2019 WORKSHOPS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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City of Seattle

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is one of seven regional organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, NWCCU is incorporated in Washington state as a private 501(c)(3), nonprofit corporation for the purpose of accrediting higher education institutions by applying evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote student achievement and success; and

WHEREAS, NWCCU accredits over 160 institutions of higher learning in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington, along with a few institutions in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the 2019 NWCCU Annual Conference, being hosted on November 20-22, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle, is Value Proposition: Student Success; and

WHEREAS, the NWCCU Annual Conference offers a platform for higher education presidents, chancellors, provosts, vice presidents, deans, faculty, CEOs, accreditation liaison officers, evaluators, members of boards of regents, trustees, state and federal government officials and regulators to gather and share their experiences, learn best practices and network and cultivate new connections; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is proud to host the largest gathering of over 400 decision-makers and individuals interested in higher education and accreditation in the Pacific Northwest;

NOW, THEREFORE I, JENNY A. DURKAN, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 21, 2019 TO BE

Higher Education Accreditation Day

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
City of Seattle
## Pre-Conference Workshops - 5th Floor

### 7:00 AM
Registration Table Open  | 5th Floor Lobby

### 7:30 AM
Breakfast  | 5th Floor Gallery

### 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catalyzing Student Success at Minority-Serving Institutions</strong></td>
<td>Room 501</td>
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</table>
| **Moderators:** David Yarlott, President, Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, MT  
Jeff Fox, President, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID               |                |
| **Becoming a Student Ready College: Shifting Mindsets and Challenging Norms** |                |
| Tia Brown McNair, Vice President in the office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, American Association of Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC |                |
| **Developmental Relationships: Five Elements for Creating Formative Connections** |                |
| Jessica Taylor, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Development, Multnomah University, Portland, OR |                |
| **An Asset-Based Approach to Bridging the Graduation and Opportunity Gap for Latino Students** |                |
| Jose Enriquez, Executive Director, Latinos in Action, Sandy, UT  
César Pérez, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID |                |
| **Building Long-Term Sustainability to Catalyze Student Success**        |                |
| Dan Peterson, Vice President for Development & President, UW Foundation, Seattle, WA  
Tomitha Blake, Assistant Vice Provost for Advancement, Academic & Student Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
David Iyall, Senior Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations, University of Washington, Seattle, WA |                |
<p>| <strong>NWCCU Retention, Completion, and Student Success Academy</strong>             | Room 502       |
| <strong>Moderator:</strong> Mac Powell, Senior Vice President, NWCCU, Redmond, WA |                |
| • Michael Anthony Baston, President, Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY |                |
| • Heather Bennett, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness &amp; Resource Development, Everett Community College, Everett, WA |                |
| • Elizabeth Cox-Brand, Executive Director, Oregon Student Success Center, Oregon Community College Association, Salem, OR |                |
| • Shauna Davis, Executive Director of Holistic Student Supports at Achieving the Dream, Inc., Portland, OR |                |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Presenters</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 4:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>2020 ERs and Standards: ALOs and Chairs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elwha Room</strong></td>
<td>Les Steele and Pamela Goad introduce NWCCU’s newly adopted 2020 Eligibility Requirements and Standards with a purposeful discussion of new focus in the 2020 Standards and the few specific areas that are no longer required. In addition, the logistics for the new process of evaluation will be discussed accompanied by presentations by guest speakers who will be sharing best practices for managing change and writing a coherent report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Distinguished Lecture Luncheon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elwha Room</strong></td>
<td>Debra Bragg, Director of Community College Research Initiative, University of Washington, Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>President’s Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quinault Room</strong></td>
<td>NWCCU’s Workshop for Presidents, Chancellors, CEOs, Board Chairs, Commissioners, and State Regulatory Agency Representatives</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Accreditation 101, NWCCU’s New Standards, and Dues</strong></td>
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<td>Sonny Ramaswamy, President, NWCCU</td>
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<td><strong>Emergency Preparedness</strong></td>
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<td>Tony Callisto, Senior Vice President and Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Syracuse University, NY</td>
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<td><strong>Cybersecurity</strong></td>
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<td>Sean Hoar, Partner, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard &amp; Smith LLP, Seattle, WA</td>
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<td><strong>News from Washington DC: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly</strong></td>
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<td>Terry Hartle, Senior Vice President, American Council on Education, Washington DC</td>
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<td>1:30 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Chair Training Workshop</strong></td>
<td><strong>Room 505</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Reception</strong></td>
<td><strong>5th Floor Gallery</strong></td>
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2019 Annual Conference - Columbia Ballroom - 3rd Floor

7:00 AM | Registration Table Open | Columbia Ballroom Lobby

7:30 AM | Breakfast | Columbia Ballroom

8:15 AM | Welcome and Conference Kickoff | Columbia Ballroom
Sonny Ramaswamy, President, NWCCU

Welcome from the office of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Proclamation
Erica Johnson, Education & Youth Policy Advisor, Office of Mayor Jenny Durkan, Seattle, WA

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>The Problem-Solving Generation</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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Jaime Casap, Educational Evangelist at Google, Phoenix, AZ

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Updates from our Nation’s Capitol</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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Diane Auer-Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

10:00 AM | Break |

10:30 AM | Developing the Skills to Prepare for Pipeline Demands in the Future Workforce |
Mehmood Khan, CEO, Life Biosciences, Boston, MA

11:15 AM | Engagement as the Key to Student Success |
James Clements, President, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

12:00 PM | Beacon Awards Luncheon | Columbia Ballroom |
Moderator: Thayne McCulloh, President, Gonzaga University and NWCCU Board Chair, Spokane, WA

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Exploring Five Scenarios for the Future of Education</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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Maria Spies, Managing Director, HolonIQ, Iowa City, IA

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Demographics Are Not Destiny: How to Eliminate Equity Gaps. The Experience at Georgia State University</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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Timothy Renick, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

3:00 PM | Break |

3:30 PM | Cloud Computing for Higher Education |
Andrew Ko, Managing Director, Global Education within the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Worldwide Public Sector Business, Seattle, WA

4:15 PM | Higher Education Sector: The Market’s Perspective |
Roger Goodman, Partner, The Yuba Group, New York, NY

5:30 PM | Reception | Columbia Ballroom Lobby
### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

