outside of school? Over the past 17 years, St. Stephen's Youth Programs has created a new approach to ensure students are prepared for lifelong success. Supporting students and families from the age of five through 25, St. Stephen's combines a K-8 after-school program, teen employment, college and career programming, as well as social and emotional support and programming. This session

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

will highlight their Circle of Care model by sharing how they have partnered with the Blackstone Innovation School, Trinity Boston, and over 100 additional partners to best support students.

Location: Thomas Paine

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field, Experienced in the Field

One Organization's Journey to Incorporate and Evaluate Social-Emotional Learning

- Lara Dreier, *National Senior Manager, Program Implementation and Growth*, College Possible
- Chris Mitchell, *National Senior Manager, Curriculum and Instruction*, College Possible

Description: Social-emotional learning is proven to be critical to student success. Yet, low-income students are the least likely to be explicitly taught how to navigate the personal and interpersonal challenges they may confront. Join presenters from College Possible as they share about the importance of social-emotional learning—particularly as it relates to students' success in high school, college, and beyond—and how they added social-emotional learning as a core pillar to their curriculum. Finally, learn about qualitative and quantitative evaluation techniques designed to measure the effectiveness of this programming and curriculum.

Location: Cambridge

Skill Level: All Levels

### **11:45 AM – 12:45 PM NETWORKING LUNCH**

Please join your colleagues for informal networking over lunch. The Keynote General Session with Stella M. Flores will take place in the same room immediately following.

Location: President's Ballroom

### **12:45 PM – 1:45 PM KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION**

**Keynote Speaker Introduction:**

- Rhonda Auguste, *Executive Director*, The Wight Foundation; and *Advisory Board Member*, National Partnership for Educational Access

**Keynote:**

- Stella M. Flores, *Associate Professor of Higher Education and Director of Access and Equity*, Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University

Location: President's Ballroom

### **2:00 PM – 3:15 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Rethinking Leadership for Students of Color

- Manny Guisa, *Assistant Program Manager for Scholar Support*, A Better Chance
- Keith Wilkerson, *Senior Program Manager of the Mid-Atlantic Region*, A Better Chance

Description: Leadership groups can be critical in supporting students so they are best prepared to meet new challenges in higher education and in an ever-changing job market. When groups consist of students of color, however, those challenges are more varied and complex. If executed effectively, inspiring leadership in students of color can be the genesis of lifelong self-advocacy. With years of

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

experience strategically engaging a diverse body of Scholars, A Better Chance has refined efficacious and pragmatic practices towards bolstering the impact on student trajectories in college preparatory school settings. Come learn best practices for rethinking leadership for students of color.

Location: Haym Saloman

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

To REFI or Not to REFI: That Is the Question

- Stephanie Wells, *Director of Community Outreach*, MEFA, Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority

Description: Increasingly, students and parents are asking questions about refinancing their education loan debt, even before they have borrowed. This session will delve into all the questions and considerations borrowers need to think about when weighing their refinancing and consolidation options. An update of the REFI marketplace and the key differences between refinancing versus consolidation will be presented. Join this session for an interactive discussion that will include credit and income standards for various education loan REFI products, how best to advise students on comparing options, and common reasons why students are declined from refinancing.

Location: Paul Revere A

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

No Silver Bullet: Concord Academy's Comprehensive Approach to Building Community

- Ayres Stiles-Hall, *Community and Equity Team Member and English Teacher*, Concord Academy
- Laura Twichell, *Assistant Dean for Community and Equity*, Concord Academy

Description: It sometimes feels as though schools need to find that “one right thing” that will finally allow them to build the community they want; this workshop, however, is built on the premise that there is no “one right thing.” Presenters in this session will share Concord Academy’s multi-faceted approach to engaging every constituency in their community. By implementing numerous small programs, such as an alumnae/i mentoring program and a student inclusion council, Concord Academy provides an intentional net of support that creates overlapping spaces for individual learning, community improvement, difficult conversations, affinity empowerment, and advocacy. Come join this important discussion and learn best practices for how your school can connect and support every member of your community in an inclusive way.

