

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

National Partnership for Educational Access 10th Annual Conference
Standing Together in a Changing Landscape: A Call to Action
April 11-13, 2018
JW Marriott, New Orleans

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

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

Creating a Culturally Responsive, College-Going Culture for Young Men of Color

- Ingrid Chung, *Assistant Principal*, Urban Assembly for Applied Math and Science
- Paul Forbes, *Director, Expanded Success Initiative*, NYC Department of Education
- Camille Kinlock, *Associate Director*, NYC Department of Education

The Expanded Success Initiative (ESI) is focused on eliminating achievement and opportunity gaps for Black and Latino young men in New York City Public Schools. A major focus has been its support for schools in creating a culturally-responsive, college-going culture. Schools are focusing on three interrelated areas crucial to improving outcomes for Black and Latino young men: 1) youth development, 2) academics, and 3) school culture. In collaboration with ESI schools and staff, they have curated culturally-responsive practices and strategies and provided professional development on Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) for school staff, resulting in a culturally-relevant framework. Preliminary findings are pointing to ESI's positive impact on how schools operate to better serve Black and Latino young men. The presenters will share information, research, and promising strategies from three years of implementation, particularly about their work to support culturally-responsive school culture, curriculum, and instruction.

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM SITE VISITS

Please join us as we visit Tulane University and Loyola University New Orleans to learn about their strategies, programming, and best practices for supporting underserved students.

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 Welcome Reception.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM WELCOME RECEPTION

Conference Welcome

- Kelly Glew, President, The Steppingstone Foundation

Please join us as we kick off the 2018 Conference! You will have the opportunity to enjoy some light appetizers and network with fellow attendees before an exciting two days of workshops and events.

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

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 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.

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

Avoiding Bias in Writing and Reading Recommendation Letters

- Marie Bigham, *Director, College Counseling*, Isidore Newman School
- Rebeca Gomez Palacio, *College Access Consultant*

Studies of medical school and academic job recommendations show strong gender and racial biases in language intended to support candidates, often resulting in a negative impact on the candidates' applications. Our two presenters, both former college admissions representatives and current college counselors, will discuss how biases present in college admissions recommendations by the writer and the reader. Join this roundtable to discuss how to write effective recommendation letters, learn specific words and phrases to use or avoid, and review tangible examples. Participants will gain a sense of empowerment to better support students' applications through recommendation letters.

Helping Average- and Lower-Performing Students in the College Application and Scholarship Processes

- Brittany Gordon, *College Access Coordinator*, Ninde Scholars Program
- Susan Pavlus, *Director of Education Outreach Programs*, Ninde Scholars Program
- Rasheem Rooke, *Interim Program Manager*, College Success Foundation - DC

For students who are low-income and typically average- or lower-performing, the cost of college and the opportunity itself may seem beyond their reach. Working with students and families to explore students' exceptionality and guiding students through a big picture strategy to improve their academic performance can all help to make "reach schools" possible and affordable. Join the Ninde Scholars Program and College Success Foundation to discuss strategies for helping students market themselves and build their college resumes, as well as coaching them to improve their academics, starting early in their high school career.

First-Time Attendees and New NPEA Members

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.

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7:30 AM – 8:15 AM JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION PARTNER BREAKFAST

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Breakfast – pre-registration required

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

Please join the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for a special breakfast session to meet with staff and learn about the Foundation's mission and work in supporting high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds through scholarships, grants, and thought leadership. Learn more about the Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program, a selective pre-college program for high-performing seventh-graders with financial need.

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

Welcome:

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

Speaker Introduction:

- Justin Blanchard, *Associate Executive Director*, Friendship Louisiana

Welcoming Remarks:

- Patrick Dobard, *Chief Executive Officer*, New Schools for New Orleans

Moderator:

- Kira Orange Jones, *Senior Vice President*, Teach For America

Changing Landscapes Alumni Panel

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

Challenging Conversations in Difficult Times: Encouraging Critical Thinking and Dialogue

- Jessica Dugan, *Director, Program Evaluation and Impact*, Crossroads
- Allyson Gunn, *Director, Program Strategy and Innovation*, Crossroads

We live in an age where the world is changing minute by minute, and we find ourselves more often divided than united. With clips of every news story imaginable at our fingertips, we regularly face information overload. How do we help a generation of young people to sift through the information they are receiving, build informed opinions, and understand the importance of dialogue and discussion? In this workshop, we will take a look at the strategies Crossroads has implemented in recent months to support critical thinking and respectful discussion about the issues affecting our young people, our staff, and our organization. We will provide a sample dialogue session of our own, share techniques and strategies, and offer the opportunity for attendees to brainstorm plans for incorporating strategies in school, organization, and community settings.