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<td>7:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Columbia Ballroom</td>
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<td><strong>Promoting Success in Students from Underrepresented Backgrounds</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Marty Cavalluzzi, President, Olympic College, Bremerton, WA</td>
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<td><strong>Underserved Students: Scaling Student Success Strategies for Everyone</strong></td>
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<td>Evelyn Waiwaiole, Senior Advisor, University of Texas, Austin, TX</td>
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<td><strong>The Brotherhood Initiative: An inquiry-based project to close graduation gaps</strong></td>
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<td>Joe Lott, Associate Professor, University of Washington, Seattle, WA</td>
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<td><strong>Measuring Student Success, One Student at A Time: Best Practices to Promote Success in Students from Underrepresented Backgrounds</strong></td>
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<td>Mark Mitsui, President, Portland Community College, Portland, OR</td>
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<td><strong>Welding Supplemental Instruction with Hispanic Non-Traditional Students</strong></td>
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<td>César Pérez, Director and Hispanic Community Liaison, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>From Anecdotal to Actionable: Using Data to Drive Institutional Change</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mac Powell, Senior Vice President, NWCCU, Redmond, WA</td>
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<td><strong>Using Actionable Data to Ensure Student Success</strong></td>
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<td>Michael Itzkowitz, Senior Fellow, Higher Education at Third Way, Washington DC</td>
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<td><strong>Becoming a Data-Driven Campus</strong></td>
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<td>Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham, WA</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Success Gaps in Underserved Student Populations at TMCC</strong></td>
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<td>Melissa Deadmond, Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, NV</td>
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<td><strong>A Growth Mindset: Becoming Data-Informed</strong></td>
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<td>Jess Stahl, Dean - Curriculum, Instruction &amp; Accreditation, Chemeketa Community College, Salem, OR</td>
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<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Distinguished Lecture Luncheon</td>
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<td><strong>From High School Dropout to Neurosurgeon: One Student’s Journey Through Higher Education</strong></td>
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<td>Timothy Woodiwiss, Neurosurgical Resident, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA</td>
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<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Inclusive Teaching and Data-informed Faculty are Essential Components in our Student Success Stories</td>
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<td>Kelly Hogan, Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC</td>
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<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Transforming Education: Improving Quality and Reducing Cost</td>
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<td>Herb Schroeder, Vice Provost for ANSEP and Founder; Professor of Engineering, University of Alaska-Anchorages, Anchorage, AK</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</td>
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**Catalyzing Student Success at Minority Serving Institutions**

Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to network and experience hands-on learning using high-impact practices and effective research, initiatives, and programs that catalyze academic success of students. This workshop may be highly beneficial to MSI and tribal colleges and universities.

**NWCCU Retention, Completion, and Student Success Academy**

The NWCCU Academy for Retention, Completion, and Student Success (ARCSS) is a mentored experiential learning platform to support institutions and faculty in their efforts to promote student success. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) fosters through its accreditation standards, policies, and eligibility standards a process of continuous quality improvement centered around student success and the fulfillment of each member institution's unique mission. ARCSS is a two-year program designed to support efforts around retention, completion, and the use of data to create and deploy interventions that can drive positive institutional results, particularly with students from underrepresented groups.

**ALO and Chair Training on the 2020 Eligibility Requirements and Standards**

Les Steele and Pamela Goad introduce NWCCU's newly adopted 2020 Eligibility Requirements and Standards with a purposeful discussion of new focus in the 2020 Standards and the few specific areas that are no longer required. In addition, the logistics for the new process of evaluation will be discussed accompanied by presentations by guest speakers who will be sharing best practices for managing change and writing a coherent report.
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Thomas Gilhooly, Executive Director
tgilhooly@regis.edu
303-964-6236

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Dr. Michael A. Baston is the 7th President of Rockland Community College. A national leader who helps develop comprehensive supports that foster college completion, Dr. Baston’s work has been featured on MSNBC, and in The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Atlantic, The Community College Times, and Black Enterprise Magazine. Additionally, he is a contributing author to Race, Education, and Reintegrating Formerly Incarcerated Citizens and The Handbook for Student Affairs in Community Colleges. Dr. Baston was a member of the inaugural class of Aspen Institute Presidential Fellows for Community College Excellence where he explored systemic issues affecting the educational access pipeline and student success. As a national Guided Pathways coach for American Association of Community Colleges, he is noted for his work with college leadership teams around the nation, helping them integrate student success initiatives to advance college completion. Dr. Baston is the incoming Co-Chair of Jobs For The Future’s Policy Leadership Trust, a Commissioner of American Association of Community College’s Commission on Institutional Infrastructure and Transformation and member of the National Advisory Board of Center for Community College Student Engagement. Dr. Baston began his career as a public interest lawyer representing various educational institutions and social justice organizations. His work with academic clients led him to pursue a second career in academia as both a professor of legal studies and business and a student affairs administrator. Dr. Baston holds a BA from Iona College, a JD from Brooklyn Law School, and an EdD from St. John Fisher College.

Heather Bennett, CFRE, is the Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness & Strategic Development at Everett Community College, where she has managed the Grants and Institutional Research Offices since 2010. In this role, she also leads the college’s work in strategic planning and performance, its institutional accreditation reporting process, and its work to improve student success as part of the Achieving the Dream network, which named EvCC a 2018 Leader College of Distinction. In 2016, the college was recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute and was one of six colleges nationwide featured in The Transfer Playbook by Columbia University’s Community College Research Center and the Aspen Institute for helping students successfully transfer to four-year universities. She is an active member of the Strategic Enrollment Management Council and Guided Pathways Steering Committee at EvCC, as well as the Research and Planning Commission of the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. After earning her MFA in Creative Writing at Eastern Washington University, she taught English at the University of Kentucky for nearly a decade. In the last 20 years, she has worked as a grant writer and fundraiser for multiple non-profit arts, human services, and education organizations in Washington, Kentucky, and Georgia. Her work at EvCC was recognized with the Council for Resource Development’s Campus Impact Award for Grants Professional of the Year in 2014.