Location: Paul Revere BC

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

The Impact of a Promise: A Loan Replacement Grant, Low-Income Students, and College Graduation

- Susan Gershenfeld, *Visiting Scholar, Institute on Assets and Social Policy*, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

Description: For more than a decade, a growing number of public universities have followed the lead of private colleges and universities by offering a loan replacement grant for low-income students, making college affordable to those least able to pay. While this has been a major change in financial aid policy, research is lacking on the impact of these new policies, specifically on college graduation rates. Does removing the financial barrier through a loan replacement grant make a difference in graduation rates for low-income students? This workshop highlights research findings from the first study examining the impact of a loan replacement grant, I-Promise, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is among the leading public universities offering a loan

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

replacement grant and support services for students coming from poverty, with approximately 1,000 students now enrolled each year. In this workshop, the presenter will share research results and facilitate a dialogue on policy and practice implications.

Location: William Dawes

Skill Level: All Levels

Focusing on Alumni: How Data Can Change Programming and Enhance Learning

- Sharon Liszanckie, *Executive Director*, Boston Prep Charter Public School
- Graham VanderZanden, *Director of Strategic Projects*, Boston Prep Charter Public School
- Mindy Wright, *Director of the Persistence Project*, Boston Prep Charter Public School

Description: Organizations thrive and change through their research and design (R&D) process. At Boston Preparatory Charter Public School (Boston Prep), they view alumni as the important “R&D” arm of the organization. By staying in touch with alumni, analyzing data, and listening and learning from their comments, Boston Prep has adapted 6-12 programming and messages for students and families, and enhanced alumni programming to improve persistence and graduation rates. During this session, you will learn about the alumni Persistence Project at Boston Prep, data and related tools, lessons learned, and partnerships supporting their work.

Location: Molly Pitcher

Skill Level: All Levels

Community By Design: Creating Pathways for Student Achievement

- Linda Borden, *Student and Alumni Support Consultant*, MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs
- Denise Mytko, *Manager of Programs*, MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs
- Adia Wallace, *Program Assistant*, MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs

Description: When working with highly-driven or academically-advanced students, organizations and schools often encounter challenges around how to adequately support them. Recognizing talent, celebrating diversity, and empowering students to overcome and handle challenges are key pieces of the student achievement pathway. Please join the presenters as they guide you through activities exploring how to bolster support services for greater student success by aligning strategies with your program goals. The presenters will share three programmatic models and related best practices as case studies from the MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs.

Location: Crispus Attucks

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

Redefining College Success: Career Readiness

- Theresa Atta, *Director, MLT Ascend College Program*, Management Leadership for Tomorrow
- Danelle Radney, *Senior Director of College Programs*, Management Leadership for Tomorrow

Description: College graduation should not be the end goal; it is just not enough. During this interactive session, you will learn why reframing the objective from college success to career readiness is critical to college persistence and graduation, especially for low-income and first generation students, as well as learn how to introduce and apply a proven career development model for students within student programming. The presenters will share key findings on college and career success, practical next steps organizations can take to ensure students are best positioned for success after college, and a guide to a unique and adaptable model for college success and career readiness.

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Location: Thomas Paine

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field

Out of the Pipeline and On to the Pathway: A Person-Centered Approach to Accessing Higher Education

- Nicole Batt, *Director, Office of Engagement*, University of Utah
- Rachel Everitt, *Associate Director*, Utah College Advising Corps

Description: “Sense of belonging is a basic human need, a fundamental motivation, sufficient to drive behaviors and perceptions. Its satisfaction leads to positive gains such as happiness, elation, achievement, and optimal functioning” (Strayhorn, 2012). The Office of Engagement at the University of Utah is working to build cohesive, continuous, and accessible K-16 pathway programs by engaging students and their families. They are focused on developing a sense of belonging on college campuses – both prior to attending college and after arriving on campus – to increase college-going, retention, and graduation rates. Presenters will discuss programs housed within the Office of Engagement and share successes and challenges on their journey to normalize the college-going process for all students from elementary school through college.

