

WACAC 2019 Conference Sessions

Across the Desk Collaboration; How Admissions Professionals can support the School Counselor and students in the College Application Process

Presenters: Christine Voice, Kohler High School and Mark Swenson, UW-Madison

Learn about a partnership between Kohler High school counselor and University of Wisconsin-Madison's Admission professional that offers a comprehensive approach to college counseling and the application process. Participants will take away a collaborative framework to help prepare juniors for what to expect in the process and to support rising seniors in completing the application process prior to their academic school year.

Building a High School College Rep Visit Program

Presenter: Zach Galin, Galin Education; Panel members: Matt Koehler, Madison Country Day School, Pat Walsh, IEC, Jen Van Essen, Michigan Technological University, Julie Nelson, Xavier University, Brenda Ward, IEC

Colleges are on the road visiting schools throughout the fall. But, this is also a busy time of year for counselors! We will explore how to develop a college rep visit program in your school that makes the most of admissions officers' travel plans. Learn from counselors who have met dozens (if not hundreds) of admissions reps from around the country – what to ask, what to listen for, and what to share with students!

Cooperative Education: An Affordable, Resume-building Pathway to a College Degree

Presenters: Sam Poulette and Mark Edmond, Lakeland University

Explore this question and many more regarding Lakeland University's new innovative experiential education program from Director of Admission, Sam Poulette, and Director of Cooperative Education, Mark Edmond. School counselors, join us and explore the career development, curricular, and financial benefits that a cooperative education can provide for your students.

Developing Cultural Awareness for Admission Counseling

Presenters: Dr. Stephanie Thorson-Olesen, Viterbo University

Dr. Thorson-Olesen was Viterbo University's 2018 Teacher of the Year and in 2017 was invited to advocate for mental health policy making at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Come and participate in an engaging session where Thorson-Olesen shares personal stories to make her multicultural background come to life for listeners. Then explore yourself as a multicultural being with the RESPECTFUL model, which is commonly used in counselor training. This session will help you to understand prospective students and bring your multicultural awareness to a whole new level.

Developing UW System Pathways

Presenters: Joshua Rybaski, and Sir Williams, UW HELP

Learn how the UW HELP Office partnership with the UW System Student Success Office is growing to build new relationships with students, counselors and parents. Together these two office are developing practices that maximize the educational benefits of diversity, accessibility, access and opportunities to

maximize student success. This program will look at the board programs, successes and challenges of working with high schools partners and college system practices and policies.

Building the next generation of transfer programs

Presenter: David Burge, George Mason University

Students who can successfully make the transition from a two-year to a four-year institution can achieve similar outcomes as if they started there in the first place. The Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University's Teachers College reports that that two-year college students who go on to earn a bachelor's degree from a four-year institution do just as well in the job market as their peers who began their college education at four-year institutions. The problem they identify is that only 14 percent of students who enter community college complete a bachelor's degree within six years.

This experience of moving from a two-year to a four-year institution should feel more like a transition than a transfer; more like a singular academic journey than a maze that traps students with debt and unusable course credits that don't count toward a degree. Once these students are enrolled in community colleges, the process simply has to become less onerous. Students lose too many credits, receive bad advice about course and major selection, and many end up erasing any financial savings through repeat courses. This session will discuss the attributes of the George Mason University ADVANCE program, a nationally recognized transfer initiative attempting to solve these problems. Target Population: Enrollment Managers, Managers and Leaders

Global Volunteerism: Impactful or self-serving?

Presenter: Liz Arnold, Gundersen Health

Global Partners, a program of Gundersen Medical Foundation in La Crosse, WI, develops long-term relationships with global and local communities to inspire volunteerism among medical professionals, students and community members. This session will touch on ways global volunteerism fosters professional development of students, share best practices to ensure volunteer efforts remain community-centric, and discuss cultural humility as a foundation.

Hogar: How to make your campus a home for Latinx students

Presenters: Mariana Sanabria and Andrea Del Zocorro Lozano, UW-Milwaukee

Latinx students continue to be one of the fastest growing groups of students in Wisconsin colleges and universities. In the Milwaukee area alone, approximately 10,000 Latinx students are enrolled in 2 and 4 year programs! At UW-Milwaukee, Latinx students and families explore a home away from home by engaging in high-impact visit experiences and retention-focused support service. This session is for those looking to understand the Latinx student and family perspective. Learn how your institution can convey the difference that a Latinx student is looking for to feel a sense of community, identity, and validation.

Session will cover the following:

- Definition of "Latinx"
- Recruitment programs designed to support first-generation, low-income, undocumented, and/or bilingual students
- Campus partnerships to expand student support
- Continue support for enrolled students

How America Values and Pays for College

Presenters: Jill Gosse, Salliemae

A national study by Sallie Mae and Ipsos, explores how families of undergraduates regard the value of higher education, the factors that influence their choice of schools, and the steps they're taking to make college affordable. Discussion will also focus on the resources families use to pay for college, particularly reliance on financial aid and the role of student loans.

