



THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS SYSTEM  
FOURTEEN INSTITUTIONS. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

# STUDENT SUCCESS SUMMIT

## *The Faculty Role in Student Success*

September 20 - 21, 2018  
Sonesta Bee Cave Austin Hotel



# SPECIAL THANKS

## Summit Planning Committee

**Dr. Cassandre Alvarado**

UT Austin

**Dr. Emily Bonner**

UT San Antonio

**Dr. Art Brownlow**

UT Rio Grande Valley

**Dr. Beth Brunk-Chavez**

UT El Paso

**Mr. Dan Cavanagh**

UT Arlington

**Dr. Jonikka Charlton**

UT Rio Grande Valley

**Ms. Jocelyn Greves**

UT System

**Dr. Rebecca Karoff**

UT System

**Mr. Weston Rose**

UT System

**Dr. David Ruitter**

UT El Paso

The UT System Board of Regents

Chancellor James B. Milliken

Barry McBee, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Steven W. Leslie

The Office of Academic Affairs

The Office of External Relations

The Office of Innovation & Strategic Investment

The Office of Strategic Initiatives

# WELCOME



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Welcome to The University of Texas System's 2018 Student Success Summit! For those of you who attended the 2017 Summit, you know that this year's topic, *The Faculty Role in Student Success*, came directly from every institutional team in attendance during last year's closing synthesis. There could not have been a clearer or stronger message to those of us in the UT System working on student success: we need to include more faculty—and with much greater intentionality—in this shared, systemwide endeavor to help more of our students complete their degrees and meet their educational goals.

This was an opportune message to hear and, in response, we put together a planning committee for the 2018 Summit composed of faculty from the UT System Faculty Advisory Council and the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers, in addition to student success leaders from across the campuses. Building on the teaching and learning expertise and deep understanding of campus cultures brought by the committee members, we developed a program that we hope will appeal to the wide ranges of institutional interests and roles represented at the Summit. The agenda is designed to feature the leadership and work of UT faculty, administrators and staff, together with plenary speakers recognized nationally for their work. Indeed, this Summit brings us together to both celebrate the successes of our students, and amplify our efforts for those students for whom success is more elusive.

In the last two years, we have organized our student success work around commitments to students in the areas of finances, advising and belonging. These three student success pillars impact all our students and build on the extraordinary programs, initiatives and interventions led by many of you attending the Summit and in place at all our institutions. In all that we do, we strive to be data-informed, quality-permeated and equity-minded. This Summit will continue to build on this framework while also bringing about new perspectives that will strengthen our overall approach. This work is always timely and perhaps especially so in September 2018 as we welcome this week a new chancellor, J.B. Milliken.

As necessary and endemic as change is, we are excited to see where Chancellor Milliken's leadership will take us in moving the needle further on student success. While we will most assuredly navigate some new directions, we do know that our commitment to student success remains constant and unwavering. And when I say "our," I mean, of course, the commitment of UT System institutions and—most especially—all of you who join us at this year's Summit.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation to the exceptional members of the planning committee and to all of you for taking the time to attend the Summit. UT System-supported professional development is one way we drive together towards wider institutional engagement and shared responsibility for student success. As we work towards collective and exponential impact, it is my hope and intention that we will be able to continue supporting the faculty and staff on your campuses to come together in summits like this one, to share, inspire and replicate best practices, and to fortify the extraordinary work taking place at each UT institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Karoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Dr. Rebecca Karoff,**  
Associate Vice Chancellor

# AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, Sept. 20

- 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.      **Pre-Summit Meetings of the Academic Provosts and the UT System Student Success Guiding Coalition**
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.      **Registration outside Colony C & D**
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.      **Lunch, Welcome & Opening Keynote by Dr. Natasha Jankowski, National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA): *Complicated Relations: Supporting Student Success in an Increasingly Complex Landscape* in Colony C & D**
- Welcome by Dr. Rebecca Karoff, UT System**
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.      **Institutional Team Time I** (see Summit folders for guidance)
- 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.      **Concurrent Sessions I**
- **Minding the Gaps: Removing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps in Teaching and Learning Environments** - Colony A
  - **Moving the Student Success Needle: A Common Goal, Four Different Approaches (Part I)** - Colony B
  - **Active Learning Strategies in a Hybrid Environment** - Colony D
  - **Action Research as a Data-Driven Tool for Improving Instruction & Student Success (Mini-Workshop)** - Honeycomb
- 4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.      **Break**
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.      **Concurrent Sessions II**
- **Building Momentum in Open Educational Resources Across the UT System** - Colony A
  - **Moving the Student Success Needle: A Common Goal, Four Different Approaches (Part II)** - Colony B
  - **Designing and Delivering Online Classes for Student Engagement and Learning** - Colony D
  - **Rethinking Course Design to Focus on Academic Belonging (Mini-Workshop)** - Honeycomb
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.      **Reception with a cash bar in Colony**
- Dinner on your own at nearby restaurants**

# AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, Sept. 21

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.      **Breakfast in Colony C & D**
- 8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.      **Plenary Workshop: Dr. Helen Chen, Stanford University: *Adopting 'Designerly Ways of Knowing' to Promote Innovation in Student Success Initiatives* in Colony C & D**
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.      **Break (includes Check-Out Time)**
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.      **Concurrent Sessions III**
- **Campus-Level Research on the Faculty Role in Student Belonging** - Colony A
  - **Enacting Student Success Culture Change: It Takes a Campus (Mini-Workshop)** - Colony B
  - **Incentivizing and Recognizing Excellence in Teaching** - Colony D
  - **7 Mini-Lectures in 7 Minutes with 7 Slides: Best Practices to Engage Students in their Learning** - Honeycomb
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.      **Institutional Team Time II** (see Summit folders for guidance)
- 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.      **Networking Lunch with Table Topics in Colony C & D**
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.      **Provost-Facilitated Plenary Discussion on *Integrating Student Success Work into Revised Faculty Workload Policies* in Colony C & D**
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.      **Closing Synthesis: Summit Takeaways** in Colony C & D

## Social Media @ the Summit

Tweet your thoughts about the UT System Student Success Summit using the Twitter handle and hashtag.