Tomitha Blake serves as the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic & Student Affairs at the University of Washington, connecting with investors and advocates who see education as the source of change they want to see in the world. For 25 years, she has championed access to higher education as an antidote to inequities and a pathway to opportunities.
Debra Bragg is the Director of Community College Research Initiatives at the University of Washington in Seattle and President of Bragg & Associates, Inc. She is also the Founding Director of the Office of Community College Research and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she worked for many years and was also received an endowed university professorship. Dr. Bragg’s research and evaluation work centers on the critical role that equity plays in shaping college students’ experiences and outcomes. Her career includes leading national and state studies on the impact of policy changes to technical and transfer education in the community college, including the potential of high-performing transfer partnerships to close baccalaureate attainment for students of color and low-income student. Dr. Bragg is also well known for her research on the conferral of baccalaureate degrees by community and technical colleges. Dr. Bragg’s work also extends beyond the U.S. where she co-founded the International Pathways Collaborative. In 2015 Dr. Bragg was named a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and in November 2016, she received the Distinguished Career Award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). In February 2018, Dr. Bragg received the national transfer champion award from the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS).

Elizabeth Cox Brand is the Executive Director of the Oregon Student Success Center. Originally from Iowa, Elizabeth received her doctorate in Educational Policy and Leadership from Iowa State University in 2007. After graduation, she accepted the position of Assistant Director of the California Community College Collaborative, a community college research and policy center at the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Brand came to Oregon in 2011 as Director of Communications and Research for the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and moved to the Oregon Community College Association in 2014 to assume the position of Director of Student Success and Assessment. In August 2016, grant funding from The Ford Family Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation provided the opportunity for Elizabeth to become the first Executive Director of the Oregon Student Success Center. Elizabeth has professional experience in K-12, community colleges, and universities, with a particular emphasis on student services and enrollment management.

Anthony Callisto, Jr. is the Senior Vice President for Safety and Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Syracuse University where he provides executive leadership to nearly three-hundred full time campus peace officers, security officers, communications officers, environmental health and safety specialists, risk management professionals, fire and life safety officers, emergency managers, parking and transit officials and administrative staff in the Syracuse University Division of Campus Safety and Emergency Services. He was promoted to this position in December of 2014. In this role, Callisto led in the creation of the Division of Campus Safety and Emergency Service, the creation of the University’s parent captive insurance company, the achievement of international law enforcement accreditation, the development of the University’s enterprise risk management program, the development of the University’s comprehensive emergency management plan, and he created and leads the University’s threat assessment and management team. Prior to his appointment as a senior vice president, Tony was the Chief of Public Safety for Syracuse University from 2006 to 2014, leading the third largest law enforcement agency in Onondaga County which provides patrol, investigations, crime prevention and emergency
communications service to over 22,500 fulltime undergraduate and graduate students, and 6,000 faculty and staff in the Syracuse University Community. In 2006 Tony retired from the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Officer after a twenty-five year career, serving as Chief Deputy for his last ten years. Tony led the administration and operation of the Onondaga County Justice Center jail, sheriff’s office research and development, sheriff’s office staff development and the regional law enforcement academy. From 1992 through 1996, as a sheriff’s lieutenant, Chief Callisto coordinated the construction of and transition to a $53 million county jail facility. In 2001, as Chief, he led the construction of a $40 million criminal court house for Onondaga County. Callisto is an expert in criminal justice management and operation, emergency management, public safety program development, incident investigation, building and event security, facility design and technology, new facility transition and campus community policing. He is a past president of the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Jail Association, and the Food Bank of Central New York. Callisto is certified by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services as a police and corrections instructor and has instructed in hundreds of hours of recruit academy training sessions, in-service training classes, and training for sheriffs, corrections and police departments around the US and abroad. He is currently the chair of the training committee of the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police. He was a consultant for the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections and the American Jail Association and he is a former Contributing Editor for Corrections Manager’s Report. He has written over twenty published articles related to criminal justice topics and co-authored a peer reviewed book. In addition to law enforcement experience, Callisto has been a consultant and trainer for the Executive Education Program at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His consulting work includes assessments, interventions and training for various state and federal agencies in the areas of Conflict Resolution, Interest Based Negotiation, Mediation, Communication Skills, Labor Relations, Management and Leadership. Callisto holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Columbia College and a Master of Arts in Public Administration at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Callisto is an adjunct professor for the Criminal Justice program at Columbia College (teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses) and has developed both undergraduate and graduate courses for the college. Having served on many non-profit boards in the community, Callisto is also a 2000 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse.

Jaime Casap is the Chief Education Evangelist at Google. Jaime evangelizes the potential of digitalization as an enabling capability in pursuit of promoting inquiry-based learning models. Jaime collaborates with school systems, educational organizations, and leaders focused on building innovation into our education policies and practices. In addition to his role at Google, Jaime serves as an advisor to dozens of organizations focused on learning, skill development, and the future of work. He is the coauthor of “Our First Talk About Poverty,” as a way to talk to children about poverty. Jaime helped launch the Phoenix Coding Academy, a public high school in Phoenix, AZ, focused on computer science as part of an inquiry-based learning model. He teaches a 10th grade communication classes at the school. He also guest lectures at Arizona State University. He speaks on education, digitalization, innovation, generation z, and the future of work at events around the world. You can follow and reach him on Twitter at @jcasap and watch his YouTube career advice videos at www.youtube.com/jaimecasap.
Jim Clements became Clemson University’s 15th president on Dec. 31, 2013 after serving as president of West Virginia University. Since his arrival, the value of the Tiger Paw has never been higher, driven by the university’s elevated academic reputation and the exposure from Clemson’s athletic success on the national stage. Under Clements’ leadership, Clemson has raised the bar in admissions, enrollment, research, graduation and retention rates, and fundraising, including the successful completion of the $1 billion Will to Lead capital campaign in 2016. In addition, the campus is currently undergoing the largest construction boom in the history of the university. Clements is a nationally recognized leader in higher education who has served as president of a university in three different athletic conferences – the Big East, the Big 12, and the ACC, where he served as the 2016-17 chair of the ACC Council of Presidents. He currently serves on the board of directors of the American Council on Education and on the executive committees for the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities, the Council on Competitiveness and the Business Higher Education Forum. Clements holds a B.S. degree in computer science as well as an M.S. degree and Ph.D. in operations analysis from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. He also holds an M.S. degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University and was awarded an honorary degree as doctor of public education from his alma mater, UMBC. His “Successful Project Management” book is now in its seventh edition, and has been published in multiple languages and used in numerous countries. Clements was born in Arlington, Va., but spent the majority of his life in Maryland before relocating to West Virginia and then Clemson. He and his wife, Beth, have been married for 27 years and have four children, Tyler, Hannah, Maggie and Grace, and two sons-in-law, Tanner Coombs and Max Kinser. He and Beth are expecting their first grandchild in September 2019.

