12 NPEA Annual Conference
April 15-17, 2020
BOSTON

<u>**Reaching Out and Rising Up:**</u>
<u>**Forging Ahead for Student Success**</u>

Please review the information in this document, including the topic suggestions (pages 1-4) and presenter FAQs (pages 5-6), prior to submitting your workshop proposal.

Questions? Please contact Carrie Tate, *Associate Director of NPEA*, at <u>ctate@tsf.org</u> or (617) 423-6300 x228.

<u>**Theme Description**</u>

The past two NPEA conferences have called attendees to stand together and raise our voices for underserved students in an increasingly challenging climate. We have looked to each other to elevate our work, empower students, and deepen our commitment to dismantling systems of inequity. While our collective efforts have undoubtedly strengthened the field of education, we find students across the country continue to face many of the same challenges.

As we look ahead to 2020 and NPEA's 12th annual conference, we ask attendees to reach out -- to our students, to each other, to our communities -- and to rise up together and persist in the pursuit of progress. As a community, we can transform the future of access, equity, and opportunity for the students we serve today and those we'll serve tomorrow. Together, we will engage in thoughtful conversation and learning opportunities around issues of student well-being and mental health, intersectional identity, race and equity, diversity and inclusion, social justice, and more. We will look holistically at the student experience throughout the K-16+ journey, and envision how we can make changes that will help students not only access opportunity but move onward and upward to thrive on their unique educational journeys.

<u>**Topic Ideas and Suggestions**</u>

NPEA seeks a range of perspectives from the educational access and success field, including school- and non-school-based direct service programs; independent, public, and charter schools; colleges and universities; other education nonprofits; funders; and more.

The best-received workshops are those that provide specific strategies, ideas, and resources that can be used across varying organizations, schools, and settings.

We encourage workshop proposals that fall within the following categories, <u>as well as others</u> related to the conference theme and educational access and success.

Collaboration and Partnerships: These sessions will feature successful and innovative partnerships between/among CBOs, schools, and colleges/universities. These collaborations will model working together as a field and share metrics for measuring success as well as replicable strategies and practices.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:
- **Cross-sector collaborations:** Intentional partnerships across programs, schools, and other settings to ensure students thrive; CBO/school connections
- **K-12 and higher education partnerships:** CBO/university collaborations; student persistence initiatives; high school to college transitions

Colleges and Universities: These sessions will offer emerging practices related to supporting students transitioning to and persisting through college and beyond.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:
- **Supporting student success:** Creating positive learning environments and campus cultures; summer bridge programs; supporting student transitions; early college programming; student retention and persistence; mentoring; college advising curriculum; study abroad; gap years
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Socioeconomic, racial, and cultural diversity on campus; creating a culture of inclusion; on-campus affinity groups and special offerings
- **College admissions:** Recruitment and support initiatives for low-income, first generation, underserved student populations; college fly-in programming; accessibility and affordability

Data & Evaluation: These sessions will address current research, data, methods of evaluation, and policy in the field, as well as practical tips, tools, and lessons learned about best practices for measuring and communicating impact, and ensuring all aspects of data and evaluation are looked and implemented through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:
- **Current research and data:** Demonstrations of research-to-practice in the educational access field; data-driven decision-making
- **Data collection and analysis:** Using data to improve practice and/or tell a story; evaluation and analysis strategies; tools and resources for tracking students
- **State and government policies:** Understanding implications of and navigating current educational and political climate/landscape; current policies and practices impacting students

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: These sessions will address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in organizational and institutional settings, and will cover topics such as racial or gender equity, intersectionality, socio-economic diversity, systemic inequities, creating inclusive environments, culturally-relevant and responsive pedagogy, and more.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:
- **Diverse student populations:** Supporting undocumented/DACA students; working with immigrant students and families; supporting socio-economic diversity in school and program settings; supporting Latinx students; differentiating instruction; culturally-relevant and culturally-responsive pedagogy;

supporting students from across the spectrums of gender and sexuality; working with indigenous communities; non-traditional views of access and equity

- **Inclusive campus environments:** Multicultural campus initiatives; recruiting and supporting underserved students; first generation student persistence; affinity groups; addressing microaggressions; hiring, supporting, and retaining a diverse staff/faculty
- **Systemic and structural inequity:** Exploring root causes of education outcome disparities; addressing issues of racism, discrimination, and oppression; understanding privilege and power; overcoming structural barriers to equitable access and opportunity; policy and resource inequities; implicit bias
- **Advocacy, social justice, and civic engagement:** Empowering/supporting student activism; education policy and reform; organizing and engaging students, families, colleagues, and communities; dismantling white supremacy culture
- **Research:** Connecting research to practice; applying the work of leading researchers (e.g., Christopher Emdin, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Tony Jack, Shaun Harper, Dorinda Carter-Andrews, Tressie McMillan Cottom) with proven results