**Twitter Handle:** @utsystem    **Hashtag:** #studentsuccess





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Natasha Jankowski, Director**

*National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment*



Dr. Natasha Jankowski serves as Director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) and Research Professor in the department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is co-author with her NILOA colleagues of the book *Using Evidence of Student Learning to Improve Higher Education*, as well as co-author of *Degrees that Matter: Moving Higher Education to a Learning Systems Paradigm*. Her main research interests include all things assessment, organizational evidence use, and evidence-based storytelling. She holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Illinois, an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Kent State University, and a B.A. in philosophy from Illinois State University. She previously worked for GEAR UP Learning Centers at Western Michigan University and worked with the Office of Community College Research and Leadership studying community colleges and public policy.

Thursday, September 20

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Introduced by Dr. Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UT System

## **Complicated Relations: Supporting Student Success in an Increasingly Complex Landscape**

To enhance and ensure student success, a variety of strands of work throughout an institution need to come together. We know that for our learners to achieve success, the learning environment matters. Students need to feel integrated into academic and social culture, but integration is not enough. They must be engaged. The more engaged students are in learning environments, the more likely they are to complete, learn, and be satisfied. Faculty interactions sit at the intersection of reinforcing or debunking the various elements of an increasingly complex landscape of the learning environment. This presentation unpacks complicated relations of five areas of intersection between instruction and student outcomes, including transparency, pedagogical approaches, assessment, self-regulation, and alignment. Throughout the presentation, various resources and examples to support institutions in these efforts will be shared, reminding us that what faculty do and how instruction occurs matters, and matters greatly, and that with small steps we can see large impacts on student success.

**Location:** Colony C & D

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## **Dr. Helen Chen, Research Scientist**

*Designing Education Lab, Department of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University*

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Dr. Helen L. Chen is a research scientist in the Designing Education Lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. She earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her Ph.D. in communication with a minor in psychology from Stanford University. She has been involved in several major engineering education initiatives including the NSF-funded Center for the Advancement of Engineering Education, National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (Epicenter), as well as the Consortium to Promote Reflection in Engineering Education. She is a co-founder of EPAC, an ePortfolio community of practice, and serves as a board member for the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning and co-executive editor for the *International Journal of ePortfolio*. Dr. Chen collaborates with the Association of American Colleges and Universities on a variety of general education and assessment-related initiatives and is a co-author of *Documenting Learning with ePortfolios: A Guide for College Instructors* (Jossey-Bass, 2011). Her current research and scholarship focus on engineering and entrepreneurship education; the pedagogy of portfolios and reflective practice in higher education; and redesigning how learning is recorded and recognized in traditional transcripts and academic credentials.



Friday, September 21

8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Introduced by [Dr. David Ruiters, Associate Provost for Student & Faculty Success, UT El Paso](#)

### **Adopting ‘Designerly Ways of Knowing’ to Promote Innovation in Student Success Initiatives**

Whether we are experimenting with new teaching and learning strategies in our curriculum or addressing achievement gaps to foster greater student engagement, a design thinking orientation can offer a framework for navigating the shifts in contemporary discussions around student success. The ‘designerly ways of knowing’ described by design researcher Professor Nigel Cross in 1982 identifies principles that educators can use when creating transformative learning experiences that change how students think, act and feel when grappling with unscripted problems and navigating the culture of higher education. In this interactive workshop, participants will be invited to explore how adopting a designer’s mindset can inform and inspire innovation in our own design work and practice around student success.

**Location:** Colony C & D

# SESSION DETAILS

Concurrent Sessions I

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20

## **Active Learning Strategies in a Hybrid Environment**

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**Presenters:** Art Brownlow, UT Rio Grande Valley; Bill Robertson, UT El Paso;  
Julie Schell, UT Austin; Steven Varela, UT El Paso

### **Abstract**

Effective classroom learning environments promote student success. Recently, higher education stakeholders have placed much emphasis on the promise and positive results of active learning. But how do instructors find the valuable class time necessary to add active learning into their curriculum? One answer lies in moving to a hybrid classroom model, in which direct instruction is off-loaded through digital and/or online means, thereby freeing student-teacher face time for active learning. This session will focus on a meta-strategy for creating successful hybrid courses that incorporate active learning. Expert panelists will present several strategies that are proven to contribute to student success in hybrid environments, including flipped learning, peer instruction, mastery learning/gamification, and project-based/problem-based learning.

**Location:** Colony A

## **Action Research as a Data-Driven Tool for Improving Instruction & Student Success (Mini-Workshop)**

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**Presenter:** Emily Bonner, UT San Antonio

### **Abstract**

This workshop will focus on the practice of action research, or “the systematic, intentional study by teachers of their own classroom practice” (Cochran Smith & Lytle). We will discuss the ways in which action research formalizes formative assessment practices and serves as a tool for self-reflection and self-evaluation. Participants will explore the typical action research cycle, data collection and analysis methods, and the ways in which each stage can be utilized to inform instructional practice for student success.

**Location:** Colony B



## **Minding the Gaps: Removing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps in Teaching and Learning Environments**

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**Presenters:** María D. Avalos, UT Permian Basin; Kevin Cokley, UT Austin; Ann Quiroz Gates, UT El Paso

**Moderator:** Rebecca Karoff, UT System

### **Abstract**

The University of Texas System prides itself on diverse student bodies and works to recognize the assets students bring with them onto campus and into our teaching and learning environments. Nonetheless, there remain opportunity and achievement gaps in terms of how students experience and succeed at our institutions. In this session, presenters will share how they intentionally remove opportunity and achievement gaps in their teaching and learning environments, through the use of research and data, inclusive pedagogies, high-impact practices, and other means. The focus of Ann Q. Gates' remarks will be on data-driven and asset-based approaches for establishing departmental cultures that value inclusion. María D. Avalos will discuss the rules of the higher education game and ways in which faculty can impact student success beyond their own classrooms. Kevin Cokley will discuss the impact of the impostor phenomenon in ethnic minority student achievement, and what role faculty can play in reducing its negative impact.

