Breaking Down Formidable Barriers for Students: Policy & Practical Prescriptions for Supporting Contemporary Student Access & Success

This session will present analyses of vexing issues involving student access, retention, and success. The policy analyses by graduate students in GW’s Higher Education Administration program explore the impact of legacy admissions on student access, practical actions to address microaggressions on college campuses, research on Hispanic Serving Institutions’ (HSIs’) impact on the Latinx community, and organizational structures to support first generation students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In a panel format, each researcher will provide a project overview, including theoretical and practical contexts, literature review, and recommendations. Audience members will engage with presenters as a group and individually.

DR. ANDREW SONN, ERIN MAYO, HADIYA ALEXANDER, JEFFREY RAMOS, TAYLOR SMITH
The George Washington University

Jumping the Wall: Creating Campus & Employer Partnerships to Cultivate Global Citizens

Developing university-wide stakeholder partnerships remains a priority for career services. Critical to this development is creating engagement opportunities for tomorrow’s global citizens, while meeting the challenge of partnering with employers, like the United Nations System, whose application pool is worldwide and competitive. GW’s UN 360 addressed these challenges by delivering substantive employer engagement and lifelong career exploration techniques while simultaneously strengthening faculty/alumni/employer partnerships. Learn about the program's design, implementation, and ways to scale a program for your campus.

TARA DUPREY & KELLY LAWTON The George Washington University

Advising Through the Gap: Best Practices Advising Transfer Students

The transition from community college to a four-year institution is difficult for many students. One of the challenges that students face is a gap in advising. Students receive advising on completing their associate’s degree at the community college and again at the four-year institution on receiving their bachelor’s degree. However, often there is little advising during the transfer process. In this session, I will be sharing the changes made in advising to help fill this gap for the Hillman Entrepreneurship Program, a scholarship program for transfer students in Maryland with a predominantly minority and first generation student population.

NANCY STALOWSKI University of Maryland, The George Washington University

Readmitted & Recommitted to Success: Supporting Reinstated Students During a Time of Transition

With the heightened focus on improving retention rates and graduation benchmarks, many universities are exploring ways to “recruit back” and “readmit” students who may have been dismissed from the institution due to a myriad of academic and/or disciplinary issues. It might seem as though this key population of students would have the hardest time making a transition back to the campus environment after a few semesters away from the classroom. What can academic advisors do to ensure these students are supported and made to feel welcome at their alma maters? Come learn more about the readmission application process from the perspective of a former admissions officer at GW and how Academic Success Coaching may help inform and anticipate the self-determination and internal motivation among students who have been readmitted/reinstated at a selective academic institution in Washington, DC.

RICHARD OWENS & JESSICA PORRAS The George Washington University
Underprepared at the Graduate Level: A Roundtable Discussion

Over the past 20 years graduate school enrollment has increased by 35%, and the make up of college student populations is shifting. These demographic changes bring a number of challenges for student affairs professionals, especially when these graduate students are not prepared for the advanced setting. Assumptions are made with graduate students that less support is needed and schools can be hands off, but this often is not the case. What do we do about underprepared graduate students? This roundtable discussion will address research, practices, and areas we need to improve as practitioners.

MATTHEW LE BRASSEUR The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Not Working 9-5: Lessons from Innovative Work Arrangements

Traditional work schedules often fail to meet the needs of institutions and employees. This session will discuss innovative work arrangements in student affairs like job-sharing, part-time work, and temporary/project work assignments. We will include perspectives from colleagues who have held such roles, as well as colleagues who created and supervised such roles. The content will focus on the demand for and benefits of these options and how to make such arrangements successful for institutions, employers, and employees.

CHRISTY ANTHONY Berklee College of Music
STEPH RASGUS The George Washington University

★ EDUCATION SESSION 2: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Supporting International Students Through 45’s Agenda

As Professional Advisors, our duty is to advise students to navigate ways to be successful while they pursue their professional degrees at our institution. Students come to our offices and often they bring concerns about the political changes that are happening a few blocks from our campus. Our goals with the discussion group are to 1) educate the students on the recent changes in the political climate, 2) advise students on their rights as visa seeking students, 3) provide appropriate resources to students concerns, 4) create a platform for dialogue amongst students, and 5) foster campus partnerships.

TYLER JUNG The George Washington University

Supporting Undergraduate Students in Online Education Environments

Online and hybrid learning environments represent an integral part of today’s college student experience. This session, led by three researchers with different perspectives on the topic, will focus on supporting and engaging students in online education environments. The first presentation highlights the strategies common to hybrid learning environments and applies those to student affairs practice; the second presentation demonstrates the value of blogging as an engagement tool; the final presentation summarizes the retention issues for students in online education environments. Audience members will engage with presenters as a group and individually.

RICK JAKEMAN, SUSAN SWAYZE, SARAH SANDERS, REBECCA LYNCH
The George Washington University

Cross-Cultural Competence for Conduct & Investigations

This session focuses on specific, practicable strategies for bridging cross-cultural gaps during student conduct meetings and investigations. Participants will understand the influence of cross-cultural encounters on investigations. Participants will explore a cross-cultural communication framework and its use in working with parties during investigations.