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Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Effective Strategies to Promote College and Career Readiness for Secondary Students

- Amy Perkins-McClellan, *Coordinator of Academic Partnerships*, Southern State Community College
- John R. Roush, *Dean of Core Studies*, Southern State Community College
- Shane Shope, *Assistant Professor*, Morehead State University

This workshop will focus on the importance of exposing students to resources they can use as they make the transition from middle school to high school to college and/or the workforce, and beyond. American businesses have long been critical of the limited career readiness skills that high school and college graduates bring to the workplace. Only 25 percent of high school graduates have a clear idea of how to move into career pathways, coupled with a limited amount of information on how to choose a career path. In this session, presenters from Morehead State University in Kentucky and Southern State Community College in Ohio will provide an overview of strategies used with secondary students in developing career readiness skillsets. They will discuss a program that supports a developing model based on three areas of emphasis: Career Readiness, Career Awareness, and Understanding Cultural Diversity within the workplace (R.A.D.). Lastly, the presenters will engage the audience in sample interactive activities and review examples of certificates that can be used as part of students' portfolios in order to help them demonstrate career readiness and work ethic competencies such as problem-solving, teamwork, punctuality, and technical skills.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Changing the Script: How Incorporating Improvisation Training into Social-Emotional Learning Curricula Can Improve Self-Regulation in High School Students

- Cassandra Geiger, *Director*, Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools
- Anna Rodriguez, *Advisor*, Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools
- Ian Williams, *Advisor*, Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools

The Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools has developed and implemented a three-year improvisational curriculum to assist students in strengthening social and professional engagement skills. This effort is part of a larger initiative to provide high-touch programming in the social-emotional learning (SEL) and self-regulation learning (SRL) of students. In this workshop, the presenters will share their best practices in SEL and engagement using improvisational training and dialogue technique in working with predominately first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented urban high school students. They will also discuss the theoretical foundation of this work and provide an interactive space for learning applicable strategies in improvisation, motivational interviewing, and a solution-focused approach in advising students and engaging parents/guardians in the college process. Primary findings of student perception data, challenges, and lessons learned will be presented.

Skill Level: All Levels

How to Retain and Graduate Underrepresented Students: A Journey through Intentional Collaboration

- Erik Miller, *Director, Center for Community and Learning Partnerships*, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Doris Montgomery, *Regional Director of Human Resources*, Turner Construction Company
- Rachel Smith, *Success Program Director*, Bottom Line

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

Boston is a highly-educated city with world-class colleges and universities that boast impressive retention and graduation rates. Despite the success, the city's higher education institutions continue to struggle with recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented students. This comprehensive workshop will guide attendees through the identification, development, and maintenance of strong partnerships in order to better support, retain, and graduate underrepresented students pursuing higher education opportunities. Wentworth Institute of Technology, in collaboration with Bottom Line and Turner Construction, will use RAMP, Wentworth's innovative summer bridge program for Boston youth, to outline how collaboration and holistic but focused student support can help close the opportunity gap for underrepresented students pursuing STEM fields. Attendees will hear how this collaboration helps to accomplish "big-picture" organizational goals related to diversity, and will participate in a community conversation focused on challenges and successes participants have experienced related to the topic.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

We All Need to Talk About This More: Self-Care in Uncertain Times

- Michelle Li, *Communications Manager and College Access Advisor*, Athletic Scholars Advancement Program
- Amanda Posner, *Senior Program Manager*, Athletic Scholars Advancement Program
- Wendy Rubio, *Program Coordinator*, Athletic Scholars Advancement Program
- Liz Butler Steyer, *Executive Director*, Athletic Scholars Advancement Program

What is self-care and why does it matter in our work with students, especially during uncertain times? In this workshop, we will create space to talk about this important, but often overlooked, topic. We will examine our own challenges with self-care and balance from a variety of perspectives (e.g., young staff, people of color, returning to our own communities, having a family, burnout). We will also discuss ways that managers and organizations can support self-care. Join the ASAP team for a highly interactive workshop to learn from each other, think about our own individual and organizational challenges, and leave with new ideas and a plan of action. We best serve our students when we take care of ourselves and each other!

Skill Level: All Levels

MyCoalition: Pathway to Smart College Choices

- Stephanie Gonzalez, *Associate Director of Admission for Diversity Recruitment*, Williams College
- Windsor Jordan, *Senior Assistant Dean of Admissions and Director Multicultural Recruitment*, Swarthmore College
- Courtney McAnuff, *Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management*, Rutgers University
- Rodney Morrison, *Associate Provost for Enrollment and Retention Management*, Stony Brook University
- Lauren Olivia Wallace, *Director of Undergraduate Recruitment*, University of Pittsburgh

The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success is a group of more than 130 college and universities across the U.S. that is committed to making college a reality for all high school students. Five representatives from member colleges will engage in a panel presentation and discussion about the three pillars of the Coalition's missions: access, affordability, and success. In particular, admissions leaders will discuss how inputs and outputs of the college application have and have not changed and how the Coalition's collaborative initiatives and free platform, MyCoalition, are anchored to help expand the pathway to college for low-income and underrepresented students, improve the pathway for all students, and empower students to make smart choices for success in school and beyond. The panel will also welcome feedback and ideas from attendees on barriers to access and success for students that might be addressed with the Coalition's work.