Location: Cambridge

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

**3:30 PM – 4:45 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Too Tough to Talk About: Critical Conversations in the Classroom

- Gerrit “Gary” DeYoung, *Doctoral Student*, Boston University

Description: The world our students are entering has grown more stressful and challenging. Recent highly publicized police shootings, terrorist attacks, and political polarization, as well as longstanding stresses of youth—family and peer conflict, mental health issues, and bullying, victimization, and violence—all take a toll on students, particularly the most vulnerable. Sometimes these issues are the elephants in the room. Sometimes they are hidden. Either way, they often emerge when we are least prepared. We know our students need to discuss these relevant and pressing issues, but how? This workshop will provide educators with well-researched tools to confidently hold these challenging conversations whenever they arise.

Location: Haym Saloman

Skill Level: All Levels

From Students to Staff: Encouraging Alumni to Become Leaders in the Field

- Edgar Ocana, *Trainee*, Enterprise Rent-a-Car Management Training Program; and *Alumnus*, Let’s Get Ready
- Ralph St. Louis, *Junior*, University of Massachusetts Lowell; and *Alumnus*, Let’s Get Ready
- Lisa Ulrich, *Executive Director*, *New England*, Let’s Get Ready

Description: What happens when the former students of a near-peer college access and success program serving low-income and first generation youth become its teachers and organizers? At Let’s Get Ready, nearly 20 percent of the college coaches and site directors are program alumni. Please join this interactive session and explore the experiences of a growing cohort of alumni who are now returning to teach in the Let’s Get Ready college access program and provide near-peer support on college campuses. Attendees will learn about the unique strengths and challenges that alumni bring to their work and how best to recruit and support alumni in this role.

Location: Paul Revere A

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

The Power of Partnerships: How High Schools and Higher Education Can Collaborate to Get Students To and Through

- Jared Epler, *Director of College Counseling*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
- Cecily White, *Alumni Program Coordinator*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Description: Recognizing the importance of partnerships between high schools, college, and universities as a way to collectively support students to and through college, this workshop will share information about Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School's College Partnership Model. The presenters will discuss how to: identify and recruit effective partners; work with colleges to create school-specific funding strategies that make college accessible for all; build summer support plans to ensure all students matriculate; and collaborate to ensure student success on campus. Participants will also learn best practices for communication strategies and how to use data to evaluate a partnership program.

Location: Paul Revere BC

Skill Level: All Levels

Engaging Youth in Educational Equity through Action Civics and Social Justice Work

- Sarah Andes, *Director of Programming*, Generation Citizen
- Olivia Nunez, *Senior Director of Community Engagement*, GO Project

Description: Part of the struggle for equity and access for all of our students involves honoring students' personal experiences in the educational sphere, and offering them vocabulary, tools, and strategies to become active rather than passive actors in striving for social justice. In this workshop, staff from Generation Citizen, a national action civics organization, and GO Project, a community-based organization serving New York City public school students, will offer strategies for involving students in social justice, equity, and action. Generation Citizen will share a model structure they have implemented in schools across the country to invite students to solve issues in their communities through a democratically-oriented action civics curriculum. GO Project will discuss their GO Getter Summer Internship program designed to engage high school students as drivers of change.

Location: William Dawes

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

Parent-Oriented College Access Curriculum: Rewarding Engagement and Financial Empowerment

- Stephanie Chery, *Education Manager*, Inversant, Inc.
- Charles Desmond, *Chief Executive Officer*, Inversant, Inc.

Description: Family engagement is increasingly recognized as an important factor for student success in school and beyond. However, parents of underrepresented students often do not receive the information they need to best support their students through high school and the college application process. Inversant promotes saving for college and uses various incentive-based strategies to encourage positive behavioral changes. They have developed a comprehensive parent-oriented curriculum that structures and rewards engagement, empowers parents, and that has received positive evaluations, testimonies, and demonstrated success. With data to back up their work, Inversant has found that students whose parents participated in their programming are performing better in high school and showing higher college enrollment and retention rates than students whose parents did not participate. The presenters will share strategies to guide attendees through the process of developing an effective parent engagement program.