Shauna Davis is the Executive Director of Holistic Student Supports at Achieving the Dream, Inc. In this role, Shauna is responsible for leading and designing ATD’s strategy, thought leadership, and services for redesigning advising and student supports. Shauna manages the Holistic Student Supports Team, who develop and deliver customized coaching, tools, and resources to support colleges in their pursuit of transformative institutional change. Prior to joining ATD, Shauna was the Executive Director of the Virginia Community College System Student Success Center and Office of Professional Development, providing technical assistance and strategic support for Virginia’s Community Colleges, a system of 23 colleges with 40 campus locations. Shauna’s experience in the Virginia Community College System also included serving as the Director of Student Services for the Extended Learning Institute at Northern Virginia Community College, and as Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development for the Community College Workforce Alliance, a partnership of John Tyler and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community Colleges. Shauna’s career has included professional experience within four-year education, healthcare, and financial services. Her experiences in roles encompassing educational administration, student services, marketing, business development, workforce development, program management, training, and community relations, provide her with a breadth of knowledge, an appreciation for practical and creative solutions, and an ability to translate big picture thinking into actionable strategies. She holds an M.S. in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as a B.A. in Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Mass Media from Temple University.
Dr. Melissa Deadmond serves as the Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning and Accreditation Liaison Officer at Truckee Meadows Community College. Melissa has been at TMCC for the past 14 years, having spent the first 10 years as a biology instructor and later tenured professor and department chair before accepting her current position 4 years ago. She works closely with faculty on academic standards and assessment, and with other college divisions and the Nevada System of Higher Education on issues of transfer and articulation among other initiatives. Melissa is dedicated to the use of data and meaningful assessment towards continuous improvement, both in student learning and institutional outcomes achievement. She still loves teaching and continues to teach part time. She serves on the Education Alliance Board and in this capacity works towards bringing resources and connecting business and community organizations to K-12 schools within the local district. Melissa is proud to be an educational product of NWCCU schools. She holds a B.S. in Biology and French from the College of Idaho, and both a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology and MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Melissa lives in Reno with her husband and two children and is an avid soccer fan.

José Enriquez began to recognize in high school in Los Angeles that very few of his Latino peers participated in rigorous coursework, extracurricular activities, and community service. With the support of his mother, whom he credits for his passion and drive, José received a wrestling scholarship to Brigham Young University where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Spanish, a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership, and finally a PhD in Educational Leadership. As a teacher, and later an administrator, José saw again what he’d started to notice as a student in Los Angeles: Latino youth were disengaged and disenfranchised at school. In addition, they often shunned their cultural heritage, which he believes is at the heart of every Latino youth’s drive to excel. This gap kept students, who could offer the classroom and community a wealth of knowledge, experience, and unique perspectives, from graduating high school and college. In effect, this phenomenon kept students from reaching their potential. José recognized the barriers these young Latinos faced within their own homes and communities. He saw himself in these students and reflected on the opportunities, experiences, and mentors that had allowed him—a low-income, non-English-speaking immigrant—to succeed. The combination of these experiences and reflections led José to begin the Latinos in Action program.

Angie Girard is the director of accreditation at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (PNWU). Hired in Nov. 2007 as the executive assistant to the president, she has taken on ever-increasing responsibilities including programmatic accreditation, regional accreditation, strategic planning, policy coordination, and most recently implementing a more structured compliance program. In collaboration with faculty, staff, and administration, Angie helped PNWU achieve regional accreditation two years ahead of schedule. Angie and her colleague Dr. Lori Fulton are in the inaugural NWCCU Mission Fulfillment Fellowship. Angie earned a Master of Education degree and Educational Administration Certificate from Heritage University and was a middle school assistant principal prior to joining PNWU. Angie lives in Yakima where she and her husband enjoy the bounty of the valley, primarily hops and grapes.
Roger Goodman is a partner of The Yuba Group, an independent financial advisory and consulting firm focused on the higher education and not-for-profit institution sector. Yuba provides objective and informed advice with a customized and analytic approach to financing for its clients. At the Yuba Group, Roger works with virtually every client on their rating and credit strategies and also leads our relationships with Bentley University, Boston University, Northeastern University, Olin College, Simmons University, Suffolk University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Tulane University, Valparaiso University and Whitehead Institute. Prior to joining the Yuba Group, Roger was the team leader for the Higher Education Group at Moody’s Investors Service, leading a team of analysts responsible for credit analysis and credit ratings. He was a senior member of rating committee for the public finance group and a key driver of analytic enhancements to Moody’s rating process, especially surrounding variable rate debt, liquidity, debt-related derivatives and investment policies. Roger oversaw Moody’s revised methodologies related to third-party financing and authored several research pieces focused on public-private partnerships. With this background, Roger brings unique insight on the credit rating process and issues surrounding the optimal presentation of financial information, as well as public-private structures and their implications on institutional credit. Over his eight years at Moody’s, Roger worked as the lead analyst for a diverse portfolio of institutions, including ivy league universities, large public university systems, complex academic medical centers, leading cultural institutions and small private colleges. His credit rating agency work took him around the world as Roger also led outreach efforts globally, including with universities in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore and Mexico. Roger is originally from the San Francisco area and received his B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Brandeis University and his M.P.A in Public and Non-Profit Finance from New York University.

Ed Harri serves as the vice president for instruction at Whatcom Community College. Ed has worked at WCC for over 20 years, previously serving as a math faculty, department chair, division chair, and dean for instruction. As WCC’s accreditation liaison officer, he has worked with college leadership, faculty, and students to identify meaningful assessment plans, institutional performance indicators, and planning processes to realize institutional goals. Ed holds a doctorate in educational leadership in which he examined factors contributing to math success for pre-college level community college students. Ed and his family live in Bellingham, WA, where they enjoy running and biking in their beautiful community.