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Skills Level: All Levels

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

Capturing Your “Secret Sauce”: Managing Your Data Evaluation

- Lynn Cartwright-Punnett, *Director of Program and Development*, BEAM
- Natalie Greenhouse, *Director of Career Programs*, TEAK Fellowship
- Olivia Nuñez, *Senior Director of Community Engagement*, GO Project

Data can be confusing. As nonprofits, we are challenged with providing meaningful statistics to demonstrate the impact of student outcomes, while also using data iteratively to inform the day-to-day impact of our programming. While rooted in shared best practices, there are still things that differentiate us from peer organizations. How do you capture and report your “secret sauce,” and how do you identify what it is in the first place? In this session, three nonprofits will share their data stories and help other organizations take the first steps toward identifying and capturing meaningful data to communicate their impact.

Skill Level: All Levels

Engaging Potential Students: Text Messaging for Program Recruitment

- Kate Featherston, *Outreach and Partnerships Associate*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- Derrick M. Fleming Jr., *Director of College Access*, Chicago Scholars
- Alan Royal, *Senior Program Manager, Outreach and Partnerships*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

Text messaging has become a trend in student advising for a good reason. Students who have come of age in the era of the cell phone respond well to text and prefer it over other methods of communication. In this workshop, staff from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (JKCF) and the Chicago Scholars Foundation (CS) will discuss the benefits of text messaging in delivering valuable information to students. This past year, JKCF used text messaging to communicate with students about their programming and scholarship outreach. CS used text messaging for recruitment, outreach, and documentation completion, collection, and confirmation. Using examples from program successes, staff from both organizations will share lessons they learned about selecting a text platform, types and timing of messages, and data collection practices. Participants will come away with an understanding about how texting can be helpful to their organization beyond advising and gain the knowledge necessary to implement a text recruitment program.

Skill Level: All Levels

A Diploma Isn't a Magic Key To Your Dream Job: How To Help Students Build Their Professional Development Portfolios

- Ryan Grady, *College Coach*, Making Waves College and Alumni Program
- May Melehan, *Lead College Coach*, Making Waves College and Alumni Program

What happens when a college degree isn't the magic ticket to a job that our students expect? How can we increase the number of students who end up in their dream jobs after graduation? Join the team from Making Waves College and Alumni Program (CAP) to learn more about their career-coaching model, which works to increase the number of students who are employed within six months after graduation. This workshop will demonstrate how CAP's annual coaching framework, paired with a required “Professional Development Portfolio,” can lay the groundwork for students to end up in careers for which they are both excited and prepared. CAP's programming focuses on specific aspects of professional development that are planned out over the time they are in school.

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Through dedicated coaching and support, CAP works with students to build up their resumes so they are ready to join a competitive job market!

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Early Awareness: Counseling Techniques to Create a College Going Culture for K-12 Students

- Kellie Kirstein, *Education and Training Program Manager*, National Association for College Admission Counseling
- Crystal E. Newby, *Assistant Director of Education and Training*, National Association for College Admission Counseling

Creating a college-going culture begins with elementary and middle school counselors and advisors. Recent research published by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) in 2017 points to the important role that counselors play in promoting a college going culture and improving the likelihood of students applying to, enrolling, and persisting in college. This session will highlight research and provide counseling activities that can be used with students in K-12—in schools, nonprofits, and/or communities—to promote a college-going mindset.

Skill Level: All Levels

Elevating Student Voice: Engaging Students in Leadership through District-Wide Student Equity Groups

- Alyssa Dodds, *District High School Instructional Coach*, Springfield School District

When looking at how schools and districts operate, students' voices are often undervalued and underrepresented. Looking at a cross-section of current students who are typically in leadership positions in their school districts, it is not representative of our student populations in many of those schools. A diverse group of students should be at the forefront of decision-making processes, and not just in the traditional ways where adults are driving the conversations. This session will provide an overview of a successful district-wide student equity group, group outcomes shared by students, and information for how you could implement a similar group in your district.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Standing Together: Universities and Access Organizations Collaborating to Offer Summer Program Opportunities for Low-Income High School Students

- Christopher Cofer, *Executive Director, Summer@Syracuse*, Syracuse University
- Jill Kohlberg, *Executive Director*, Noble Network's Summer of a Lifetime
- Erin Schutte Wadzinski, *Director, Yale Young Global Scholars*, Yale University
- Shelly Zhou, *Programming and Development Associate*, Minds Matter

Attending a summer program on a college campus is a transformational experience for a low-income high school student. In this workshop, Yale University, Syracuse University, Minds Matter, and Noble Network's Summer of a Lifetime will discuss various partnership strategies that university-administered summer programs have used to partner with education access organizations to identify and support low-income students interested in getting a taste of college while still in high school. This workshop is geared towards those from schools and organizations that work directly with high school students along with university administrators interested in summer programming opportunities on college campuses. Participants will learn about the summer programming landscape at universities across the country and discuss ways to offer enrichment opportunities to high school students that are affordable and impactful.