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Location: Molly Pitcher

Skill Level: All Levels

Laying the Foundation for Success: Middle School Through College

- Anterio Jackson, *College Access and Success Manager, Center for Student Development, Chicago Urban League*
- Danielle Parker, *Director, Center for Student Development, Chicago Urban League*
- Cicely Wilson, *Key Transitions Manager, Center for Student Development, Chicago Urban League*

Description: Recognizing that students have different needs depending on where they are in their academic careers, the Chicago Urban League's Center for Student Development has developed programming that includes services for middle school through first-year college students. Project Ready addresses the individual and environmental factors that can impact students' healthy development, youth leadership potential, supportive relationships, academic performance, and milestones such as high school graduation, college matriculation, and college graduation. Join the workshop presenters as they share information about Project Ready, including best practices for sustaining youth programming along the continuum from middle school through college, as well as suggestions for addressing administrative challenges for program development.

Location: Crispus Attucks

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field

Educational Planning: A Roadmap to Graduation

- Sarah Goudy, *College Coach, College and Alumni Program, Making Waves Foundation*
- Kristina Kelly, *College Coach, College and Alumni Program, Making Waves Foundation*

Description: Are you committed to increasing graduation success rates for underrepresented students? Join presenters from Making Waves to learn how educational planning, coaching, and the three P's (Purpose, Passion, and Proper Fit) can lead to higher transfer and graduation rates for low-income, first generation college students. This workshop will illustrate and share a course-planning model designed to help students create a roadmap that will support them from transfer to graduation. The presenters will demonstrate how this planning tool is used within coaching sessions to address retention, impact, and an overall deeper connection to long-term goals. Attendees will be given the opportunity to identify how this model can be implemented at their own organizations and institutions.

Location: Thomas Paine

Skill Level: All Levels

Expanding First Generation, Low-Income Access and Success at Selective Colleges

- Elizabeth Badger, *Assistant Director, Undergraduate Financial Aid, Princeton University*
- Cristina Fernández, *Senior Director of Programs, Tiger Woods Foundation*
- Khristina Gonzalez, *Associate Dean of the College and Director of Programs for Access and Inclusion, Princeton University*
- Kevin Hudson, *Assistant Director for College Opportunity, Office of the Provost, Princeton University*
- Sonya Smith, *Associate Dean of Admission, Diversity Outreach, Princeton University*

Description: Broad access to selective colleges for high-achieving, low-income, underrepresented students remains a challenge. This session will present models to expand opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students to attend best-fit colleges. The professionals leading this session stress that access is simply a step towards achieving equity. They will share model practices for empowering students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them to achieve

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

their full potential in college and beyond. In addition, the presenters will provide strategies for realizing the full potential of partnerships between organizations and universities to ensure student success.

Location: Cambridge  
Skill Level: All Levels

Launching and Supporting College Access Programs at Independent Schools: Lessons Learned

- Kirk Bishop, *Former Board Chair and Trustee*, Pingree School
- Jock Burns, *Director of Finance and Operations*, Pingree School
- Steve Filosa, *Executive Director, The Malcolm Coates Prep@Pingree Program*, Pingree School
- Sherwood “Woodie” Haskins, *Assistant Head of School for External Affairs*, Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School
- Tim Johnson, *Head of School*, Pingree School
- Ralph Wales, *Head of School*, Gordon School

Description: Have you ever wanted to start a college access program at your independent school or learn how independent schools approach their commitment to supporting underrepresented students in school-based initiatives? These programs can be incredibly successful, but managers must first understand how to navigate financial aid and non-tuition expense funds, student outreach, hiring efforts that attract and retain a wide range of professionals, collaborative practices, and more. Why do some initiatives last, having a sustained impact over time, while others fail? This session will offer a wide-ranging discussion about best practices, lessons learned, and insights from heads of school, an advancement professional, a director of finance and operations, and a former board chair and trustee – all representing offices that are critical to establishing and sustaining access initiatives in independent schools.

Location: Aquarium  
Skill Level: All Levels

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM NPEA 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RECEPTION**

Please join us to celebrate NPEA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and network with your colleagues. Come sign the NPEA birthday card and help us acknowledge this exciting milestone in NPEA’s history!