Terry Hartle is one of America’s most effective and experienced advocates for higher education. At ACE, where he has served for more than 20 years, he directs comprehensive efforts to engage federal policy makers on a broad range of issues including student aid, government regulation, scientific research and tax policy. His work involves representation before the U.S. Congress, administrative agencies and the federal courts. Given ACE’s historic role in coordinating the government relations efforts of some 60 associations in the Washington-based higher education community, Hartle plays a central part in developing public policy positions that impact all colleges and universities, and also oversees the Council’s external relations functions.
**Sean Hoar** is a partner in the Portland office of Lewis Brisbois and chair of the national Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Practice. Sean has extensive experience managing responses to digital crises, and the Lewis Brisbois Rapid Response Team manages over 1500 data security incidents annually. Sean served as the lead cyber attorney for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Oregon, and he worked closely with the Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section in Washington D.C. He holds the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), the Global Information Security Professional (GISP), and the Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US) credentials.

**Kelly Hogan** is the Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s College of Arts and Sciences, The University’s Quality Enhancement Plan Director, and a Teaching Professor in the College’s Biology Department. Since 2004, she has been teaching 400-seat classes on campus using interactive teaching methods and technologies. Hogan’s approach centers on the philosophy that, with the right practice, everyone is capable of learning. By demonstrating the effectiveness of her methods in large lecture classes, her work has received national attention in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Hogan works with many of Carolina’s faculty and others around the country to help them re-imagine their own teaching. Her teaching has impacted a student audience far beyond those in her UNC-Chapel Hill classes. As the co-author of several biology textbooks (Campbell Biology’s Concepts and Connections and Essential Biology), Hogan has reached hundreds of thousands of students globally. She has also been recognized through nine different campus, state, and national awards for teaching, mentoring and advising. Hogan was the commencement speaker for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015. Recently, she teamed up with her colleague, Dr. Viji Sathy, doing workshops around the country and writing about inclusive pedagogy (inclusifiED.com). Hogan completed her undergraduate degree in biology at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey (B.S. 1996) and earned her doctorate from UNC-Chapel Hill (Ph.D. 2001).

**Michael Itzkowitz** has 10 year of experience in federal education policy, and has served in senior roles inside and outside of government. His work and expertise has been cited by national news outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, US News, and NBC. His experience includes serving as a Senior Fellow for the think tank Third Way, where he’s worked with Capitol Hill, the Administration, and other postsecondary-focused organizations to develop and implement policies to help ensure that more low- and moderate-income students are earning degrees from quality higher education programs. Prior to this role, Michael worked as a Presidential Appointee in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Education for six years. Most notably, he was the Director of the Administration’s College Scorecard, an initiative focused on higher education transparency and accountability. The Scorecard, announced by the President in September 2015, is the largest release of higher education data ever by the Federal government. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of Postsecondary Education. Michael received his Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees from the University of Florida.
David Iyall is the Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations for the UW College of Engineering. Prior to this role, he served as Assistant Vice President for Advancement for the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, where he led fundraising for the organization’s priorities, including the fundraising campaign for UW’s Intellectual House. David is an enrolled member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and serves on the tribe’s Education Committee and Education and Arts Fund Advisory Committee.

Diane Auer Jones serves as principal deputy under secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. Jones’ 30-year career in science and education policy began as an instructor at the Community College of Baltimore County. She moved on to hold senior leadership roles at Princeton University and the Career Education Corporation. Jones brings extensive experience in public policy, serving as a program director at the National Science Foundation, a professional staff member and acting staff director for the Research Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, and as deputy to the associate director for science at the White House Office on Science and Technology Policy. In 2006, Jones was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate to serve as assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education. Jones returned to government service in 2017 to serve as a senior policy advisor to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor, and then moved back to the Department of Education to serve as a senior policy advisor before transitioning to her current role.

Mehmood Khan, M.D., is Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Life Biosciences. In his role as CEO, Dr. Khan provides strategic direction and operational oversight across Life Biosciences and its five daughter companies. Dr. Khan began his career as a practicing Endocrinologist and served as Director of Diabetes, Endocrine, and Nutritional Trials unit for Mayo Clinic and Mayo Medical School. He has since held senior executive roles in some of the largest Global Research & Development organizations in the world. Dr. Khan was Chief Scientific Officer and Vice Chairman of PepsiCo. As head of global R&D, he oversaw the development of novel technologies and breakthrough innovations including the incorporation of healthier and more nutritious offerings across its portfolio. Prior to PepsiCo, Dr. Khan led as President of Takeda Pharmaceuticals Company’s worldwide research and development efforts. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Reckitt Benckiser, Indigo Agriculture, US Dept of Agriculture and serves as Chairman, US Council on Competitiveness in Washington DC. Dr. Khan earned his medical degree from the University of Liverpool Medical School, England, and completed a fellowship in clinical endocrinology and nutrition in the Department of Medicine and Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and a Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology.

Andrew Ko, Managing Director for Global Education, Amazon Web Services

Andrew is the Managing Director of Global Education at Amazon Web Services. His focus is driving innovation with cloud-based programs and solutions for EdTechs, Learning Companies, Higher Education Institutions, and K-12 systems improving student outcomes while enabling the workforce. Prior to joining Amazon, Andrew was the Corporate Vice President of Samsung Global Education and the European B2B division, based in South Korea, where he launched mobile learning solutions for Education in Croatia, India, Italy and the U.S. Prior to Samsung, Andrew was
the General Manager for Microsoft Corporation’s U.S. Education business where he led the Partners in Learning team creating new and innovative ways for teaching and learning. He also led the White House ConnectED initiative shaping a public/private partnership model to provide technology and internet access to millions in school. Andrew has several political appointments - In January 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed Andrew as a member of the Virginia State Board of Education and in 2016, he was appointed to the Virginia’s School Readiness Committee for improving the early childhood education workforce in the Commonwealth. In 2018, Governor Ralph Northam appointed Andrew to the Online Virginia Network Authority for the purpose of providing a means for individuals to earn degrees and postsecondary education credentials to online degree and credential programs. Andrew also serves on several boards including the Northern Virginia Community College Foundation board and the Fairfax County Public Schools Foundation.

