



8th Annual College Success Forum
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
Robert Morris University—Yorktown Hall
8256 University Blvd.
Moon Township, PA 15108

Agenda

- 8 - 9 a.m. Registration/Networking
Yorktown Hall—Westinghouse Room
Refreshments sponsored by Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE)
- 9 a.m. General Welcome/Housekeeping
Ms. Wendy Dunlap, Western PA College Success Roundtable President; PHEAA

PACAC remarks: **Ms. Mary Smith**, PACAC President; Gettysburg College

Service Project: RMU's Colonial Cupboard - **Ms. Tracy Frazier**
- 9:05 a.m. Opening Remarks
Dr. Chris Howard, President, Robert Morris University
- 9:15 a.m. Keynote Speaker— **Mr. Saleem Ghubril**, Executive Director, The Pittsburgh Promise
 “Lessons From The Journey”
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Breakout session 1
- 11:15 a.m. Lunch/Networking —Ferris Room
Sponsored by the PA Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC)
- 12:30 p.m. Breakout session 2
- 1:30 p.m. Break— Coffee and Dessert sponsored by Robert Morris University
- 1:45 p.m. Breakout session 3
- 2:45 p.m. Adjourn
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10:15 a.m. Breakout Session 1 - Select 1 of the following options:

Curriculum Alignment for SAT/ACT Success

Presenters: Mr. Phil McCaffrey, 3RPrep;
Mr. David Cerniglia, 3RPrep
Location: Birmingham Room

Does your high school actually teach what is tested on the SAT and ACT? Come hear test prep experts David and Phil from 3RPrep as they give a practical hands-on workshop on how high schools are making sure that they cover the test concepts that students need to succeed on college entrance tests.

Pittsburgh College Sponsorship Program through Job Corps

Presenters: Mr. Sean Riffle, Pittsburgh Job Corps;
Ms. Kammy Kemmer, Pittsburgh Job Corps
Location: Sewickley Room

We will discuss the benefits of the Pittsburgh Job Corps College Sponsorship Program and how it helps students lift the burden of student debt while preparing them to start a career or continue their education. Pell grant eligible students can have their tuition, books & supplies, and other college expenses covered by Job Corps while they attend Community College of Allegheny County or Butler County Community College. After completing the program, students are assisted in securing a job in their desired career field and/or in preparing to further their education.

Sustaining a Successful School Counseling Advisory Council

Presenters: Ms. Jennifer Rosata, North Allegheny High School;
Ms. Rhonda Bielawski, North Allegheny High School
Location: Liberty Room

As mandated by Chapter 339 Guidance Plan, all public high schools are required to have a School Counseling Advisory Council. This session will help school counselors get motivated to implement and/or continue an advisory council that will benefit their current school counseling program. Ideas will be shared on ways to utilize resources and invite stakeholders to promote and sustain your advisory council.

Providing Support and Guidance to College Students with Foster Youth Experience

Presenters: Dr. Karen Amrhein, California University of Pennsylvania;
Ms. Lynna Thomas, Westmoreland County Community College
Ms. Erica Willis, Penn State University – Allegheny Campus
Ms. Amy Sosanko, Community College of Allegheny County
Ms. Tiffany Behanna, California University of Pennsylvania
Ms. Idelia Robinson, California University of Pennsylvania;
Ms. Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA
Location: Westinghouse Room

The premise of the foster youth initiatives is to provide guidance and support to students who have had experience in foster care. Each university is approaching this service in different ways. In this session, you will hear what local universities and colleges are doing to support foster youth in higher education. We will share what is working well and also some of our challenges.

Majoring in Money

Presenter: Ms. Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae
Location: Fort Duquesne Boardroom

Majoring in Money 2019, a national study from Sallie Mae® and conducted by Ipsos, focuses on the payment methods, financial habits, and overall financial literacy of three groups of young adults: college students, college graduates, and those who began college but left before earning their degree. By examining out-of-school young adults, we can shed light on potential growth in credit management skills that may lie ahead for current college students and whether gaps in financial literacy close after college.