Skill Level: All Levels

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12:45 PM – 1:45 PM NETWORKING LUNCH

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

Location: Ile de France 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 third year in a row. The Award for Excellence recognizes an NPEA member organization, program, or school for excellence in supporting underrepresented students on the path to and through college.

2018 Award for Excellence Presenter:

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

Keynote Speaker Introduction:

- Dana Peterson, *Assistant State Superintendent*, Louisiana Department of Education; and *Chief Executive Officer*, Baton Rouge Achievement Zone

Keynote:

- Dorinda Carter Andrews, *Assistant Dean of Equity Outreach Initiatives, College of Education*, and *Associate Professor of Race, Culture, and Equity, Department of Teacher Education*, Michigan State University

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

Bridging the Gap to College for Opportunity Youth

- Laci Hargrove, *Alumna*, Bard Early College in New Orleans and Youth Empowerment Project
- Jessie Morgan-Owens, *Academic Director*, Bard Early College in New Orleans
- Nicole Young, *Executive Director*, Bard Early College in New Orleans

What role can liberal arts colleges play in creating meaningful post-secondary education experiences for opportunity youth? How can we reimagine college classrooms for youth who feel disconnected from higher education? Three years ago, Bard Early College in New Orleans joined New Orleans Opportunity Works (NOOW), a pilot that brings together local partners to build a system of postsecondary and career bridging that supports youth ages 16-24 along individualized pathways toward economic mobility. As a part of this three-year pilot, Bard Early College was tasked with leading liberal arts college courses and developing a playbook, which serves as a collection of best practices to inform the design of future higher education pathways for opportunity youth. Through the sharing of student teacher, and staff anecdotes, this workshop will offer insights from the Bard/NOOW partnership, allow participants to see Bard's Writing to Learn pedagogy in action, and hopefully inspire other cross-sector partnerships.

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Skill Level: Intermediate

Getting Real About Race: The Importance of Engaging in Race-Based Discussions Within Organizations and Teams

- Ashley Allen, *Director of Postsecondary Programs*, Horizons for Youth
- Audrey George, *Chief Executive Officer*, Horizons for Youth

In the current social climate, organizations need to discuss race in a thoughtful, purposeful, and productive manner. While discussions about race may be uncomfortable for some, we must come together to get comfortable with the uncomfortable. Horizons for Youth participated in a series of discussions with staff, donors, and volunteers focused on the book *Austin Boulevard*, which highlights the role of race in the development of the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West Side and illustrates how racism has created broken systems that fuel our work. This presentation will highlight why these difficult, yet important conversations are beneficial to organizational teams, especially those that are racially and socioeconomically diverse, and how they can contribute to more effective programming. Attendees will learn about the successes and challenges Horizons for Youth faced when they decided to get real about race as a staff, and how popular shows like *Blackish*, *Insecure*, and *The Office* can serve as tools for facilitating race-based discussions.

Skill Level: All Levels

Transitioning is the Hardest Part: Preparing Middle and High School Students of Color to Thrive in Private School Settings

- Tamar Adegbile, *Director of College Counseling*, Cate School
- Anny Candelario Escobar, *Instructor, Mathematics*, Phillips Academy
- Kaela Farrise, *Admissions and Diversity Programs Coordinator*, Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs

Your school has a great group of newly admitted students of color—now what? In this session, the presenters will offer strategies to successfully implement transition programming for students of color. Attendees will learn about topics to tackle related to social, academic, socioeconomic, and identity pressures that students will likely experience in private school settings. The presenters will also share ways to introduce the material in engaging and empowering ways for new students. Representatives from independent schools will share from their own experiences with transitions and provide tips you can incorporate in your own schools.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Writing Compelling College Recommendation Letters for Under-Resourced Students: A Workshop Using Case Studies from Swarthmore College

- Tara Gellene, *Senior Director of Programs*, LEDA
- Windsor Jordan, *Senior Assistant Dean of Admissions and Director of Multicultural Recruitment*, Swarthmore College
- Jahnelle McMillan, *Director of College Guidance*, LEDA

Admissions offices that practice holistic admissions—especially as they review applicants from under-resourced communities—increasingly value counselor recommendations that place students in context. Yet, we know that writing recommendations can be a time-consuming and tricky process. Given their large caseloads, many high school counselors simply do not have the time or information necessary to write comprehensive recommendations for their students. Counselors and mentors at community-based organizations can support their students and high school counselor colleagues by providing holistic recommendations. In this workshop, the presenters will share the

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key features of holistic recommendations and highlight common information gaps that can be filled by strong recommendations. Participants will leave with concrete strategies and tools for gathering relevant information about students and translating student stories into writing.