CHRISTY ANTHONY Berklee College of Music
Rethinking Hell Week(s): Experiential & Cohort-Style Learning for RA Training

Are you tired of recycling outdated content and presentations from year to year for RA training? Do you dread when August 1st comes around and it’s time for two weeks of sweat, tears, and no sleep? Join the Mount St. Mary’s University residence life team as we introduce a year-long, cohort-style learning for RA training. Back after popular demand from presenting at the recent MCPOA, you might just be excited again come next August!

ABIGAIL VAN ANDEN, KEN MCVEARRY, REBECCA NAGEL, JAMIE WRIGHT, JAMIE CHONG BROWN
Mount St. Mary’s University

Engaging Stakeholders & Telling Your Story Using Technology

The days of required on campus meetings, connected to your desk line, in person workshops, and programs targeted to local students are over! Come learn George Washington University’s experiences engaging with alumni, distance learners, employers, and campus partners all through technology. Participants will learn successful & creative systems that will not only enhance programs and “tell the program’s story”, but also add additional value, flexibility, and time-saving techniques.

CAROL GALLADIAN The George Washington University

★ EDUCATION SESSION 3: 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Advising Through Controversy: Managing Controversial Events on Campus

In this age of hashtag activism, controversy surrounding a student organization event can escalate quickly. Even through controversy, institutions have a responsibility to foster dialogue grounded in civility. Drawing from GW’s experiences with such events, this presentation will address aspects of managing controversy, including advising the student organization and working with media relations, free speech protocols, campus police, and space. Attendees will leave with steps to follow during controversy and insights from other campuses.

ANNE GRAHAM & DR. TIM MILLER The George Washington University

The Racist in All of Us: Reconciling Institutional & Personal Bias in Student Conduct Practitioners

As higher education continues to expand to represent the growing diversity of the United States, vestiges of its exclusionary history still continue to institutionalize white hegemony. This introductory session will analyze how structural biases manifest within student conduct systems. Participants will then employ a self-interrogation model to identify personal biases as student affairs practitioners and understand how we reproduce them institutionally.

KURUBEL BELAY University of Maryland

The Hidden Factor: How Culture & Trauma Background Inform Our Behavior

Stress and trauma threaten student retention, performance, and quality of life. In a recent survey, 67 percent of DMV-area undergraduates identified stress as a primary mental health concern, and trauma on campuses has become a nationwide concern. This presentation will review how distress impacts the brain, harming both academic performance and student retention. We will review nonverbal signs of stress and other developmental needs, with attention to culturally-inclusive listening skills and our individual limitations when advising and supporting students. Finally, we will review a strategy for fostering trust and reducing rates of student distress with culturally-sensitive counseling.

SARA STAGGS & JULIE LOPEZ The Viva Center
Cultural Competency Via Board Game

Cultural competency via board game: Step 1. Assume the identity of a character that differs from how you identify and explore advantages and limitations based on the intersection of your character’s race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, faith, and income. Step 2. Immerse yourself in a facilitated training, crash course, and board game, all in one, that simulates real life... in America. Step 3. Apply the experience to the diverse populations you serve, which will simultaneously enhance your institution's cultural competency.

NATALIE GILLARD  Stevenson University

EDUCATION SESSION 4: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Underrepresented Minorities in STEM: Undergraduate Research as a Persistence Tool

Today, the technical skills gained from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees are in high demand. However, retention rates of undergraduate students in STEM are not equally distributed across all demographics. Within the U.S., there are apparent gaps in persistence for underrepresented minorities (URMs) in STEM. URMs include students who identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, Black, Hispanic, Latinx, and women. These populations are not only less likely to enter a STEM program but also less likely to graduate. This presentation will address undergraduate research as a high-impact educational practice that encourages persistence in STEM.

ARIELLE SINGLETON  George Mason University

Trends on “How College Affects Student Development”: Growth of Student Employment & Adjunct Faculty Members

Student affairs administrators are faced with many trends that shape student learning and development -- including the growth of students working to finance college and the use of adjunct faculty members to teach classes. This session starts with an overview of the recently released 3rd edition book, “How College Affects Students”, with a focus on the research supporting these two trends. Two graduate students in a higher education administration program provide a deep dive into student employment and adjunct faculty issues, including a review of the current literature and recommendations. Audience members will engage with presenters as a group and individually.

RICK JAKEMAN, CONNOR SALANGER, SHYAMA KUVER  The George Washington University

Designing Quality Surveys

Surveys are a commonly used method of assessment, yet many people do not know how to design a good survey or how a poorly designed survey can affect the results of the assessment. Come to this session to learn principles of good survey design, common pitfalls of survey questions, and strategies for designing quality surveys so you can improve your surveys and obtain better assessment data.

KAITLYN SCHMITT  The George Washington University

The Latent Power of Branding: How Developing a Brand Can Empower Your Work

A constant challenge within Higher Education is the control of information. Branding provides a unique opportunity and professionally relevant skill that will be critical in an increasingly digitalized world. This session will help participants identify the value of branding, distinguish unique characteristics of branding within their roles and learn how to effectively utilize branding to create a consistent message. Participants will discuss strategies and identify resources to aid in the development of a personal or office brand.

DANIELLE MELIDONA & JORDAN BOLTE  Georgetown University

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