Location: Charles View Ballroom, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017**

**7:00 AM – 8:00 AM BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING**

Network with other conference participants and share what you have learned at the conference thus far.

Location: President’s Ballroom

**7:15 AM – 8:00 AM JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION PARTNER BREAKFAST**

Join the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for a special breakfast session to meet with program staff and learn about the Foundation’s mission and work in supporting high-achieving students from low-

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

income backgrounds through scholarships, grants, and thought leadership. The Foundation, in partnership with Teachers College, Columbia University, is launching a College Advising Program that provides professional certification to educators.

### **7:15 AM – 8:00 AM NPEA PARTNERS RESOURCE SESSION**

We encourage you to visit the NPEA Partners Resource Session to learn more about services provided by three partners and leaders in the field of college access and success. Be sure to get your Exhibit Table/Resources Passport stamped by each NPEA Partner for a chance to win prizes at the conclusion of the conference!

#### **Association of Independent School Admission Professionals**

- Janice Crampton, *Executive Director*, Association of Independent School Admission Professionals

As private schools examine the various levers towards enrollment success many have found that the use of need based scholarships are an essential element. AISAP will be available to discuss best practice policy, procedures, structures and operational/calendar-based systems that will ensure you are meeting your financial revenue needs and furthering your commitment to your mission.

#### **National Association for College Admission Counseling**

- Tania Johnson-Rachkoskie, *Director of Education and Training*, National Association for College Admission Counseling

Learn more about the newest edition of NACAC's Step by Step, a free college counseling curriculum designed by counselors for counselors. The easy-to-use modules are designed for use in group and one-on-one sessions and guide students from exploration to application and decision making. The 2017 edition will also provide counselors with lesson plans for elementary school students to promote a college going culture at every grade level.

#### **The Common Application, Inc.**

- Scott Anderson, *Senior Director, Education and Partnership*, The Common Application

The Common Application has long been a leader in the college application transaction. Now, with a user base of over one million students and recommenders, the association is building on its four-decade legacy by collaborating with educators, researchers, foundations, and like-minded organizations to expand educational opportunities for all students. Learn more about updates on the application system and access initiatives designed to increase the number of low-income and first-generation students enrolling in college, from virtual mentoring and advising to financial aid awareness and FAFSA completion.

Location: Crispus Attucks

### **8:00 AM – 9:30 AM MORNING GENERAL SESSION AND KEYNOTE**

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

A very special thanks to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for generously sponsoring the Award for Excellence in Educational Access for the second year in a row. The Award for Excellence will recognize an NPEA Member Organization, Program, or School for excellence in supporting underrepresented students on the path to and through college.

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Please include the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation logo here. Logo in dropbox.

**2016 Award for Excellence Winner:**

- Alpachino Hogue, *Director of Educational Programs*, LINK Unlimited Scholars

**2017 Award for Excellence Presenter:**

- Harold Levy, *Executive Director*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

**Morning Welcome:**

Brian Conway, *Chairman and Managing Partner*, TA Associates; and *Chair, Board of Directors*, The Steppingstone Foundation

**Keynote Speaker Introduction:**

- Paul Grogan, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, The Boston Foundation

**Keynote:**

- Paul Tough, *New York Times Bestselling Author*, *Helping Children Succeed: What Works and Why* and *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*

Location: President's Ballroom

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM PAUL TOUGH BOOK SIGNING AND CONNECTIONS HOUR**

Keynote speaker Paul Tough is pleased to sign copies of his book. We also invite you to use this time to connect and network with fellow conference attendees and visit with exhibitors. Be sure to get your Exhibit Table/Resources Passport stamped for a chance to win prizes at the conclusion of the conference!

Location: President's Ballroom Foyer

**10:30 AM – 11:45 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Supporting Students: Understanding Transfer Policy and Debt

- Joanne Dashiell, *Manager of Professional Services*, American Student Assistance
- Jodi Then, *Senior Education Advisor and Communications Coordinator*, American Student Assistance

Description: In today's economy, we must help students be strategic and informed about the college process. This session examines how state and institutional transfer policies impact a student's potential for debt and how programs can advocate for stronger policies and partnerships. Attendees will learn how to help students gather relevant information to evaluate admissions and financial aid simultaneously, explore successful program models, and identify the best academic and financial college fit.