Skill Level: All Levels

Supporting Undocumented Students in Accessing and Succeeding in College

- Magdalena Fonseca, *Interim Director, Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center, Office of Minority Affairs*, University of Washington, Seattle
- Anne H. Kenworthy, *Vice President for Enrollment*, Christian Brothers University
- Candy Marshall, *President*, TheDream.US

Thousands of undocumented immigrant students want nothing more than the opportunity to get a college education. TheDream.US has developed a model that is providing this opportunity by engaging in powerful partnerships with more than 75 participating colleges and universities across the nation to support immigrant youth who are DREAMers. TheDream.US is currently the nation's largest college access and success program for DREAMers, as they work to help over 4,000 highly-motivated DREAMers graduate from college with career-ready degrees. TheDream.US is also proud to be a recent winner of the National Scholarship Providers Association's 2017 Scholarship Provider of the Year award. In this session, join TheDream.US and a panel of leaders from its partner colleges to learn more about this innovative model and its broader impact on student success.

Skill Level: All Levels

Communicating Affordability: A Case Study of the MyinTuition Quick Cost Estimator

- Abigail Conyers, *Assistant Director of Admission*, Williams College
- Stephanie Gonzalez, *Associate Director for Diversity Recruitment*, Williams College
- Dino Koff, *Director of Financial Aid*, Dartmouth College

This workshop will address processes for schools, nonprofits, and colleges to effectively communicate affordability to students and families exploring higher education options. Central to this mission is the use of the MyinTuition Quick Cost Estimator, which allows students, families, and guidance counselors to quickly determine the cost of college given a student's specific financial situation. Presenters from two leading institutions in this field, Williams College and Dartmouth College, will teach attendees how to utilize the platform, share the benefits we have seen from the calculator, and discuss how we can continue to increase fluency around financial aid and awareness of need-seeking college admission processes.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM MEET AND MINGLE (EXHIBIT TABLES, DEMO SESSIONS, AND NETWORKING)

Please join other conference attendees in networking during the NPEA Meet and Mingle. You will have the opportunity to visit the exhibit tables, attend a more in-depth information session or demo of a helpful product or education tool, and set up one-on-one meetings with colleagues. This is your time to meet, mingle, network, and share ideas. Bring your business cards and have your contact information ready to share during this active learning opportunity!

Location: Ile de France Ballroom Foyer and Breakout Rooms

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM INFORMATION SESSIONS

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

A-List Education: Information Session

- Dory Schultz, *Senior Educational Consultant and Training Manager*, A-List Education

A-List Education is an innovative education services provider that has helped approximately 80,000 students from all backgrounds to successfully prepare for their educational futures. We collaborate with schools, nonprofits, and organizations, working with a variety of budgets to empower teachers with running their own ACT/SAT course, or to integrate these skills into their everyday curriculum. We also offer everything from professional development, teacher and student materials, Vocab Videos, as well as an online test assessment portal that provides teachers with lesson plans, pacing guides, and classroom slides. A-List has strong foundations based on our work with the Common Core, the SAT, and the ACT, and are prepared to service your students to achieve their academic goals. Our goal is to cater to each school in a personalized manner in order for your teachers and students to get the most out of A-List.

Skill Level: All Levels

Door94 Information Session: Unlocking Time and Tools for Student Success Organizations

- Kristen Clark, *Chief Executive Officer*, Door94
- Valerie Kerns, *Director of Customer Services*, Door94

More than half of students in high poverty areas require additional student supports outside of the classroom. Every minute student support organizations can spend working with students counts for their future success, yet many of these organizations spend valuable time using highly manual tools to track progress with students, collaborate and share information with teachers and parents, and create reports to share with stakeholders. Please join Door94's CEO, Kristen Clark, and Director of Customer Success, Valerie Kerns, for a demonstration of how Door94 enables student success organizations to easily capture information on student program sessions, view academic performance data, and quickly collaborate with teachers and parents - ultimately giving more minutes back to staff. Learn how one organization has recently pivoted their time from the "what" to the "now what" and the impact on their students and their programming.

Skill Level: All Levels

Duke University Talent Identification Program: Information Session

- Kim Thomas-Cain, *Outreach Coordinator*, Duke University Talent Identification Program

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) is a nonprofit organization that serves academically-talented students in grades 4-12. Duke TIP provides support to these students and their families through above-level testing, enrichment opportunities and programs, financial aid, and gifted education research. This session will be an overview of TIP's two talent searches and the benefits to those who participate; how to identify gifted underserved students; financial aid information; and the partnership we share with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program.

Skill Level: All Levels

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM NPEA RECEPTION: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF LEARNING

Please join us to celebrate a decade of learning with NPEA! You will have the opportunity to enjoy local music and food, network and connect with your friends and colleagues, and relax at the end of a productive and exciting day.