12:30 p.m. Breakout Session 2 - Select 1 of the following options:

What's New at ACT? New Resources to Propel your Students to College and Career Success

Presenter: Mr. Gregory Napierala, ACT
Location: Liberty Room

Get updates and learn about the latest ACT resources available to prepare your students for college and career success including the new PreACT 8/9, ACT District Testing, Online Reporting, ACT Academy, Supports for EL students, and new opportunities for students to take the ACT beginning September of 2020.

Addressing the Skills Gap Through Applied Technology Education and Corporate Partnerships

Presenters: Mr. Jamie Miller, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Ms. Audriana Empet, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Location: Sewickley Room

The skills gap is rapidly expanding, industry's skilled workforce is aging, and the number of young men and women pursuing careers in skilled trades has been proportionately imbalanced for decades (compared to postsecondary students pursuing a liberal arts bachelor's degree). Companies from manufacturing to health care are experiencing a sense of urgency to fill large numbers of vacant positions; approaching institutions like Penn College with a demand we simply cannot fill with the number of students we currently enroll and graduate.

In this presentation, we will overview the skills gap, illuminate the urgent hiring challenges that companies around the country find themselves up against, and explore a collaborative program that Penn College is developing with its corporate partners to increase exploration in skilled labor career fields, open doors for companies to empower and engage with students as they pursue their degree, and increase an employer's odds for landing intelligent, skilled, reliable employees after graduation.

Getting Familiar With 2018 Tax Returns for FAFSA

Presenters: Mr. Dan Wray, PHEAA;
Ms. Jacqui Fraas, Robert Morris University
Location: Birmingham Room

This session will provide a review of FAFSA completion, specifically regarding income and tax documentation for families that are not able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices: What You Need To Know!

Presenter: Mr. David Weisbord, Winchester Thurston School, PACAC
Location: Ferris Room

In September, the NACAC Assembly voted to remove sections of NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (CEPP) and also voted to institute a moratorium on enforcement of the entire CEPP to help bring closure to a two-year, ongoing investigation by the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

What does this mean for you and your students? Come, bring your questions, and learn about the implications of these decisions and what you can do to best support your students and their families as they navigate the college admissions process.

When Getting Students in the Door Is Not Enough: Advocating for Holistic Student Support

Presenters: Ms. Megan Fahey, Carnegie Mellon University;
Ms. Meggan Lloyd, Point Park University;
Mr. Jonas Prida, Point Park University
Location: Westinghouse Room

Higher education touts enrollment as the key to postsecondary degree completion but has historically failed to adequately provide support to traditionally underserved student populations once they are enrolled. Outreach programs can open the door for students into higher education, but continuous support during their time in college can assist students in reaching degree completion. This presentation will discuss a way to offer holistic, identity-conscious student support, beginning with outreach and continuing all the way to commencement.

1:45 p.m. Breakout Session 3 - Select 1 of the following options:

College Readiness in Pennsylvania in a Time of Changing Demographics

Presenters: Ms. Amy Miranda, The College Board
Ms. Cassandra Allen, The College Board
Location: Ferris Room

This session will discuss college readiness in PA, taking a look at current performance and participation metrics from College Board assessments. We will examine how changing demographics will have an impact on this pipeline, the implications for higher ed and our communities. Let's explore how K12 and higher ed can work together to help students succeed and ensure a robust pipeline for education beyond high school.

Stresses and Challenges of School

Presenter: Ms. Cindy Strawbridge, Harrisburg Area Community College
Location: Sewickley Room

The purpose of this presentation focuses on the value of higher education, drop-out prevention, time management, and how to deflect stress. Individuals experiencing stress are reluctant to make decisions, try new things, or take action. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of training and education being the cornerstone to career options and the success of one's future, how today's decisions affect your future, and the 4A's of stress management (Avoid, Alter, Adapt, and Accept) will be addressed.