Mindfulness and Self-Care Techniques for School Counselors & Road Warriors

Presenter: Christine Voice, Kohler High School, Kristie Splivalo, Yoga on the Lake, Trisha Erpelding, Mental Health America of Sheboygan

Participants will learn about one community that provided mindfulness and social-emotional learning skills for staff and students through collaboration with their Mental Health America affiliate and a local yoga studio, Yoga on the Lake. Additionally, session participants will learn their own self-care techniques related to breathing, postures, and mindfulness. These skills can be utilized individually during busy travel and reading seasons, or replicated at school sites for students and faculty. Frameworks for replication will be provided to participants.

Get Involved!

Presenter: David Burge, John McGreal, Teege Mettillie and Christine Voice, WACAC and NACAC leaders

Hear from your current Presidential Team and NACAC Past President on getting involved in WACAC and NACAC. They will discuss their story, punctuated by dry humor, about the impact Affiliate and National ACAC involvement has had in shaping their careers, improving their practice, and developing professionally.

Oh, no ... I think my new boss is a Baby Boomer. Did we hire another Millennial?

Presenters: Kaylie Connaughty and Corey Sjoquist, UW-La Crosse

Many new admissions counselors are enthusiastic recent college graduates – Millennials. What happens when the Director of Admissions is a Gen Xer but acts more like a Baby Boomer? Current and effective training plans are critical to address the generation gaps within a team. This session will share successful steps used in the UW–La Crosse Admissions Office when onboarding new staff.

One Application, Unlimited Possibilities: Lowering Barriers to Access

Presenters: Ryan Gleich, Common App

Improving pathways for students requires addressing logistical and systemic barriers to college access and transfer. Learn how Common App and Reach Higher are building evidence-based college access campaigns, connecting students to financial planning and scholarship resources, streamlining the application experience, and supporting counselors with comprehensive tools. Hear from a member college and best practices from the high school side.

Paths through the Profession

Presenters: Nick Spaeth, Brookfield Academy and Leigh Mlodzik, Ripon College

The path forward through our profession is not always a clear one. But don't let that discourage you. Hear how two seasoned professionals, with more than three decades of combined experience in higher

education, have navigated the twists and turns of the noble work we all undertake. Their paths started together but have resulted in very different, yet equally fulfilling and rewarding, opportunities. Regardless of the side of the desk you find yourself on, this session will share relevant examples of making the most out of a career in higher education.

Quantitative Assessment for New Students: Effectively Measuring Quantitative Literacy Across the Curriculum

Presenter: Matt Brown, Earlham College

As more and more colleges eliminate the requirement for the SAT or ACT for admission, the issue of how to evaluate a student's quantitative literacy across the curriculum became paramount. Earlham College developed an effective method to evaluate a student's quantitative literacy and identify skill gaps that could be impediments to a student's success.

Re-imagining the Post-Secondary Options Night

Presenter: Michelle Mckenna, Brookfield East High School and John McGreal, University of Alabama

After years of doing the same panel, the Elmbrook District School Counselors decided they needed to do something different. Through discussions with Admissions Reps, we imagined something new for our Post-Secondary Options night. We looked beyond what was typical, easy, and done before to create a conference style event with guest speakers. The result have been undeniable: Huge jumps in attendance rates and impressive anecdotal evidence to know it works! Hear how it was done from some of the architects of the event.

See and Get On the Road - Career Pathways and Academies for Student Success

Presenters: Oliver Debe and Katie Graf, Gateway Technical College

In this session, Gateway Technical College will highlight its partnerships with local area high schools in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties through career pathways and academies. High school students earn free college credit through a variety of dual credit opportunities that help them save time and money in their career and higher education pursuits. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials through these career pathways and academies as well. Gateway Technical College will discuss the success of its career pathways and academies and share tips for how other colleges and universities can expand upon their career pathways and academies to positively impact the students that they serve in their recruitment territories and local high school districts.

The Million Dollar Bridge: Testaments of a Low-Income, First-Gen, Student of Color

Presenters: Jaime Gonzalez, Lawrence University

Research shows that students with a college degree will earn about a million dollars more in their lifetime than those without one. But what does that million dollars actually look like? This session will use first hand experiences of a first-gen, low-income student of color, now young professional, and shed light on programs and initiatives that supported his achievement from the admissions process to graduation. This session will also discuss some practices best suited for 21st century higher education, with a specific focus on college admissions, and their impacts on students.

To and Through: The Graduation Plus Way

Presenter: Adrian Flores, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

Graduation Plus College Access & Success Programs follows a To & Through College model for all of our students. Beginning from their Freshman Year of High School, they are immersed into a College Going culture through different workshops, engagements, internships, and increased partnerships. We are investing 8–10 years in the lives of students and we are not finished until they graduate from college. This session will give you an insight on how we serve students throughout the Greater Milwaukee Area and how we can all work together to best serve our students To & Through College.

Viewing the world of admissions through a new lense

Presenter: Jim Zielinski, The Prairie School, Connie Bennett, Marquette University High School, Perry Robinson, University School of Milwaukee and Nick Spaeth, Brookfield Academy

After working a collective 109 years in admissions, our panelists moved to the "other side of the desk." Their transitions have indeed been eye opening. Do high school visits matter? Does anyone read brochures? What do kids say after visiting colleges? Social media? A fun an interactive session as they share their experiences working on the other side.