**Location:** Colony D

## **Moving the Student Success Needle: A Common Goal, Four Different Approaches (Part I): UT El Paso, UT San Antonio, UT Tyler, & UT Rio Grande Valley**

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**Presenters:** Andrew Barnson, UT Tyler; Rhonda Gonzales, UT San Antonio; Linda Mathews, UT Rio Grande Valley; Heather Smith, UT El Paso

**Moderator:** Lydia Riley, UT System

### **Abstract**

In 2017, The University of Texas System Board of Regents allocated \$10 million for student success projects at the System's academic universities. Following a competitive RFP, six awards were made to five institutions to fund transformational initiatives focused on the System's three pillars of student success, Finances, Advising and Belonging. In addition, each university received funding to stand up and support a Graduation Help Desk. This session will feature projects at UT El Paso, UT Rio Grande Valley, UT San Antonio, and UT Tyler's Graduation Help Desk. Find out how UT El Paso is transforming advising, how UT Rio Grande Valley is promising students they can graduate on time, and how UT San Antonio is leading the way in math curricular reform. Additionally, learn how UT Tyler's Graduation Help Desk is helping to identify and remove institutional barriers to student success. Presenters will describe the projects and their intended outcomes, as well as discuss lessons learned, assessment strategies, and early evidence of impact.

**Location:** Honeycomb

# SESSION DETAILS

Concurrent Sessions II

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20

## Designing and Delivering Online Classes for Student Engagement & Learning

**Presenters:** Julie Delello, UT Tyler; Peggy Semingson, UT Arlington

**Moderator:** Beth Brunk-Chavez, UT El Paso

### **Abstract**

It can be easy to overlook online courses when we discuss student success. However, with the number of UT System students taking at least one online course during their degree journey - or completing their entire degree online - online education deserves the same attention as face-to-face learning opportunities. This session will feature strategies for developing and delivering successful online courses with emphasis on active learning, collaboration, instructor presence, and the incorporation of soft skills.

**Location:** Colony A

## Rethinking Course Design to Focus on Academic Belonging (Mini-Workshop)

**Presenter:** Jonikka Charlton, UT Rio Grande Valley

### **Abstract**

This interactive session/workshop will focus on how we can more intentionally and explicitly design our courses to foster students' sense of academic belonging in the classroom. After an initial discussion of best practices, with special attention to syllabus and assignment design, participants will have a chance to work in small groups to generate ideas for how they can revise some aspect of their courses to have a stronger impact on students' sense of belonging.

**Location:** Colony B

## **Building Momentum in Open Educational Resources Across the UT System**

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**Presenters:** Lorraine Haricombe, UT Austin; DeeAnn Ivie, UT San Antonio; Michelle Reed, UT Arlington; Stan Renard, UT San Antonio

### **Abstract**

As part of its Finances Pillar, the UT System has committed to an aspirational goal that no student will drop out because of finances. There is compelling research and data that detail the inordinate burden placed on students by the high costs of textbooks. There is also a growing body of equally compelling research on how Open Educational Resources (OER) help alleviate student financial burdens, increase college affordability, and enable more students to feel like they belong and can succeed at our universities. This session will feature UT System advocates and champions who are making the case for OER and other innovative strategies to reduce the burden to students posed by the high costs of textbooks and other course materials. The session will include hands-on advice and best practices to help build momentum in OER across the UT System.

**Location:** Colony D

## **Moving the Student Success Needle: A Common Goal, Four Different Approaches (Part II): UT Dallas, UT Permian Basin, UT San Antonio, & UT Tyler**

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**Presenters:** Iris Fierro, UT Permian Basin; Jessica Murphy, UT Dallas; Colleen Swain, UT Tyler; Tammy Wyatt, UT San Antonio

**Moderator:** Lydia Riley, UT System

### **Abstract**

In 2017, The University of Texas System Board of Regents allocated \$10 million for student success projects at the System's academic universities. Following a competitive RFP, six awards were made to five institutions to fund transformational initiatives focused on the System's three pillars of student success, Finances, Advising and Belonging. In addition, each university received funding to stand up and support a Graduation Help Desk. This session will feature institution-wide projects designed to move the needle on student success at UT Dallas, UT San Antonio, UT Tyler, and UT Permian Basin's Graduation Help Desk. Find out how UT Dallas is going all-in on student engagement, how UT San Antonio is giving at-risk students a shot at success, and how UT Tyler is decreasing D's, F's and W's through digital toolkits. Additionally, learn how UT Permian Basin's Graduation Help Desk is uncovering unintentional institutional barriers to timely graduation. Presenters will describe the projects and their intended outcomes, as well as discuss lessons learned, assessment strategies, and early evidence of impact.

**Location:** Honeycomb

# SESSION DETAILS

Concurrent Sessions III 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21

## **Campus-Level Research on the Faculty Role in Student Belonging**

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**Presenters:** Cassandre Alvarado, UT Austin; Cathy Delgado, UT System

### **Abstract**

Institutions generate all sorts of data that come from students. How do we push this data out to faculty in meaningful ways so that it is useful and actionable and leads to improved student outcomes - in terms of deeper learning, greater persistence and timely completion? This session will examine several data sources and explore how they are being used and/or could be used in more robust ways to aid faculty and students. Data sources include SERU (the Student Experience in the Research University) at UT Austin, and NSSE (the National Survey of Student Engagement) at the UT System's other academic institutions.

**Location:** Colony A

## **Enacting Student Success Culture Change: It Takes a Campus (Mini-Workshop)**

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**Presenters:** Courtney Brecheen, UT Dallas; Carolyn Connerat, UT Austin; Erika Mein, UT El Paso; Jessica Murphy, UT Dallas

**Moderator:** Jonikka Charlton, UT Rio Grande Valley; David Ruiter, UT El Paso

### **Abstract**

What does it take to enact culture change across a campus, engaging a wider and deeper swath of institutional members - from faculty, to students, to administrators and staff - in making UT institutions student-ready? This working session will feature three institution-wide initiatives in various states of implementation: the *Every Student Graduates Initiative* at UT Austin, the *UTEP Edge*, and the *UT Dallas Orbit*.

**Location:** Colony B

## **Incentivizing and Recognizing Excellence in Teaching**

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**Presenters:** Ann Cavallo, UT Arlington; Karen Huxtable, UT Dallas; Ala Qubbaj, UT Rio Grande Valley

**Moderator:** Dan Cavanagh, UT Arlington

### **Abstract**

This concurrent session will look at methods of incentivizing faculty for innovative, improved, or high-impact practices/student-centric teaching. The panelists are drawn from a variety of areas within higher education, such as a researcher on incentivizing, an innovative faculty member recognized for good teaching, and an administrator responsible for implementing recognition programs. Each panelist will present their view on the problem (research-based, practitioner-based, and implementation-based). Attention will be given to the differences between tenure-system and non-tenure-system faculty, as well as full-time and part-time faculty. The session will also include an opportunity for panel discussion and a question/answer period.