Andrew “Drew” Koch, PhD, President and Chief Operating Officer, John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education

Dr. Andrew “Drew” Koch is the President and Chief Operating Officer for the non-profit John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education which he joined in 2010. In his role, he provides strategic leadership and operations oversight for the Institute in its efforts to help colleges improve teaching, learning, student success and, in the process of doing so, mitigate inequitable outcomes and advance social justice. Prior to coming to Gardner Institute, Drew spent nearly 20 years working in both independent and public postsecondary institutions on student enrollment, access, success, accreditation, learning, and completion efforts with a particular emphasis on first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students. He holds a B.A. degree in History and German from the University of Richmond, a M.A. degree in history from the University of Richmond, a M.A. in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Purdue University. His scholarship focuses on critical university studies and the role of colleges and universities in shaping culture, equity, and democracy in the United States. He has served as the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than two dozen grant-funded research projects with support coming from sources such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ECMC Foundation, GEAR UP, Kresge Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Lumina Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the Schusterman Family Foundation. He has published widely on student access and success topics, with a particular emphasis on historically underrepresented and underserved populations, the first-year experience, gateway courses, and redesign of unjust education systems.

Joe Lott, II is an associate professor in the College of Education at the University of Washington. Joe has published articles about and studied racial identity development and civic engagement among Black students in college, the impact of college experiences on civic and political dispositions, how to change the college-going culture through parent-school-community partnerships, and how to leverage university-community partnerships to foster wellness and educational achievement for men and boys of color along the P-20 continuum. His current research investigates how the organizational cultures of postsecondary institutions create the conditions for disparate graduation rates between students of color and their peers. Joe leads the University of Washington’s Brotherhood Initiative, a collaborative partnership between the College of Education, Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the Division of Student Life, and The Graduate School. It focuses on empowering undergraduate men of color to thrive on campus and graduate prepared for a lifetime of leadership, service, and success.
He is co-PI on an Equitable Parent-School Collaboration project that is designed to create more equitable relationships between schools, school districts, community-based organizations, and families. Joe also serves as the director for the Leadership in Higher Education master’s program in the College of Education, which prepares future higher education leaders to work in a vastly changing postsecondary environment.

**Dr. Tia Brown McNair** is the Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive Director for the TRHT Campus Centers at Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in Washington, DC. She oversees both funded projects and AAC&U’s continuing programs on equity, inclusive excellence, high-impact educational practices, and student success, including AAC&U’s Network for Academic Renewal series of yearly working conferences. McNair also directs AAC&U’s Summer Institute on High-Impact Educational Practices and Student Success. McNair serves as the project director for several AAC&U initiatives: “Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation,” “Strengthening Guided Pathways and Career Success by Ensuring Students are Learning,” and “Purposeful Pathways: Faculty Planning and Curricular Coherence.” She is the lead author of the book Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success (July 2016). McNair earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and English at James Madison University and holds an M.A. in English from Radford University and a doctorate in higher education administration from George Washington University.

**Mark Mitsui** became President of Portland Community College in August of 2016. He is the first Asian American president in the 58-year history of PCC, which educates over 70,000 students annually and is the largest higher education institution in the state of Oregon. Prior to working at PCC, Mark served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges in the US Department of Education. In this role, he advanced the President’s and department’s community college agenda through strategic partnerships across federal agencies and with national stakeholders. Mark also served as President of North Seattle College, Vice President of Student Services at South Seattle College, Assistant Dean of Student Services at Green River Community College (where he was awarded an Exemplary Leadership Award by the Chair Academy) and Director of Student Success at North Seattle College. Earlier in his career as an educator, Mark entered into the community and technical college arena as a teacher at Renton Technical College, where he was awarded an Outstanding Faculty Award in 1994 and served as lead faculty on the college accreditation team.

**César Pérez** is the Director and Hispanic Community Liaison at the College of Southern Idaho’s Jerome and Gooding Off-Campus Centers. Mr. Pérez currently oversees the development and successful implementation of Hispanic-American bicultural learning environments which result in strategic initiatives addressing the service areas’ diverse communities. In the 16 years of employment with the College of Southern Idaho, Mr. Perez has also served as the Director of Student Advising and Associate Dean of Extended Studies. Mr. Pérez is a member of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships Board of Directors, United Alliance of Southern Idaho Board of Directors, Idaho South Central Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, University of Idaho Latino Advisory Council, Mexican-American Legal Defense
and Education Fund Parent-School-Partnership Program Trainer, and a Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Peer Evaluator. He is the recipient of the Martha A. Torrez Humanitarian of the Year and Premio Inspiración awards by the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs. He is a proud College of Southern Idaho graduate, and also holds bachelor and master of study degrees from Boise State University and Idaho State University, respectively. Mr. Perez’s family journey to the United States of America (USA) traces back to the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, when his grandfather was recruited as a skilled agriculture laborer from the Mexican State of Puebla to fill labor shortages in the State of Texas. He was born in Mexico City, Mexico and came to the USA with his parents and siblings. Thanks to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (also known as the Reagan Amnesty Act), his parents became legal permanent residents of the United States, and eventually in 1997, Cesar too became a legal permanent resident. In 2002, Cesar became a naturalized USA citizen. He and his wife Claudia are proud parents to Alexander, Julianna, Allison, and Maxziel. They enjoy sharing their passion for multi-cultural initiatives and inclusion in their communities.

Dan Peterson is the Vice President for Development, University Advancement, and President, UW Foundation. He is the executive leader of a best-in-class fully integrated advancement program, with direct responsibilities for overseeing high-performing fundraising teams. UW generates over $550M annually and is in a $5 Billion campaign. Dan lead and managed the Chief Advancement Officers of all university units (27), as well as Corporate and Foundation Relations, and Regional Advancement.

Timothy Renick is Senior Vice President for Student Success and Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University. At Georgia State, he has served as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Director of the Honors Program. Since 2008, he has directed the student success and enrollment efforts of the university, overseeing among the fastest improving graduation rates in the nation and the elimination of all achievement gaps based on students’ race, ethnicity or income level. Dr. Renick has testified on strategies for helping university students succeed before the United States Senate and has twice been invited to speak at the White House. His work has been covered by the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Time, and CNN and cited by former President Obama. He was named one of 2016’s Most Innovative People in Higher Education by Washington Monthly, was the recipient of the 2015-16 Award for National Leadership in Student Success Innovation, and was awarded the 2018 McGraw Prize in Higher Education. He currently is principal investigator for a $9 million U.S. Department of Education grant to study the impact of predictive-analytics-based advisement on ten-thousand low-income and first-generation students nationally. A summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, Dr. Renick holds his M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University.