Location: Haym Saloman

Skill Level: All Levels

Hidden Talent: Supporting Women in STEM

- Krysta Battersby, *Senior Project Manager*, New York University Tandon School of Engineering
- Patricia Hogan, *Director, Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability*, Suffolk University

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Description: Now, more than ever, educators are focusing on the disparity between men and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Whether in the K-12 arena or in higher education, female students are becoming more involved in STEM. As educators, it is our job to make sure our female students feel accepted in STEM majors and places where they are more than likely to be a minority. Featuring representatives from the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and Suffolk University, this session will share findings from NYU focus groups that were conducted to learn about the current climate for their female students at the School of Engineering, as well as highlight strategies for engaging and supporting female students in STEM at Suffolk University. You will also have the chance to learn helpful tips for supporting female students in STEM prior to entering college.

Location: Paul Revere A

Skill Level: All Levels

From Data Collection to Program Evaluation: Creating Systems and Buy-In for Effective Evaluation

- Olivia Nunez, *Senior Director of Community Engagement*, GO Project
- Gayle Villani, *Associate Executive Director*, GO Project

Description: Creating a culture of rigorous program evaluation and data analysis can be challenging. For the best results, the ongoing analysis of program data, the importance and impact of evaluation and analysis, and the benefits of a culture of data must be clearly articulated. During this session, participants will learn systems and best practices for creating a data-driven team culture. The presenters will discuss how to: 1) best track program metrics in order to effectively measure impact; 2) use evaluation and analysis to “tell the story”; 3) promote accountability to outcomes; and 4) determine program refinements and next steps. By creating a strong culture of evaluation and analysis, programs are best able to serve their clients and articulate their impact to families, supporters, and others.

Location: Paul Revere BC

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

Demystifying College Admissions: Making Informed Decisions

- Jennifer Schoen, *Director, Opportunity Scholarships and Outreach Programs*, Northeastern University

Description: For first generation students who are college-bound, the admissions application process can be daunting. This workshop is designed to assist new professionals in understanding the nuances of college admissions and how decisions are made at selective institutions so you can share this information with your students and help demystify the process. Participants will be “trained” as counselors before engaging in an interactive activity reviewing student applications, from essays and activities to optional writing and letters of recommendation. After an individual review, participants will engage in lively “admissions committees” to make final admissions decisions, with ample time to ask questions about the overall process.

Location: William Dawes

Skill Level: New to the Field

Innovation Models Used by Institutions that Dream: Supporting Undocumented Students

- William Bisese, *Director, Academic Services Center*, Eastern Connecticut State University
- Maribel Sanchez, *Professional Advisor, Academic Services Center*, Eastern Connecticut State University

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

- David Velazquez, *Program Officer*, TheDream.US

Description: This session will cover an overview of the profile of undocumented students and a review of the barriers and hurdles this population has to overcome in order to access higher education, including legal implications. As a solution, TheDream.US offers two scholarships that have helped DREAMer students access higher education—the National Scholarship and the Opportunity Scholarship—both of which provide financial assistance for undocumented students who otherwise would not be able to attend college. In order to implement these scholarships, TheDream.US has developed powerful partnerships with participating colleges and universities to engage and support immigrant youth who are DREAMers. Join this session to learn more about scholarship opportunities for undocumented students and the innovative models used by colleges and universities to impact institutional student success and help undocumented students achieve their dream of a college degree.

Location: Molly Pitcher

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

A Revolution in Urban Education: A Collaboration Between the Noble Network and Phillips Exeter Academy

- Lauren Boros, *Principal*, The Noble Academy
- Ethan Shapiro, *Dean of Faculty*, Phillips Exeter Academy

Description: In 2014, the Noble Network, a Broad Prize winning network of public high schools in Chicago, collaborated with Phillips Exeter Academy to open The Noble Academy and bring student-led, discussion-based learning to Chicago Public School students. Immediately, the results were astounding. Join this session to explore the history of this collaboration, learn about data supporting the efficacy of student-led, discussion-based learning, and hear lessons learned about how to implement such a structure in an urban setting. You will discover invaluable tools to increase the efficacy of your own environment.