**Location:** Colony D

## **7 Mini-Lectures in 7 Minutes with 7 Slides: Best Practices to Engage Students in their Learning**

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**Presenters:** Kimberly Breuer, UT Arlington; Belinda Deal, UT Tyler; Lucia Durá, UT El Paso; Frank W. Foss, Jr., UT Arlington; Kirsten Gardner, UT San Antonio; Louie Rodriguez, UT El Paso; Paul Rodriguez, UT San Antonio

**Moderator:** Weston Rose, UT System

### **Abstract**

Seven UT System faculty and staff members will present 7-minute lectures with 7 slides in a round-robin sharing of their best practices for engaging students in their learning, both inside and outside classroom environments. Presenters were chosen in response to a call for proposals, asking for creativity, distinctiveness and student-centered practices. Kimberly Breuer will share lessons learned from utilizing teamwork in a blended/flipped freshman History course at UT Arlington. Belinda Deal will discuss a collaboration between the UT Tyler School of Nursing and Academic Success Department to develop Nursing Success Mentors. Lucia Durá, UT El Paso, will discuss co-creating the syllabus with students. Frank W. Foss, Jr., UT Arlington, will present on converting the traditional laboratory experience in a longitudinally-linked community of learners focused on scientific research. Kirsten Gardner's mini-lecture will provide an overview of a pilot program and data collection on 600 introductory students at UT San Antonio, who were allowed to use an index card during midterm exams. Louie Rodriguez, UT El Paso, will address strategies to meet students' basic needs (i.e., food and housing security), which are fundamental to student success. Paul Rodriguez will discuss UTSA's first-year experience seminar and the connection between students' semester-long projects and popular forms of media like Netflix.

**Location:** Honeycomb

# ADDITIONAL PLENARY SESSIONS

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21

## **Integrating Student Success Work into Revised Faculty Workload Policies**

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**Facilitators:** Dan Heimmermann, UT Permian Basin; Kevin Lemoine, UT System; Carol Parker, UT El Paso

### **Abstract**

In November 2017, The University of Texas System Board of Regents adopted a full-scale revision to its policy on faculty workload. *Regents' Rule 31006: Faculty Workload and Reporting Requirements* gives greater autonomy to each institution to develop a workload policy that both advances its mission and fosters student success. UT institutions are currently in the process of developing and adopting their faculty workload policies. In this Provost-facilitated plenary discussion, participants will explore the emerging revised faculty workload policies at academic institutions to ensure that revised policies take into account the important roles faculty play in fostering student success.

**Location:** Colony C & D



# ADDITIONAL PLENARY SESSIONS

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21

## **Closing Synthesis: Summit Takeaways**

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**Facilitators:** Beth Brunk-Chavez, UT El Paso; Dan Cavanagh, UT Arlington

### **Abstract**

Facilitated by the President of the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers and the Chair of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council, the closing plenary will provide synthesis and sharing of takeaways from the Summit. Teams and participants will identify key learnings and action steps they will take back to their institutions, with a particular focus on engaging faculty in student success.

**Location:** Colony C & D

# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

**Cassandre Giguere Alvarado, Executive Director of Student Success**  
*The University of Texas at Austin*

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Cassandre Giguere Alvarado is the Executive Director of Student Success at UT Austin. Over the past five years, she has designed and led student success innovations that have dramatically improved student success at UT Austin. She was one of the chief architects of the University's recent 4-year graduation rate breakthroughs and her work has been recognized by the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities, the National Academic Advising Association, and the National Resource Center on the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Dr. Alvarado is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy and teaches graduate classes on student success research and strategy.

**María D. Avalos, Assistant Professor & Program Head**  
*The University of Texas of the Permian Basin*

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María D. Avalos, LPC-S, NCC, is an Assistant Professor in the Counseling Department at UT Permian Basin, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in psychology, education, and counseling. She has over 24 years of teaching experience in K-12, secondary, and postsecondary settings. Dr. Avalos conducts research and develops programs to serve the needs of academically at-risk and marginalized students.

**Andrew Barnson, Assistant Director, Office of Enrollment Services**  
*The University of Texas at Tyler*

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Andrew Barnson was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV, and moved to the great state of Texas to attend college on scholarship. After receiving a B.S. in Psychology, he then completed an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and achieved the status of National Certified Counselor (NCC). During his employment at UT Tyler, Mr. Barnson has been recognized by the East Texas Crisis Center's Hope Award for outstanding community engagement to help victims of sexual assault and family violence. While working on a dual M.B.A. and M.S. in Industrial Management with a Certification in Lean Six Sigma, Mr. Barnson continues to apply quality improvement initiatives for UT Tyler's One-Stop Service Center and Graduation Help Desk in an effort to continually improve student and community operations.

# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Emily Bonner, Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

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Emily Bonner is an Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction at UT San Antonio and a member of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. All aspects of Dr. Bonner's work center on advancing equity in K-12 mathematics classrooms and culturally responsive teaching in the context of mathematics. Dr. Bonner is the director for the San Antonio Mathematics Collaborative and co-director for Project SEE Math (Support and Enrichment Experiences in Mathematics), each of which supports Title I schools in San Antonio.



## **Courtney Brecheen, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education**

*The University of Texas at Dallas*

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Courtney Brecheen serves as an Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the Office of Undergraduate Education at UT Dallas. Her team supports student success through a variety of high-impact practices. Examples of initiatives developed under her leadership include the University's on-campus food pantry, minority student success programs, peer mentor programs, and undergraduate research initiatives. Dr. Brecheen holds a doctorate in public affairs, and in 2017, she received the UT Dallas Women Leading in Diversity Award in recognition of her work.