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

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **College-going programming and curriculum:** Academic enrichment; creating a college-going mindset; family engagement and support; experiential learning
- **School, summer, and critical transitions:** Preparing students for school transitions (e.g., public to private or charter, elementary to middle, middle to high); preventing summer learning loss
- **Lower- and middle-achieving students:** Supporting students with lower GPAs and test scores; asset-based practices and support for average-performing students
- **K-8 and secondary/post-secondary partnerships:** Partnering across sectors for student success; high-impact collaborations (e.g., city, district, schoolwide, K-16)

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

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Financial aid:** Financial aid assistance for entry into secondary and post-secondary schools; FAFSA support; gap funding; financial literacy; college savings plans; financial aid for undocumented students
- **Rising cost of college:** Research, trends, and strategies around the rising cost of college tuition and the impact on low-income, first generation students and families; accessing scholarships and grants
- **Student loan debt:** Advising students and families through student loan debt and repayment

Lower- and Middle-Achievers: These sessions will address the unique challenges and opportunities around recruiting and supporting lower- and middle-achieving students on the path to and through college.

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

- **Academic interventions and college preparation:** Academic programming and curricula, positioning students for the college application process, scholarship opportunities, college advising
- **College persistence:** Social-emotional and academic services to support student retention and persistence, on-campus resources for student success

Management, Leadership, and Executive-Level Decision-Making: These sessions will share strategies that nonprofit and school leaders can use to drive, manage, and grow programs and initiatives, such as staff recruitment and retention, staff growth and development, office culture, administrative policies, fundraising, self-care, board management, and more.

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

- **Hiring and retaining diverse staff:** Developing and supporting diverse leaders; capacity building for sustainability and growth; recruiting and retaining diverse faculty/staff
- **Program expansion/replication:** Scaling curricula, programming, social impact; national and regional affiliate fundraising strategies; data-sharing
- **Infrastructure and long-term planning:** Comprehensive strategic planning; communication strategies; marketing/branding; organizational culture; high-impact partnerships; board and trustee development
- **Funding/development:** Ensuring financial sustainability; funder and grant-maker perspectives; fundraising; community and/or corporate partnerships; lack of diversity in philanthropy and the impact on educational program funding
- **Leadership and professional development:** Supporting training and growth of staff; encouraging a positive and fulfilling work culture; developing leaders in the workplace; supporting the onboarding and work "lifecycle" of staff

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

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

- **Resiliency:** Promoting strength-based strategies for working with students; helping students overcome barriers; culturally sensitive and trauma-informed support
- **College readiness and persistence:** College counseling and advising; college application process; high school to college transitions; opportunity youth
- **Career readiness/workforce development:** Career prep training, tools, and resources; fostering leadership; building professional networks; post-secondary pathways (e.g., hard and soft skills development, career readiness, financial literacy)
- **Community, parent/guardian, and family engagement:** Encouraging partnerships among parents/guardians, families, schools, and communities; family engagement programming and resources; inclusive and intentional family engagement in college processes
- **Tools and resources:** Mobile technology, tools, and resources for student success; STEM/STEAM; standardized test prep; innovative curricula

Social-Emotional Learning, Student Mental Health and Well-Being: These sessions will address research and practices around social-emotional learning, non-cognitive skill development, identity and character growth, and non-academic factors in student success.

Examples of topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Social-emotional skills:** Fostering grit, resilience, social intelligence, and/or a growth mindset in K-16 students; assessing social-emotional skills and growth; building communication skills with students
- **Mental health and well-being:** Identifying warning signs for mental illness in adolescence; trauma-inclusive practices for youth of color, including best practices for Latinx students; understanding variables that impact mental well-being of students of color; supporting increased competencies of families, organizations, schools, and/or universities to recognize and support student well-being and implement mental health programs and policies

- **Research:** Connecting research to practice; applying the work of leading researchers (e.g., Angela Duckworth, Carol Dweck, Mandy Savitz-Romer) with proven results
- **Identity and character development:** Defining and exploring concepts in intersectionality; helping students find their unique voices; reflection practices; restorative justice; mindfulness and meditation; mentoring; independent and post-secondary campus culture; teaching students how to facilitate diversity discussions
- **Early interventions:** Social-emotional learning, non-cognitive skill development, and college-going mindsets in work with K-8 students