Location: Crispus Attucks

Skill Level: All Levels

Finding the Career in College and Career Readiness: Fulfilling the End Purpose of a Degree

- Kevin Greer, *Partner, Portfolio Performance and Support*, New Profit Foundation
- Christina Lewis Halpern, *Founder and Executive Director*, All Star Code
- Jessica Pliska, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, The Opportunity Network
- Abby Jo Sigal, *Executive Director*, The James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation

Description: It is a well-perpetuated myth that if students get to and through college, they will achieve career success—that career awareness, knowledge, and skills are somehow implied outcomes of a college degree. In fact, evidence shows the opposite: strong education-to-career connections drive higher college persistence rates. Oftentimes, “college and career readiness” means robust college readiness with a career day or job fair added on. For 1.5 million low-income, college-bound students who want to fulfill the end purpose of a degree, college matriculation does not translate into career skills, internships, or professional networks. Instead, like college undermatching, “career undermatching” fails students with potential because of a lack of exposure and guidance, so they track into jobs that do not match their abilities, passions, or ambitions. Strategies to bring college success to national scale must integrate career readiness into the equation. Join this session to learn best practices for ways to support students with career readiness.

Location: Thomas Paine

Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Identity Development and Spoken Word Poetry: Using Students’ Life Experiences to Promote Positive Change

- Julia DeVoy, *Professor*, Boston College
- Claire Geruson, *Program Associate, College Success Academy*, The Steppingstone Foundation

Description: “If you don’t know me, how can you teach me?” For decades, students from every walk of life have asked this question. Whether in schools, academic programs, or intervention support roles, the challenge of checking societal biases is extremely important in the work of educational access. For context, this workshop will provide information about developmental psychology grounded in Ecological Systems Theories and touch on the work of NPEA keynote speaker, Christopher Emdin, and his focus on reality pedagogy. This information, shared along with practical spoken poetry concepts, will provide educators with the skills to implement spoken word poetry workshops for youth. Through the use of spoken word poetry, students and educators can meet in a place of vulnerability and empathy where the teacher learns as much as the student.

Location: Cambridge  
Skill Level: All Levels

**11:45 AM – 12:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH**

Please enjoy a networking lunch with your fellow conference attendees.

Location: President’s Ballroom

**12:45 PM – 1:30 PM CONCURRENT LEARNING EXCHANGE ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS**

We Are Ready: Supporting Middle School Students on the Path to High School Success

- Michael Berry, *National Program Manager*, After-School All-Stars
- Alyssa Plotkin, *Regional Program Manager*, After-School All-Stars

Description: The After-School All-Stars’ We Are Ready program prepares eighth grade students for success in high school and beyond. By identifying early warning signs, such as poor behavior, low school attendance, and failing core classes, We Are Ready helps combat the dropout crisis affecting teenagers throughout the country. During this roundtable session, attendees will discuss topics such as high school readiness, study and organizational skills, college exposure, career exploration, and family engagement.

Location: Haym Saloman  
Skill Level: New to the Field, Familiar with the Field

Creating a Welcoming Campus Environment for URM’s at PWIs

- Candace Leake, *Assistant Director of Admissions*, Bucknell University

Description: Many higher education institutions are implementing strategic efforts to increase diversity on their campuses. As traditionally underrepresented minority student populations (URMs) arrive at predominately white institutions (PWIs), what support systems and structures can institutions develop to create a campus environment that ensures students are comfortable and feel that their presence, background, and interests are respected and welcomed by those within the campus community? Please join this roundtable to share ideas and learn best practices.