## **Kimberly Breuer, Assistant Professor**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Kimberly Breuer is an Assistant Professor in Practice in the Department of History at UT Arlington. She earned her Ph.D. in Latin American history from Vanderbilt University and specializes in the early colonial period in the Americas and in the history of science and technology - building upon her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. She is the coordinator of online and first-year American History courses in the Department of History, and is responsible for coordination of the social studies teaching History B.A. within the College of Education, and for unit effectiveness and core curriculum assessment and reporting for the Department of History. Dr. Breuer has conducted and presented research on various EdTech tools and pedagogical techniques for online learning and student retention/engagement, and is an active participant in UT Arlington's Professional Learning Communities.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Art Brownlow, Professor & Faculty Fellow for Academic Innovation**

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

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Art Brownlow is a Fellow in the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He has received the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, the College Music Society Instructional Technology Initiative Award, and is an Apple Distinguished Educator. Dr. Brownlow's research interests are varied including educational technology, flipped learning, nineteenth-century orchestral music and brass instrument history. He is certified in Flipped Learning 3.0 Level I & II, and as an Apple Learning Specialist.

## **Beth Brunk-Chavez, Professor & Dean, Extended University**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Beth Brunk-Chavez is the Dean of Extended University at UT El Paso. She is also professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies. Dr. Brunk-Chavez was named to the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2013 and currently serves as the president. She has been a member of several national organization boards, including her recent election to the Executive Board of the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

## **Ann Cavallo, Assistant Vice Provost & Director**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Ann Cavallo is Assistant Vice Provost, Director of the Center for Research on Teaching & Learning Excellence, and Distinguished University Professor of Science Education at UT Arlington. Her research investigates high school and college students' learning approaches and strategies, scientific reasoning, self-efficacy, and their acquisition of sound conceptual understandings of science, particularly through inquiry-based teaching models. Dr. Cavallo has over 50 publications in internationally and nationally refereed journals, proceedings, and books, and has secured more than \$10 million in grants and gifts from various funding agencies to support her work. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for NSF and AAAS promoting research on STEM teacher preparation, and holds significant leadership positions in her professional organizations.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Dan Cavanagh, Professor & Chair**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Dan Cavanagh is a well-known composer and pianist who has garnered numerous awards in both areas, including the 2009 gold medal prize from the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition. He has been commissioned by a wide range of jazz and classical artists throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, and his music continues to be performed across the globe. Mr. Cavanagh has released four jazz CDs as a leader, including *Pulse* and *Heart of the Geyser* on OA2 Records, and two recordings with vibraphonist Dave Hagedorn. His music can be found on a wide variety of other recordings. He is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at UT Arlington, and current Chair of the Faculty Advisory Council.



## **Jonikka Charlton, Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success**

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

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As the Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success & Dean of the University College at UT Rio Grande Valley, Jonikka Charlton's portfolio includes a wide range of units, including offices devoted to tutoring, advising, career services, experiential learning, and first-year experience/transitioning programming. She is particularly invested in cross-unit collaborations, which help to foster a shared sense of responsibility for student success initiatives. Dr. Charlton's current preoccupation is with learning more about and strengthening our students' sense of academic belonging at our institutions.



## **Kevin Cokley, Professor & Director**

*The University of Texas at Austin*

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Kevin Cokley holds the Oscar & Anne Mauzy Regents Professorship for Educational Research and Development in the College of Education at UT Austin. He is a Fellow of the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers, Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis, and Professor of Educational Psychology and African and African Diaspora Studies. Dr. Cokley's research and teaching can be broadly categorized in the area of African American psychology, with a focus on racial and ethnic identity, and understanding the psychological and environmental factors that impact African American students' academic achievement. Dr. Cokley studies the psychological experiences of students of color, and is currently exploring the impostor phenomenon and its relationship to mental health and academic outcomes.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Carolyn Connerat, Associate Vice Provost, Enrollment Management**

*The University of Texas at Austin*

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Carolyn Connerat is Associate Vice Provost of Enrollment Management at UT Austin. In this position, Ms. Connerat oversees Enrollment Analytics and Communications to inform data-driven strategic enrollment management decisions and marketing communications. She also oversees the new College to Career Initiative to ensure all students receive the skills and resources for success after graduation. Prior to this role, Ms. Connerat led UT Austin's Student Success Initiatives from 2013 to 2017, a university-wide effort to improve student outcomes, which resulted in significant increases in retention and graduation rates. She represents UT Austin on the UT System Guiding Coalition for Student Success and has presented at many national conferences.

## **Belinda Deal, Associate Professor & BSN Program Director**

*The University of Texas at Tyler*

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Belinda Deal is an Associate Professor and the BSN Program Director at the UT Tyler School of Nursing. Her research includes nursing student retention. Dr. Deal teaches an undergraduate health assessment lab and an online RN-BSN course.

## **Julie A. Delello, Associate Professor and Director**

*The University of Texas at Tyler*

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Julie A. Delello is an Associate Professor in the College of Education and Psychology at UT Tyler. She is also the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She has more than 20 years of experience in K-16 education as a practicing teacher and administrator. She received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in science and technology from Texas A&M University. Her scholarly publications include topics such as gerontechnology, augmented and virtual reality, visual media technologies, STEAM education applications, and social media platforms for authentic learning.



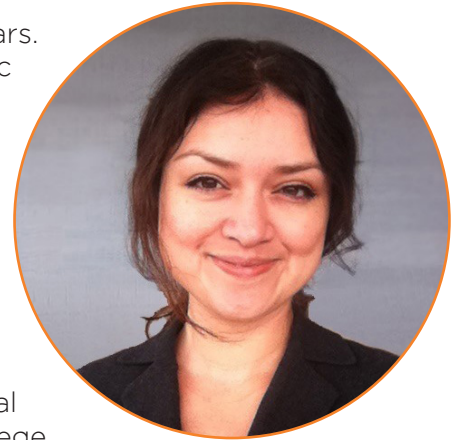
# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Cathy Delgado, Senior Research & Policy Analyst**

*The University of Texas System*

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Cathy Delgado has worked within the UT System for over 15 years. She is a Senior Research & Policy Analyst with the Office of Strategic Initiatives. OSI's mission is to transform data into timely and meaningful information to support strategic decisions and policies and to enhance insight, transparency, and accountability. To assist in that effort, Ms. Delgado manages data collections from the campuses and is responsible for ensuring the data quality of mandatory national reporting as well as the data utilized within the publicly available UT System Dashboard, which provides interactive data on all 14 UT institutions. She is responsible to an array of data requests from the legislature, the UT System Board of Regents, and other key external and internal stakeholders. Ms. Delgado began working in Institutional Research in 2006 at the UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College campus.