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PRESENTER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

What does an active learning conference mean for my presentation?
- The 2020 conference will provide opportunities for active learning and engaging with attendees leading up to, throughout, and following the conference. In your proposal submission, you will be asked to <u>think about and commit to promoting active learning in your workshop by providing hands-on, engaging learning experiences, tangible ideas and action items, and concrete takeaways</u> that attendees can bring back to their work in schools or programs. Attendees should have a voice and the opportunity to <u>interact with you and each other</u> during the session. It is our hope that attendees will leave your session prepared for continuous engagement with the material and/or ideas you shared in your presentation.

Do I need to register and pay for the conference?
- Yes. **All workshop presenters and co-presenters must register and pay for the conference in order to present.** NPEA offers a discounted conference registration rate of $495 per person for each NPEA <u>member presenter</u>, $680 per person for each <u>non-member presenter</u>, and $200 for <u>graduate/undergraduate student presenters</u>. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer further discounted or complimentary registrations (including one-day rates). Please keep these costs in mind prior to submitting a workshop proposal.

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

Will I need to make my own hotel reservation?
- Yes, you will need to make your own hotel reservation. You can find information about our room block on our website. Please make your own travel and hotel arrangements, and book your hotel room early to ensure you receive the discounted conference rate of $209 (plus taxes) until the block is full.

I can't stay for the full conference. Can I just come and go for my session and could this lower my registration fee?
- Unfortunately, no. You are welcome to come and go from the conference as you please, however this will not lower your fee. We are unable to make any exceptions to the presenter registration fees, but we are pleased to offer the discounted rate to all accepted presenters. Please keep these costs in mind prior to submitting a workshop proposal.

What methods of payment do you accept for the NPEA Conference?

- We accept payment by check or credit card (including Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express). <u>**Unfortunately, we are not able to accept purchase orders.**</u>

I would like to include a student presenter in my session. Do they have to pay to attend?

- We love having students participate in the conference workshops! We are pleased to offer a special discounted student rate of $200 for the full conference. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate complimentary registrations for students.
- If you plan to include students in your presentation, please ensure you have the funds to cover their attendance prior to submitting your proposal.

Is it possible to add or change presenters for my presentation?

- You must notify us immediately if you anticipate any changes to your workshop presenter lineup. Please keep in mind your proposal is reviewed and evaluated as submitted, so **if accepted, you must be prepared to replace any presenters who can no longer participate**.
- Should you choose to add presenters to your presentation after being accepted, please communicate the presenter expectations and registration fees to them and submit their title, bio, and email as soon as possible and no later than January 17, 2020.

What A/V equipment do you provide for workshops?

- All workshop rooms are equipped with a projector, screen, and basic slide advancer.
- All accepted workshop presenters must bring their own laptop.
- All accepted workshop presenters must notify NPEA of the laptop model/type to be used for their presentation by the communicated deadlines. A limited number of laptop projector connectors and adaptors will be available for those who request them, and A/V support will be available on-site to assist with any technology troubleshooting.
- Internet access is not a standard provision at our conference, but we are able to meet a limited number of presenter WiFi requests on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Most breakout rooms will not require microphones; we will provide microphones at our discretion where necessary.
- Additional A/V equipment (speakers, flipchart paper, markers, etc.) is available for a fee. We recommend presenters bring their own if/when possible to avoid any extra expenses.
- Please [contact Carrie](#) as soon as possible to make arrangements for any additional A/V needs.

When will I be notified about the status of my proposal?

- NPEA will be in touch with all workshop submitters regarding the status of their proposal(s) by late-November 2019.

What We Provide

- **Theater-style setup of chairs in a breakout room with a projector, LCD screen, and speaking podium.** Due to the quick turnaround time between workshop sessions and hotel banquet fees, we are generally unable to accommodate room setups other than theater style. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. Upon special request and with advanced notice, we are occasionally able to make exceptions (e.g., rooms set in rounds), though we cannot guarantee our ability to meet these requests. All presenters should submit proposals keeping this in mind and planning for a theater style workshop format.

What We DO NOT Provide

- Laptop, adaptor cords for most laptop-projector connections, internet access*****, speakers/audio for presentation*****, flipchart paper and easel*****.
- Most breakout rooms will not require microphones; we will provide microphones at our discretion where necessary.

* Available for purchase from hotel A/V – please inquire if selected to present.

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