Dr. Herb Schroeder created the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) in 1995 with a single Alaska Native engineering undergraduate. ANSEP has evolved into a sequential education model that provides a continuous string of linked components beginning in fifth grade, continuing through high school, into engineering and science undergraduate majors, and through graduate school to the PhD. The Urban Institute has found that ANSEP students outperform national averages for all students at every education level. ANSEP improves the quality of education while reducing costs. There are 2,500 currently enrolled students. Dr.
Schroeder has been recognized by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) with a 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), the 2005 Alaska Federation of Natives Denali Award, the greatest honor presented by the Federation to a non-Native, the 2009 National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) Reginald H. Jones Distinguished Service Award (Founders Award) created to honor individuals whose efforts and accomplishments have resulted in increased underrepresented minority participation in the nation’s engineering workforce, and the 2018 University of Colorado Boulder, George Norlin Award which recognizes outstanding alumni who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in their chosen field of endeavor and a devotion to the betterment of society and their community. ANSEP was recognized in 2018 as one of the Top 7 Finalists for the Innovations in American Government Award from the Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance, a 2013 Partners in Conservation Award, with the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Area Science Center for exemplary collaborations between Department of the Interior, its bureaus, and organizations across the country that take innovative approaches towards conservation of America’s public lands and resources, a 2014 U.S. Department of Energy Minorities in Energy Award and in 2014 as one of the Top 25 Innovations in American Government from the Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance. ANSEP partner organizations have provided approximately $60 million in funding to support Dr. Schroeder's work. This includes support for the 13,000-square foot canoe shaped ANSEP Building that was opened in 2006 on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus to provide a focal point for ANSEP and in 2009 provided funds for the Dr. Herbert P. Schroeder Chair of ANSEP endowed chair.

Maria Spies is a Founder and Managing Director of HolonIQ, the leading provider of global education market intelligence. Through a machine learning platform and global network of partners and analysts, HolonIQ helps governments, institutions, firms and investors answer strategic questions across four key areas – global trends, risks and opportunities; market landscape; emerging models and advanced technologies; competitor intelligence. Prior to HolonIQ, Maria led digital learning futures for a $40m corporate venture fund investing in education innovation and EdTech. In this role, Maria worked with EdTech start-ups and founders around the world to support their growth and led research projects about the future of learning, such as Global EdTech Landscape and Higher Education Digital Transformation. Maria has worked in public and private higher education for over 20 years in Asia and Australia specializing in technology-led transformation of education business models and approaches to teaching and learning. Maria has built and led global teams, driving innovation in curriculum, teaching and the student experience in over 50 countries.

Jess Stahl, DBH is the Dean of Academic Effectiveness & ALO at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. She was previously the Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Quality Advancement & Clinical Assistant Professor, Biobehavioral Health Sciences at the University of Arizona where she focused on commercializing academic research and led a prominent public-private collaboration to establish a “first-of-its-kind” community health clinic. She was a frequent lecturer on the Future of Healthcare and co-led annual interprofessional training events for graduate medical, nursing, and pharmacy students. As an Assistant Dean at Southern New Hampshire University, she directed exponential enrollment growth driven by innovative technology and effective data science. Early in her career, she received a Fulbright award, worked for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and was a Duke University Global Health Fellow. Her passion is data science and helping academic institutions benefit from innovations in technology, data science, and artificial intelligence (AI).
Jessica Lynn Taylor Ph.D. has dedicated her life to personal growth and developing others. She is passionate about the transformation of people and organizations through simple and proven methods. She works at Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon as the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusive Development. Jessica is also an Executive Coach specializing in Organizational Development and Leadership. For over a decade Jessica has been changing lives using a heart centered approach and strategic vision casting to turn dreamers into doers with personal and cultural humility.

Evelyn Waiwaiole is the Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement (the Center) at The University of Texas at Austin (UT). Prior to this role, she served as the Executive Director at the Center for five years. She has spent the majority of her career at The University of Texas, serving as the Suanne Davis Roueche NISOD Director and Lecturer in the College of Education at UT and leading grant funded initiatives including the Bridges to Opportunity initiative and the MetLife Foundation Initiative on Student Success. She has also served as associate director of NISOD, college relations coordinator for the Center, and policy analyst for the Center for Community College Policy at the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Evelyn earned a Doctorate from UT in higher education administration, with a specialization in community college leadership; a master’s in economics from The University of Oklahoma; and a bachelor’s in psychology from Texas A&M University.

Kristi Wellington-Baker currently serves as the Executive Director of the Student Success Center at the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges focused on evidence based large scale reforms designed to close equity gaps and improve the educational attainment levels of all Washington state community college students. Previously, she served as Dean of Student Success and Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives at Walla Walla Community College and provided consultations on retention and completion strategies across the nation. She is a 2018 alumnus of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship program focused on developing the next generation of executive leaders in the community college sector.