## **Lucia Durá, Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Lucia Durá is Associate Professor and Program Director of Rhetoric and Writing Studies in the English Department at UT El Paso. Her work on positive deviance, intercultural communication, and participatory methodologies focuses on understanding and leveraging the assets of vulnerable populations to solve complex problems. To do this work, she collaborates with local and global organizations, including the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso, Creative Kids, the YMCA, Project Vida, Save the Children, and Minga Perú. Dr. Durá's research has yielded numerous publications, presentations, and awards. She is especially proud of her work mentoring students who are putting UTEP and El Paso on the map. She sees this as proof that what we do locally matters globally.



## **Iris Fierro, Director of the Success Center**

*The University of Texas of the Permian Basin*

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Iris Fierro currently serves as Director of the Success Center at UT Permian Basin, where she supervises programs in Peer Mentoring, Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Study Abroad and the Graduation Help Desk. Ms. Fierro is an alumna of UT Permian Basin with a B.S. in Biology, and an alumna of the University of North Texas - Health Science Center with an M.S. in Medical Sciences. She started her journey working in higher education as an Admissions Counselor at UT Permian Basin in 2011, and now has the privilege of serving as an academic advisor to freshmen students on academic probation, and supervising the full-time staff and several dozen student staff that service the academic support programs in the Success Center at UT Permian Basin.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Frank W. Foss, Jr., Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Frank W. Foss, Jr. is a bioorganic and medicinal chemist who teaches organic chemistry at the graduate and undergraduate levels. His research develops new functional molecules for use in catalysis, chemical sensing, and the investigation of drug targets. An associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UT Arlington, he has served on the QEP development team, the Honors College advisory committee, and is currently engaged in revamping the 4-year laboratory experience for chemistry majors.

## **Kirsten E. Gardner, Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

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Kirsten E. Gardner, Associate Professor of History, teaches in the Department of History, Program of Women's Studies, and American Studies Program. In 2015, she was honored with the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. She is also a member of the UT San Antonio Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars and a winner of the President's Distinguished Teaching Award for Core Curriculum. Dr. Gardner has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in U.S. History, Women and Gender Studies, History of Medicine, Modern U.S. History, Gender and Technology, Research and Writing Practices, and Pedagogy for Historical Thinking.

## **Ann Q. Gates, Professor & Chair**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Ann Quiroz Gates is the AT&T Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Computer Science Department at UT El Paso. Dr. Gates directs the NSF-funded Cyber-ShARE Center of Excellence, serves on the NSF CISE AC Subcommittee on Education and Broadening Participation, and leads the NSF-funded Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, an NSF INCLUDES national alliance. She received the 2015 Great Minds in STEM's Education award, the CRA's 2015 A. Nico Habermann Award, the 2010 Anita Borg Institute Social Impact Award, and the 2009 Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing.

# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Rhonda Gonzales, Interim Vice President for Student Success**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

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Rhonda Gonzales currently serves as Interim Vice President for Student Success. Since 2015, Dr. Gonzales has been the principal investigator (PI) on grants totaling more than \$6 million to develop student success initiatives for UT San Antonio students. These funds have been used to establish First to Go and Graduate, a program in which first-generation faculty, first-gen peer mentors and first-gen students create *familias* to foster a sense of community and belonging for UT San Antonio's nearly 45% first-gen students. Likewise, she has extensive experience in university leadership development and advancing student success initiatives.



## **Lorraine J. Haricombe, Vice Provost & Director of UT Libraries**

*The University of Texas at Austin*

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Lorraine J. Haricombe is the Vice Provost and Director of The University of Texas Libraries at UT Austin, where she oversees the flagship Perry Castañeda Library and 10 specialized libraries, including the world-renowned Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection. Prior to joining UT Austin in 2015, Dr. Haricombe served as Dean of Libraries at the University of Kansas, where she was Provost's designate for implementing the Open Access policy at KU, the first public university in the USA where faculty adopted an institutional policy on Open Access. Dr. Haricombe holds a B.A. and B.Bibl degrees from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, and MSLIS and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



## **Dan Heimmermann, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs**

*The University of Texas of the Permian Basin*

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Dan Heimmermann has served as Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs at UT Permian Basin since 2014. Prior to joining UT Permian Basin, Dr. Heimmermann served in the same capacity at Mississippi University for Women (2012-2014), and prior to that was the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at UT Brownsville (2008-2012). Dr. Heimmermann began his career at the University of North Alabama (1994-2008) where he served as a Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History & Political Science (2001-2008). A recipient of numerous research fellowships and teaching awards, Dr. Heimmermann received undergraduate degrees in History and Spanish, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in early-modern French history from Marquette University.





# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Karen Huxtable, Associate Director & Senior Lecturer III**

*The University of Texas at Dallas*



Karen Huxtable is Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and Senior Lecturer III in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UT Dallas. She began teaching in 1988 and has taught courses, including Educational, Social, and Developmental Psychology, to over 10,500 students since coming to UT Dallas in 2000. She received the Behavioral and Brain Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005 and the Seniors' Choice Award in 2009. In 2013, Dr. Huxtable was awarded the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award and is a 2017 inductee to the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

## **DeeAnn Ivie, Open Education Coordinator**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*



DeeAnn Ivie, Open Education Coordinator at UT San Antonio, leads the Adopt a Free Textbook grant program and facilitates outreach to partners in support of the initiative. Ms. Ivie also provides research and teaching support for social sciences faculty and tailors library sessions and tutorials for classes, integrating active learning, group work, and flipped instruction. Ms. Ivie earned her M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas.

## **Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor**

*The University of Texas System*



Rebecca Karoff joined the UT System in February 2016 as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She is responsible for leading and supporting student success initiatives system-wide. Her work addresses the student success continuum, PK-20 and into the workforce, and recognizes the remarkable responsibility and opportunity of the UT System to achieve more equitable access and outcomes for the state's increasingly diverse students. She is the primary architect of the UT System's student success framework, which is focused on student financial well-being, effective advising, and deepening students' sense of academic and social belonging. All of her work is data-informed, equity-minded and quality-driven, and she is interested in expanded approaches to measuring student success. Dr. Karoff received Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned a B.A. with Honors from Brown University.

# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Kevin Lemoine, Associate Vice Chancellor**

*The University of Texas System*

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Kevin Lemoine joined the UT System Office of Academic Affairs in July 2012. His primary responsibilities include reviewing proposals for new certificate and degree programs changes to existing degree programs; proposals for new departments, schools, and colleges; and changes to an institution's undergraduate and graduate admissions policies. Prior to joining the UT System, Dr. Lemoine served as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Division of Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and served as the Assistant Director of University Extension in the Division of Continuing & Extended Education at UT Austin. Dr. Lemoine holds a B.A. in French from the University of Southern Mississippi, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from UT Austin.



## **Linda Mathews, Acting Dean & Associate Dean**

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

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Linda Mathews has been a professor at UT Pan American/UT Rio Grande Valley since 1997. She specializes in teaching organizational behavior and human resource management courses. Her research has appeared in top academic journals focused on development and international business such as *World Development*, the *Journal of World Business*, and the *Journal of Business Ethics*. Dr. Mathews currently serves as Acting Dean and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship at UT Rio Grande Valley. She earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia, M.B.A. from the University of Richmond, and Ph.D. from the University of Washington.



## **Erika Mein, Co-Chair**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Erika Mein is Co-Chair of the Department of Teacher Education and Director of the Division of Bilingual Education, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies at UT El Paso. Her scholarship focuses on asset-based teaching and learning in postsecondary contexts, with a particular emphasis on disciplinary literacy among English Learners and bilingual students. Her research has been published in journals, such as *Theory into Practice*, *Action in Teacher Education*, and *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*. She earned her Ph.D. in Reading/Writing/Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania and has been a faculty member at UT El Paso since 2008.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Jessica C. Murphy, Dean**

*The University of Texas at Dallas*

Jessica C. Murphy is an Associate Professor of Literature at UT Dallas whose research and teaching interests include early modern English literature and culture. Currently serving as the Dean of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Murphy focuses on improving student success through cross-campus collaboration.



## **Carol Parker, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

Carol Parker became Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs at UTEP in September 2017. She is responsible for oversight and administration of all academic programs. Parker spent over a decade at The University of New Mexico. She joined UNM's School of Law as an assistant professor in 2004, and later became the law school's associate dean for finance and administration. Parker went on to serve as UNM's senior vice provost for academic affairs. Parker started her career as a first-generation college student, frequently working full-time while completing her degrees. She received a J.D. degree in law from the Wayne State University Law School and subsequently worked as a research attorney at the Michigan Court of Appeals. Parker also holds a B.A. degree, cum laude, in humanities from Michigan State University's Honor's College and an M.S.I. degree in information science from The University of Michigan, Rackham School of Graduate Studies.



## **Ala Qubbaj, Senior Associate VP for Faculty Affairs & Diversity**

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Ala Qubbaj is the Interim Dean for the College of Engineering and Computer Science at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He also serves as the Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs & Diversity at UTRGV. In his capacity as Sr. Associate VP, Dr. Qubbaj has established and cultivated several university-wide initiatives/programs to promote faculty recruitment, retention and success at all levels of their careers. Dr. Qubbaj is currently the Principle Investigator (PI) for the UTRGV's ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which focuses on increasing the representation and advancement of women in STEM fields. He is also the PI on an NSF INCLUDES project/Symposium for ADVANCING STEM Latinas in Academic Careers.





# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Michelle Reed, Open Education Librarian**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Michelle Reed is an Associate Librarian at UT Arlington Libraries, where she leads efforts to support the adoption, adaptation and creation of open educational resources (OER), and advocates for experiential learning opportunities that foster collaboration, increase engagement, and empower students as content creators. She is a presenter for the Open Textbook Network, a recipient of the American Library Association's Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant, and an OER Research Fellow with the Open Education Group. Her research interests include librarianship at the intersections of information literacy and scholarly communication, the impact of OER, and undergraduate perceptions of open principles.



## **Stan Renard, Assistant Professor**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

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Stan Renard is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Music Marketing Program in the Music Department at UT San Antonio. Dr. Renard joined UT San Antonio as part of the University's Goldstar Initiative, which supports recruitment and retention of world-class faculty members. He has the unique background of someone who has taught business courses in business schools and music courses in music departments, and then used this experience to develop music business courses. Dr. Renard is the Assistant Director of the start-up incubator CITE (Center of Innovation Technology and Entrepreneurship). He is also a touring and recording artist, virtuoso violinist, violist, active conductor, and the founder and arranger of the Grammy-Nominated Bohemian Quartet.



## **Lydia Riley, Research & Policy Analyst**

*The University of Texas System*

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Lydia Riley is a Research & Policy Analyst at UT System where she advises leaders in the Office of Academic Affairs on a wide array of policy and programmatic issues. She provides research and analysis to support strategic, data-driven decision making, and identifies strategies and opportunities to support the missions of the eight academic institutions. Ms. Riley received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oregon State University.



# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **William H. Robertson, Professor**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*



William H. Robertson is a Professor in the Teacher Education Department in the College of Education at UT El Paso. His academic areas of expertise are in science education, curriculum development and technology integration in the K-12 levels. Additionally, he develops research and teaching materials related to inquiry-based STEM Education, project-based learning, problem-based learning and action science. He has served in administrative roles, including Interim Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Education, Associate Provost, Co-Chair of the Teacher Education Department and Director of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Division. Dr. Robertson has received a number of prestigious awards, including the 2009 UT Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, as a 2008 Fulbright Scholar in Santiago, Chile, and the 2016 UTEP President's Meritorious Service Award.

## **Louie Rodriguez, Associate Vice President**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*



Louie Rodriguez, J.D., serves as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at UT El Paso. His work focuses primarily on cross-campus student success initiatives, assessment, and professional development. Prior to joining UT El Paso, Mr. Rodriguez served as global head of diversity and inclusion for one of the country's largest corporate law firms, Proskauer Rose LLP, in New York City, and previously worked at a not-for-profit organization dedicated to diversifying Wall Street. Mr. Rodriguez began his career as an attorney in the New York office of global law firm Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker. He holds a B.B.A. in Human Resource Management from Baylor University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

## **Paul Rodriguez, Director of PIVOT for Academic Success**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*



Paul Rodriguez is currently the Director of the *PIVOT for Academic Success* Title V grant, which provides a host of student support services primarily for first-generation and transfer students attending UT San Antonio. Dr. Rodriguez is also a faculty member in the First-Year Experience program and teaches the freshman seminar course in the Social Sciences and Public Service/Policy Studies pathways (AIS 1203). He obtained his Ed.D. from UT San Antonio's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. He also holds a B.A. in American Studies and an M.Ed., both from the University of Notre Dame.