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Location: Ile de France Ballroom

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

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: Ile de France Ballroom

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

***Moneyball* and Billy Beane: Thinking about the Creation and Sustainability of College Access Programs**

- Carl Rogers Ackerman, *Director*, The Clarence T.C. Ching PUEO Program
- Brad Kerwin, *Special Assistant to the Director*, The Clarence T.C. Ching PUEO Program

Renowned professional baseball executive Billy Beane (portrayed famously by Brad Pitt in the film *Moneyball*) took the Oakland A's to national championships by focusing on non-traditional players that didn't perform like their peers but had the best on-base percentage. The Clarence T. C. Ching PUEO Program does something similar by focusing on students who don't have a lot of money and are in the great middle academically, but can make it to college with the right resources. Members of the PUEO program staff will lead attendees in a discussion about unique ways of managing, sustaining, and creatively thinking about college access programs, using *Moneyball* as a guide for discussion.

Exploring Power, Privilege, and Empathy as College Access Providers

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

In the world of educational access, it is simply not enough to provide services to the community; it's also important to develop leadership, collaboration, communication, and interpersonal relationships within our college access providers. Presenters from the University of Utah will share about a "Navigator Workshop" designed to guide employees in professional development. Join this roundtable to discuss strategies for having constructive and meaningful dialogue around privilege, diversity, leading from limited positions of power, and empathy.

College Graduation Isn't Enough: Supporting First-Generation Students from College to Leadership in Careers

- Toinette Gunn, *Vice President, Programs*, Chicago Scholars
- Dominique Jordan-Turner, *Chief Executive Officer*, Chicago Scholars

For more than twenty years, Chicago Scholars has worked with first-generation and under-resourced students on the journey to and through college. Today, the organization serves over 2,000 students with a goal of doubling that number in the next couple of years. With the realization that college graduation is not enough to ensure students are equipped with the necessary leadership skills to succeed in their careers, Chicago Scholars redesigned programming to strategically focus on the transition from college to career. Join this discussion to learn more about this program redesign and discuss strategies for student career and leadership success.

First-Time Attendees and New NPEA Members

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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.

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

Keynote Speaker Introduction:

- Erika McConduit, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, Urban League of Louisiana

Keynote:

- Anthony Abraham Jack, *Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and Assistant Professor of Education*, Harvard Graduate School of Education; and *Sbutzer Assistant Professor*, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

Johari's Window: A College Readiness and Postsecondary Success Tool

- Jennifer Murphy, *Executive Coordinator of Educational Outreach/Faculty*, Access ASU/Arizona State University

Johari's Window is a psychological tool developed to aid in self-awareness and improving group dynamics. The principles behind Johari's Window are crucial in working with today's high school and college populations. As one of the few tools out there that emphasizes the exploration of self-awareness, personal development, emotional intelligence, and inter-group dynamics, Johari's Window also has an underlying emphasis on the metacognitive process, a skill often omitted in traditional educational practices. These principles can be explored and implemented within high school counseling curriculum and college infrastructure to afford students meaningful college and career exploration. Acknowledging the relationship between student success and key non-cognitive and metacognitive skills can increase academic, interpersonal, and emotional resiliency necessary within the high school setting as well as for first-year college success and retention. Research demonstrates that college readiness encapsulates far more than cognitive skills and, as educators, we must recognize that success involves the whole student and is multidimensional.

Skill Level: Intermediate

College Access for All - Middle School: A City-Wide Approach to Early College Awareness

- Raana Kashi, *Program Manager*, College Access for All - Middle School/NYC DOE
- Parastoo Massoumi, *Middle School College Planning Manager*, College Access for All - Middle School/NYC DOE
- Liliana Ornelas, *Middle School College Planning Manager*, College Access for All - Middle School/NYC DOE

College Access for All - Middle School promotes a holistic early college awareness program for middle school students that includes age-appropriate college visits, student workshops, family engagement, and staff development. In this interactive workshop, we will share the New York City model and lead participants through an activity from our college awareness curriculum specifically designed for middle school students and families. Attendees will learn about the structures necessary to scale an early college awareness program to serve a large population of students, such as an entire school district, and walk away with access to a College-Going Culture Toolkit as well as a Family Guide and Curriculum.

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

Skill Level: All Levels

Surviving to Thriving: Supporting Students of Color Through Transitions to Predominantly White Institutions

- Celishia Bussey, *Coordinator and Advisor, Project Excite*, Northwestern University
- Cassandra Geiger, *Director, Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools*, Northwestern University
- Demisha Lee, *Chief Education Officer*, Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund

Students of color transitioning into predominately white institutions (PWIs) for high school and college face distinct issues that are often attributed to factors such as lack of academic readiness, lack of grit, and/or lack of support at home. In addition, student support staff often lack awareness of cultural and/or mental health issues that impede student progress. By preparing staff with the knowledge and tools to correctly identify these issues and provide the proper support to students of color, they can improve student secondary and post-secondary academic outcomes as well as students' overall well-being and experience at these institutions. In this workshop, we will provide research and literature on the experiences of students of color at PWIs. Presenters will engage the audience in a discussion of the cultural considerations and mental health issues that impact student transitions to high school and college, and we will offer pre-emptive strategies that student support staff can implement.