Scholarships from The Pittsburgh Foundation

Presenter: Ms. Jennifer Marino, The Pittsburgh Foundation
Location: Liberty Room

The Pittsburgh Foundation has over 300 scholarship opportunities for students pursuing postsecondary education. This presentation will offer an overview of those opportunities as well as a look at the application process. You'll have all of the information needed to encourage your students to apply for the 2020-21 academic year and beyond.

Getting To and Through Higher Education in Allegheny County: Ensuring Equity and Support for Youth Transitioning into Postsecondary Education

Presenters: Ms. Tanya Baronti, The United Way of Greater Pittsburgh
Ms. Paige Strasbaugh, The United Way of Greater Pittsburgh
Location: Westinghouse Room

This session will describe the ways in which the United Way is working with partners to support youth as they explore and pursue higher education. The session will begin with a discussion of how the United Way currently supports higher education and career exploration, works with agency partners to support at-risk and nontraditional students, and engages corporate partners to support these endeavors. The session will then introduce efforts and activities that are planned for 2019-2020 and beyond, and attendees will be invited to discuss how their work relates to that of the United Way. The session will conclude with a roundtable discussion of how the United Way might support and encourage ongoing partnerships to promote student success throughout the region.

Students Helping Students

Presenters: Ms. Megan McCue, Indiana University of Pennsylvania;
Ms. Hillary Stitt, Indiana University of Pennsylvania;
Ms. Allison Baker, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Location: Birmingham Room

What happens when students help students? We have seen the impact peer mentoring has on our student mentors and the students they are mentoring. In this session, we will provide an overview of our approach to creating a peer mentoring program focused on students helping students navigate the academic, financial, and social components of the college experience. From program development to delivery, we will discuss how university-wide collaboration has been the key to the development of our peer mentoring program.

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Saleem Ghubril



Saleem Ghubril is the Executive Director of The Pittsburgh Promise and is a passionate advocate for children and for the City of Pittsburgh. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he has devoted his life to serving the people of his community through outreach and education programs.

In 1985, Saleem founded The Pittsburgh Project, a community development organization that provides free home renovations to hundreds of vulnerable seniors each year. It also mentors, educates, and deploys thousands of youth in meaningful volunteer community service. Saleem led The Pittsburgh Project until 2008, when he assumed the leadership of The Pittsburgh Promise.

The Pittsburgh Promise works for a future where: all urban youth are equipped to reach postsecondary success, all public schools serve all children excellently, Pittsburgh is flourishing in all its neighborhoods, and our workforce is widely diverse and highly skilled to advance a region that is good and just for all.

In the last 10 years, The Pittsburgh Promise has sent more than 9,300 urban youth to college and provided them with \$140 million in scholarships.

Saleem is the volunteer pastor of Mosaic Community Church in Pittsburgh. He also serves on the boards of The Buhl Foundation, Vibrant Pittsburgh, and the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.



Special thanks to our sponsors—Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC) and Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE) for providing refreshments to attendees so we can keep the program free to participants. We know the value of the program and appreciate everything you do for us.

Thank you to Robert Morris University—Ms. Stephanie Hendershot and Ms. Wendy Beckemeyer—for supporting all of the Roundtable efforts and always making your campus available through space and sponsorships. We could not have grown as much as we have in the last 8 years without your continued support. We really appreciate you!

Finally, thank you to all of the presenters who volunteered their time and expertise to make the CSF a valuable professional development opportunity. And to all of the attendees, thank you for continuing to attend and support our group's efforts to share ideas and ensure student success.

Until next year....
Ms. Wendy Dunlap
President, WPACSR

You're invited to join us at our future Western PA College Success Roundtable meetings:

- ⇒ Tuesday, March 10, 2020, @ Rosedale Technical Institute, Pittsburgh; 10 a.m.—noon
- ⇒ Tuesday, May 12, 2020, @ Citizens Hospital School of Nursing, Tarentum, PA; 10 a.m.—noon

Hope to see you there!