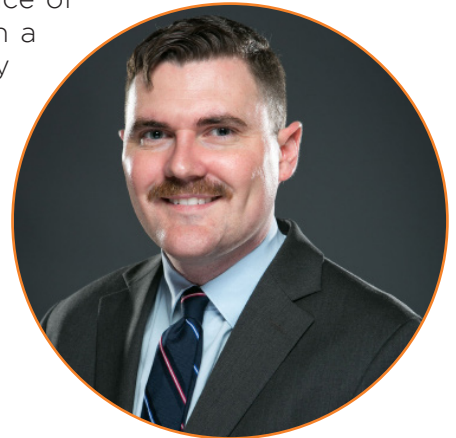
# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Weston Rose, Program & Communications Coordinator**

*The University of Texas System*

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Weston Rose is a Program & Communications Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs at UT System, where he supports executive staff on a variety of initiatives, including student success, the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers, the Regents' Outstanding Student Awards in Arts & Humanities, and the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards. Mr. Rose received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sam Houston State University.



## **David Ruitter, Associate Provost**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Prior to his current appointment as Associate Provost for Student and Faculty Success and now as Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives, David Ruitter served in the Provost's Office as Director of Academic Continuous Improvement. Ruitter has also served as Chair of the Department of English and Director of the Literature Program. His portfolio includes the UTEP Edge, Faculty and Staff Development, the Entering Student and Developmental English and Math Programs, and University Honors. He is a past fellow of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. His research has focused on Shakespeare, and current projects include Shakespeare and Social Justice and Just Play: Theatre as Social Justice. His teaching includes courses on Shakespeare, the history of literary forms, and detective fiction.



## **Julie Schell, Executive Director for Learning Design**

*The University of Texas at Austin*

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Julie Schell is a prominent learning experience designer who draws on over 20 years of experience in higher education. She has held positions at the nation's top research universities, including Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Harvard and most recently UT Austin. In 2014, Teachers College at Columbia University identified Schell as an Early Riser in Higher Education for her original contributions to the field. Her scholarship focuses on incorporating the science of learning into the practice of learning experience design, and therefore teaching and pedagogy. In May 2018, Schell joined the College of Fine Arts as the new Executive Director for Learning Design, Effectiveness and Innovation in the School of Design and Creative Technologies, where she has served as a Clinical Assistant Professor since 2017. In her new role, Schell will work as the principal strategist for the start-up and scale of extended education initiatives minted at COFA and SDCT.





# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Peggy Lynn Semingson, Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at Arlington*



Peggy Lynn Semingson is an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at UT Arlington where she teaches online undergraduate and graduate courses in Literacy Studies. She received her M.Ed. in Reading Education from Texas State University, San Marcos, in 2004, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Language and Literacy Studies from UT Austin in 2008. Her research interests include digital pedagogies, media-based learning, mobile and microlearning, and online literacy teacher education. She has won two awards related to distance learning, including the 2013 USDLA Best Practices Platinum Award for Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching. In 2013, Dr. Semingson was the recipient of the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award.

## **Heather Smith, Associate Vice Present for Academic Advising & Student Support**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*



Heather Smith created and is founding Director of the Miner Athlete Academic Center (MAAC), the first academic services center for student-athletes at UT El Paso. Ms. Smith has led efforts to improve academic success and personal development for student-athletes and her work has been dedicated to inspiring and empowering young college athletes to believe in the value of higher education and earn college degrees. In 2016, Ms. Smith was named Associate Vice President for Academic Advising and Student Support to lead the institution's vision for integrated, holistic advising as part of an enhanced student access philosophy at UT El Paso. Originally from New York State, Ms. Smith earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and American Literature from UTEP. She is currently ABD in the Rhetoric & Composition Ph.D. program at UTEP.

## **Colleen Swain, Associate Provost & Associate Professor**

*The University of Texas at Tyler*



Colleen Swain has the privilege of serving as UT Tyler's Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education and is also a Professor of Education. Prior to joining UT Tyler, she served for 15 years in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Florida. Dr. Swain's research areas include teacher professional learning, instructional coaching, effective teaching methods for traditionally marginalized populations, and the use of technology in teaching and learning environments. Dr. Swain is excited to collaboratively work with the UT Tyler community to ensure the success of our students and the East Texas region as well as expand the research base about student success. With the foundation of solid student success research, Dr. Swain is eager to advance policies to facilitate and enhance student success.

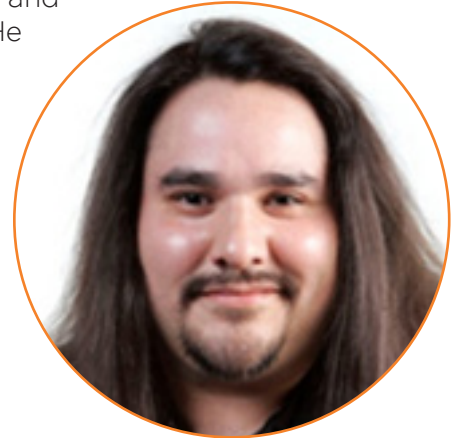
# PRESENTER & MODERATOR BIOS

## **Steven Varela, Associate Director/Faculty**

*The University of Texas at El Paso*

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Steven T. Varela specializes in curriculum/instructional course design and development for fully online, blended, and tech-enhanced classes. He is skilled in using multimedia and multimodal approaches to teaching, learning and design, as well as specializing in *gamification* and immersive technologies. Mr. Varela is also a learning management system expert and provides professional development and consultation on teaching with technology in all formats to colleges, departments and programs.



## **Tammy Wyatt, Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success**

*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

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Tammy Wyatt has served in multiple administrative roles related to student success since 2009. She currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success. In this role, Dr. Wyatt supervises and assists in the direct management of UT San Antonio's Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success and Math Matters Student Success Center. Additionally, she serves as the PI/Project Champion for two UT System Quantum Leap Student Success funded projects: (1) Project LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Academics, and Dedication): Onboarding and Bridging to Improve Student Success, Retention, and Graduation; and (2) Resolving Roadblocks to Timely Graduation: Implementing Graduation Help Desks across UT System.





# NOTES



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