Location: Paul Revere BC

## *DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Skill Level: Familiar with the Field, Experienced in the Field

Diverse Perspectives on SAT Preparation: Lessons from a DC Partnership

- Akil Bello, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*, The Princeton Review
- Crys Latham, *Director of College Counseling*, The Washington Latin Public Charter School
- Malcolm Rivers, *Director of Professional Development and Lead Adviser*, Transcend Academy
- Chloe Woodward-Magrane, *Manager of Early College and Career Awareness*, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Description: The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) offers funding for test preparation providers partnering with public high schools in DC to deliver in-school SAT prep. In its first year (2015-2016), an SAT Preparation Expansion Grant supported three test preparation providers in partnership with 15 public high schools, reaching over 1,000 students. Join fellow attendees for this facilitated discussion on strategies for implementing in-school test preparation programs, as well as hear about results and lessons learned from the DC Partnership.

Location: William Dawes

Skill Level: All Levels

Strengthening College Access Through Evaluation

- Kimberly Edmunds, *Senior Consultant*, Equal Measure
- Georgia Kioukis, *Senior Consultant*, Equal Measure
- Judith Lorimer, *Director of the Options Center*, Goddard Riverside Community Center

Description: The Goddard Riverside Options Center is one of New York City's first college access and success training programs, with nearly 30 years of experience increasing the number of historically underrepresented students attending and completing postsecondary options. Over the past few years, the Options Center has partnered with the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Office of Postsecondary Readiness to provide a six-day training series for school educators and community-based professionals to increase knowledge and skills in guiding students through the postsecondary process. From 2014-2016, Equal Measure conducted an evaluation of the Options-NYCDOE Training Program to explore the impact of the training program on participants. This roundtable will provide a brief overview of the training program and evaluation, followed by a discussion of evaluation approaches practitioners can take to examine the implementation and outcomes of their programs.

Location: Molly Pitcher

Skill Level: All Levels

Supporting Students Through Their Intersecting Identities

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

Description: The idea of intersecting identities, while complicated, is essential for students to comprehend. When allowed to explore and embrace the many aspects of their own identities, students' propensity to succeed is exponentially higher and their ability to navigate the world increases. This roundtable session will facilitate a discussion about the language of identity and how to help students learn to talk about themselves through an empowering and uplifting framework.

Location: Crispus Attucks

Skill Level: All Levels

Pathways for Recruitment, Retention, and Persistence for Students of Color in STEAM

- Stashia Emanuel, *Director of Graduate Programs*, Tennessee State University

*DRAFT – Subject to Change*

Description: This roundtable will offer the opportunity to discuss recruitment, retention, and persistence strategies that will attract and support students of color through graduation as it relates to the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) disciplines. The presenter will share strategies for building relationships with students of color in these disciplines, creating a holistic application process to attract more students of color, and engaging these students in research opportunities that will foster encouragement and confidence as they matriculate successfully to completion.

Location: Thomas Paine

Skill Level: All Levels

Obstacles and Opportunities: Pre-College Partnerships

- Kisa Takesue, *Director of Leadership Programs*, Brown University
- Joi-Danelle Whitehead, *Assistant Director, Pre-College Programs and Diversity Initiatives*, Brown University

Description: Increasing underrepresented students' participation in selective pre-college summer programs and ensuring a positive experience for them is easier said than done. Despite our best intentions, it can be challenging to develop and maintain effective partnerships between community based organizations, secondary schools, and pre-college programs. Successfully matriculating students in a pre-college program involves a range of coordinated efforts, including recruitment, student and parent outreach, monitoring deadlines, completing applications, balancing budgets, and advising. Unfortunately, we may not always fully understand one another's goals, capacities, and needs or have the opportunity to candidly share perspectives. This roundtable will engage participants in a collaborative discussion around our experiences and best practices for strengthening existing partnerships.

Location: Cambridge

Skill Level: All Levels

**1:45 PM – 2:45 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION**

**Keynote Speaker Introduction:**

- Farhad Asghar, *Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Access to Opportunity*, The College Board; and *Conference Planning Committee Member*, National Partnership for Educational Access

**Keynote:**

- Christopher Emdin, *Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Science, and Technology*, Teachers College, Columbia University; and *New York Times Bestselling Author, For White Folks Who Teach In The Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education*

Location: President's Ballroom

**2:45 PM – 3:30 PM CHRISTOPHER EMDIN BOOK SIGNING**

Christopher Emdin is pleased to sign copies of his book.

Location: President's Ballroom Foyer