Clarissa Wolfe is the Director of Organizational Change Management at Yakima Valley College (YVC) in Yakima, Washington. Clarissa has worked at YVC in management information systems, technology, institutional effectiveness, business and accounting, and now in organizational change management. Clarissa’s role as OCM focuses on the people side of change—building awareness, communicating, engaging, training, and reinforcing the people. YVC is currently involved in the ctcLink Project, a technology solution and a people project. ctcLink is the implementation of a single, centralized system of online functions to give students, faculty and staff anytime, anywhere access to a modern, efficient way of doing their college business. It is also the realignment of core business processes with the delivered software solution, making for streamlined, standardized practices across the 34-college system. Clarissa is techie at heart, loving Excel and databases, crunching data/numbers, organizing information/projects, and working alongside others. She believes in being connected to staff, valuing their talents and knowledge, and celebrating successes and events with food to foster camaraderie and connectedness.
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Dr. Timothy Woodiwiss is a recent graduate of the University of Washington School of Medicine and is a first year resident physician at the University of Iowa. He grew up in a small rural town in Eastern Washington where at the age of 16 he dropped out of high school to work at a local fast food restaurant. After earning his GED and joining the Army National Guard, Timothy’s desire for a better life led him to enroll at Big Bend Community College. After initially working a night job to make ends meet, Timothy was accepted into a resident firefighter/EMT program which allowed him to cover fire department shifts in exchange for rent and provided his first exposure to the medical field. Timothy quickly saw his career goals change from firefighter to paramedic to physician assistant and then finally to physician. Soon after transferring to Washington State University, Timothy was deployed with the Army to Iraq and two years later he served on his second overseas tour to Bahrain. Between military deployments, a fragmented college education, marriage, and the birth of his first daughter, Timothy was able to nurture a strong interest in cancer patients and cancer research. In medical school, Timothy discovered a passion for helping patients suffering from malignant brain tumors and decided to apply for specialty training in neurological surgery. After interviewing at many training programs around the country, Timothy was thrilled to find out that he had matched to a neurosurgery training program at the University of Iowa. Over the course of his seven-year residency training program, Timothy hopes to continue developing the skills and credentials necessary for his desired career as an academic neurosurgeon and scientist.
Lydia McDermott is the Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking, First Year Experience Writing Coordinator, and Associate Professor and Chair of Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse at Whitman College. She holds a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition, with a graduate certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, and a Master’s degree in Creative Writing. She loves to write in practically any genre and especially loves helping others find a passion for writing. Previous to coming to Whitman College, she helped to found and direct the Graduate Writing and Research Center at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Within RWPD, Professor McDermott teaches courses on composition, rhetorical theory, rhetorical bodies, and gender studies and facilitates writing education and support across Whitman’s curriculum. Her first book, Liminial Bodies, Reproductive Health, and Feminist Rhetoric: Searching the Negative Spaces in the History of Rhetoric, came out with Rowman Littlefield Press, Lexington Books, in 2016. Her research concerns the rhetorical construction of sexed bodies and their influence on histories of writing standards. She is also a published poet. In her free time, she plays Dungeons and Dragons with her three boys or takes her two pug puppies for romps around Walla Walla.

Dana L. Burgess, the Charles E. and Margery B. Anderson Endowed Professor of Humanities and Professor of Classics, received his Ph.D. in Ancient Greek in 1984 and his M.A. in Latin 1981, both from Bryn Mawr College. He received an A.B. in Literature from Bard College in 1977. His doctoral dissertation treated the development of theatrical style through the long career of the tragedian Euripides. His early scholarly work addressed the Greek poet Pindar and the Roman poet Catullus. He came to Whitman in 1986 and began teaching in the First-Year General Studies program, eventually serving as the coordinator of that program. Professor Burgess’s work in the General Studies program led to new scholarly interests within and outside of the classical world. He has worked on Dante, Nietzsche, Seneca, and, more recently, on Linguistics. Professor Burgess’s work on ancient theatre led him to direct several productions of Greek tragedies at Harper Joy Theatre, on three occasions using his own translations. In 2009 Whitman established the Written and Oral Communication Initiative and assigned Professor Burgess as director. He developed programs for peer tutoring, faculty development in writing pedagogy, support for non-native speakers of English, and oral performance coaching. Through this work Professor Burgess developed interests in serving students for whom English is a second language. In 2013 he completed a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the School for International Training. His current scholarly interests lie in Linguistics and ESL/EFL writing pedagogy.

Summary of the Student Success Program:

Since fall 2017, all first-year students entering Whitman College are required to participate in the First-Year Writing Assessment during orientation week. After giving students 20 minutes to respond to a prompt (the pre-test), writing samples are scored by a faculty panel, using a 5-point scaled rubric. Students with the lowest scores are automatically placed in an introductory Language and Writing course, and all first-year students, whether in the introductory Language and Writing course or not, are enrolled in Whitman’s literature- and writing-intensive first year course (currently a course called Encounters). At the end of the
semester, all first-year students respond to a second prompt (the post-test), which is scored similarly to the pre-test. Over the initial years of implementation, the writing scores of students who took the Language and Writing course improved significantly more than the scores of those who took only Encounters. The assessment has confirmed that the concerted effort to improve the writing ability of underprepared first-year students is succeeding reliably. Results of the inaugural years’ efforts were so persuasive that the college’s administration responded by providing resources to markedly increase the number of Language and Writing course sections. In only two years, the number of course sections was doubled in order to accommodate student need. The outcomes of the First-Year Writing Assessment have been crucial to consider as Whitman has worked to re-envision its general education program, specifically with respect to writing, not only in the first year, but also in upper-level courses. Whitman faculty recently approved a new sequence of courses for the “first-year experience” that explicitly converge on writing (and reading, and discussion) skills. In conclusion, the First-Year Writing Assessment has been a critical factor in driving student success in writing, and it has been indispensable in envisioning an innovative, student-centered curriculum at Whitman College.

University of Nevada, Reno

Felicia DeWald is Director of the NevadaFIT program and a Core Writing Lecturer at the University of Nevada, Reno. She earned a B.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame (2011). Prior to working in higher education, she served in AmeriCorps as a teacher for an urban, low-income school in San Jose, California while earning her M.A. in Teaching from Santa Clara University (2015), and an M.F.A. in Writing from Saint Mary’s College of California (2016). Her experience teaching at both the secondary and university level has made her passionate about helping students successfully make the transition from high school to college.

Program Summary:

NevadaFIT (Freshman Intensive Transition) is an academic bootcamp for incoming freshmen at the University of Nevada, Reno designed to expose students to the rigor and pacing of college classes. The program takes place the week before the fall semester starts, and includes an early move-in if students are living in the residence halls. All students across all majors participate in NevadaFIT, and each college/school on campus runs a unique version of the program (e.g., LiberalArtsFIT, Biz-FIT). The most important element of the program is the core class, usually mathematics, which is a class identified as one of the hardest students will take during their first semester. Each camp supplements this class with major-specific material. Students attend lectures, get homework, take exams, and get feedback on their progress in a low-stakes environment (1-credit, S/U course). Students also attend Skill Sessions where they learn tools to be successful college students, such as Financial Literacy, Mindfulness, and Diversity and Inclusion. Students work in “Packs,” groups of 6-7 students in the same college led by an undergraduate mentor. NevadaFIT increases retention and graduation rates for participants including Pell, 1st Generation, and minority students. Because of its success, the program has grown each year. Participation has increased from 48 students in 2013 to 2550 students in 2019. It will be required of all entering freshmen beginning in the fall of 2020. In addition to tuition, a course fee of $250 is charged to offset costs of the program, which includes meals, mentor and faculty compensation, and a full-time coordinator. Financial aid is provided to Pell students through support from private donors, corporations, and foundations.
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