Skill Level: All Levels

Freezing Summer Melt: Supporting First-Generation and Low-Income Students from College Acceptance Through Matriculation

- Lauren Flinn, *Director of Postsecondary Support*, Excel Academy Charter Schools

Summer melt is a national problem affecting college-bound first-generation and low-income students. Policy changes in financial aid and higher education require students to fulfill a robust set of administrative tasks over the summer. First-generation, low-income students and families are quickly overwhelmed with these growing demands, if they know what to do at all. Many students experience a “gap” in their support over the summer and aren't sure to whom they can turn; their high school counselors are not in the office and they have not yet made connections at their colleges. Many nonprofits can fill this gap, but they need support from colleges and high schools to get the work done. This interactive workshop will discuss best practices in supporting college-bound students over the summer and provide tools for collaboration between school counselors, nonprofits, and colleges. It takes a team effort to ensure all students make it to matriculation.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Responding to Incidents of Hate and Reaffirming Student Belonging on Campus

- Maria del Carmen Flores-Mills, *Senior Associate Dean of the College*, Franklin & Marshall College
- Kate Hummel, *Associate Dean of Students*, Lycoming College
- Tazha King, *Senior Manager, College Partnership*, KIPP Foundation
- Craig Robinson, *Chief Program Officer*, College Advising Corps
- Ricardo Townes, *Associate Dean, Student Mentoring and Leadership*, Pomona College

A number of events this past year—including the Charlottesville protests and the policy debates on DACA—have further challenged the degree to which students of color and first-generation Americans feel like they belong on college campuses. During this workshop, the KIPP Foundation will facilitate a panel discussion and action planning session focused on how institutions of higher education and community-based organizations can work together to respond to incidents of hate on college campuses and on the broader national stage. Participants will work together to identify

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strategies to help students: 1) process and discuss incidents of hate and racism in their communities and nationally, 2) identify positive and productive actions that build agency and community, and 3) recommit to their investment in their own future. Participants will also have an opportunity to connect with peer organizations with strong resources and strategies for continued engagement and learning.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

College Advising: How College Track New Orleans is Using the Common Application to Increase College Access for First Generation Youth

- Clara Baron-Hyppolite, *College Completion Manager*, College Track New Orleans
- Meredith Lombardi, *Associate Director, Outreach and Education*, The Common Application

College Track New Orleans is the largest completion program in the city, empowering students from underserved communities to graduate from college. Since 2008, our program has made college graduation the expectation, not the exception, in New Orleans. We help low-income and first generation students through the admission process and introduce them to the Common Application, now accepted by more than 750 diverse colleges and universities. Using the Common App's new Advisor role, we have been able to track students' progress and preview their applications, better supporting our students. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the issues their students face with the admission process and share with one another best practices of pre-college programs that are working to increase college access. Attendees will also get an update from The Common Application, including resources for advisors and new initiatives to expand higher education access for first-year and transfer students.

Skill Level: All Levels

The Power of Networks & Career Exposure: Building Blocks for Student-Driven Programming

- Jessica Brady, *Career Fluency Programs Manager*, The Opportunity Network
- Alisa France, *Senior Program Coordinator*, The Opportunity Network
- Anna McCreight, *Partnerships Manager*, The Opportunity Network

Research shows students are significantly more likely to succeed in school if they understand the connection between their academic efforts and the long-term pay-off of real-world success. Integration of career development into education broadens students' awareness of opportunities to maximize their potential and deepens their skillset to direct their own personal and professional growth. In this workshop, participants will unpack the knowledge and skills necessary for students to achieve long-term college and career success. In particular, the presenters will focus on two areas: 1) career exploration and 2) asset-based networks. Participants will leave with actionable interventions, practical building blocks for students at every grade level, and the tools to measure student progress.

Skill Level: All Levels

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH

Please enjoy a networking lunch with your fellow conference attendees.

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

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

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

Engaging Our Black and Latino Men: Promising Practices Across the Post-Secondary Spectrum

- Paul Bonitto, *Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions, National AHAANA Recruitment*, Boston College
- Jeff Joseph, *Director, Minority Mentorship Programs and First-Year Experience*, Massasoit Community College
- Troy Lazaro, *Assistant Director, Multicultural Recruitment and Liaison to the Office of Multicultural Affairs*, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Diane Scott, *Co-Director of College Placement*, Academy of the Pacific Rim

This workshop will offer a chance for participants to engage in information, dialogue, and program models for engaging and supporting Black and Latino males toward post-secondary success. Please come prepared to share your questions, challenges, and successes. The workshop will address current, relevant research and statistics, as well as promising practices and program models from a secondary school, a community college, a public four-year university, and a private college. Participants will engage in dialogue throughout, and there will be time for Q&A and creating connections for follow-up after the workshop.

Skill Level: All Levels

Serving Undocumented Students in an Era of Urgency

- Ielaf Altoma, *Ed.M. Candidate*, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Diana Peña, *Certificate of Advanced Study Candidate*, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Salvador Sanchez, *Certificate of Advanced Study Candidate*, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Kelly Truong, *Ed.M. Candidate*, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Alma J. Valverde C., *Ed.M. Candidate*, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Fear and political uncertainty currently fill the daily lives of undocumented students around the nation. Educators must become equipped to facilitate healing and empower these students. This workshop will provide educators with the tools to understand the environmental factors affecting undocumented students. Attendees will learn how to provide social and emotional support through group activity and discussion, led by current students at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, including two members of the UndocuAllies Initiative. Participants will walk away from this training with knowledge and resources on curriculum, college access and success, and best practices to use while serving undocumented students.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

The Use and Misuse of Standardized Tests

- Akil Bello, *Director of Equity and Access*, The Princeton Review
- James Murphy, *Director of National Outreach*, The Princeton Review

Sometimes touted as tools of equity and access, standardized admissions tests are too often poorly used instruments that are likely contributing to rather than remediating race-, gender-, and class-based inequities. Using data-driven analyses, the presenters will explore how schools, scholarship organizations, and colleges can misuse admissions tests. The presenters and the audience will explore practical solutions that counselors and advocates can implement or advocate for that will mitigate the impact of misused practices and policies.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Myth vs. Reality: Diversity and Admissions at Highly Selective Universities

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- Nicole Maloy, *Associate Dean of Equity and Access, Office of Undergraduate Admissions*, University of Pennsylvania
- Olufemi Ogundele, *Assistant Dean for Diversity Outreach, Office of Undergraduate Admission*, Stanford University
- Sonya K. Smith, *Associate Dean and Director of Diversity Outreach, Office of Admission*, Princeton University

What are highly selective colleges and universities doing to ensure that students from historically underrepresented racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic backgrounds are thoughtfully considered during the application process? Once admitted, what meaningful support is available for them on their journey through to graduation? What stereotypes about admissions are actually misconceptions, and what does the holistic admissions process mean for high-achieving, underserved students and the counselors who support them? Join undergraduate admissions representatives from the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, and Princeton University for a conversation about access to top tier schools.

Skill Level: All Levels

Positive School Culture as a Catalyst for Academic Achievement and Post-Secondary Success

- Dennis Lacewell, *Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness*, Urban Prep Academies

In today's educational landscape defined by gross inequity, many of our students in under-resourced communities are often without access to quality school programming that both meets and enriches their learning needs and builds the foundation for success. As a result, a disconnect exists between academic readiness and achievement in students served within these communities. Yet, schools do have a choice: to be aware of the essential intersection between students' social-emotional learning needs and academic performance, thus creating a positive school culture where students can thrive, or to ignore this essential intersection, rendering students incapable of achieving at their highest potential. This session will explore two educational case studies of schools where positive school culture served as the catalyst for academic achievement and post-secondary success. Participants will be engaged in case study, program, and student data analysis with the opportunity for whole group synthesis for best application in individual educational contexts.

Skill Level: All Levels

Illustrating Impact: Overcoming Challenges and Developing Strategies in Program Evaluation

- Amanda Sommerfeld Case, *Assistant Professor*, Washington College

This workshop will create a space where attendees can come together to discuss best practices in evaluating college preparatory programs. To do so, attendees will first consider challenges they face in developing evaluation plans and collecting, analyzing, and interpreting baseline, benchmark, and outcome data. Next, attendees will transition to identifying strategies that can be used to address these challenges. Given that the ultimate aim of the workshop is for attendees to share experiences from their own work and collaborate to identify strategies they can implement moving forward, this workshop will incorporate small and large group discussions and activities. Through these interactive activities, attendees will be able to process and work through evaluation challenges they have faced in their respective programs and organizations.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Building a Culture of Collaboration: Working Together for Educational Equity

- Adonica Duggan, *Managing Director of External Affairs*, New Schools for Baton Rouge

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- Kara Maggiore, *Director of School Strategy*, New Schools for Baton Rouge

In this session, participants will learn about the importance and benefits of collaboration among stakeholders as a means for improving educational opportunities for all students. We will discuss how collaboration is effective in achieving outcomes, learn more about collaborative work currently being undertaken, and use provided models and resources to build an action plan for addressing a current need or issue within participants' organizations. This session is accessible to all education stakeholders from school level leaders to non-profit organizations and community organizers.

Skill Level: All Levels

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE GENERAL SESSION
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Keynote Sponsor Remarks:

- Lorna Smith, *Chief Executive Officer*, Horizons National

Keynote Speaker Introduction:

- Paris Woods, *Co-Founder and Executive Director*, College Beyond

Keynote:

- Vijay Pendakur, *Robert W. and Elizabeth C. Staley Dean of Students*, Cornell University; and *Editor, Closing the Opportunity Gap: Identity-Conscious Strategies for Retention and Student Success*

Closing Conference Remarks and Small Group Debrief:

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

Location: Ile de France Ballroom

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM BOOK SALES AND SIGNING: VIJAY PENDAKUR

Vijay Pendakur will sign copies of his book immediately following the closing Keynote General Session.