



## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual College Success Forum

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

UPMC Events Center

Robert Morris University

### AGENDA

<b>8-9 AM</b>	Registration/Networking Refreshments sponsored by Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE)
<b>9 AM</b>	General Welcome/Housekeeping in Hall 5 Wendy Dunlap, President, Western PA College Success Roundtable; PHEAA PACAC remarks: Justin J. Mohney, PACAC President; Carnegie Mellon University
<b>9:05 AM</b>	Opening Remarks Kevin Hearn, VP for Enrollment Management, Robert Morris University
<b>9:15 AM</b>	Keynote Speaker— Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE): Increasing Postsecondary Attainment by Creating a Culture of Belonging
<b>10 AM</b>	Breakout Session 1
<b>10:40 AM</b>	Break
<b>10:55 AM</b>	Breakout Session 2
<b>11:40 AM</b>	Breakout Session 3
<b>12:25 PM</b>	Closing Remarks and Colonial Cupboard Service Project

**10:00 AM Breakout Session 1 - Select 1 of the following options:**

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**Continuing the Discussion: College Attainment - Creating a Culture of Belonging**  
**Hall 2**

Presenters: Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, PDE  
Dr. Victoria Ballerini, Executive Assistant, PDE  
Dr. Kim McCurdy, Bureau Director for Postsecondary and Adult Education, PDE

Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion is not enough to ensure student success on our campuses. We will explore the PA Postsecondary Attainment Rate and how PA can get to 60% by 2025 if we acknowledge belonging as an integral part of Maslow's hierarchy. We hope to foster a robust discussion of ideas and innovative practices.

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**Enrollment Trends: What do the Numbers Really Say About the Expected Crash of 2025?**

**Hall 5**

Presenter: Michael White, Slippery Rock University

All eyes seem to be pointing to the imminent enrollment cliff scheduled to occur sometime between 2025 and 2026 because of the birth dearth created by the Great Recession of 2008-2009. But what do the projections actually show us? How bad will it be? What might we do now to prepare for it? During this session we will look at and discuss some of the numbers including projections posted by the likes of WICHE, NCES, and OTHOT.

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**Financial Literacy Education in High School: An On-going Research Study**

***This session has been rescheduled to our March 15<sup>th</sup> Roundtable meeting.***

Presenter: Jessica Zhao, Penn State Behrend

Based on a longitudinal research study, the presenter will provide updates and information detailing how financial literacy education can benefit high school students.

**10:00 AM Breakout Session 1 - Select 1 of the following options:**

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**Junior Achievement Engages Communities**

**Hall 3**

Presenter: Mark Reardon, Junior Achievement

A broad overview of what JA does for schools and young people as well as how secondary and post-secondary institutions can engage within their communities.

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**Understanding the Value of ACT WorkKeys and the NCRC for Students**

**Hall 4**

Presenter: Gregory Napierala

In this session, you will learn how the ACT® WorkKeys® assessments can unlock opportunities for students and set them up for success. The WorkKeys career readiness benchmarks can be used in career counseling to guide individuals who are exploring different college majors, CTE programs, or job training programs linked to different career pathways. Students can put WorkKeys score results on college applications or present them at job interviews.

**10:55 AM Breakout Session 2 - Select 1 of the following options:**

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## **Fostering Equitable Application Review Using Character Attributes**

### **Hall 2**

Presenter: Justin Mohney, Carnegie Mellon University

In recent years, there has been a growing discussion on the role of character related attributes in education. In college admissions, this discussion has grown out of concerns about the anxiety caused by standardized testing and fierce competition for admission to selective colleges, concerns about mental health, and student readiness for educational and professional environments. Join a conversation about how using character attributes like care for others, advocacy, perseverance, and self-direction can be incorporated into the application review process as a component of efforts to foster a more equitable framework. for reviews.

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## **Introducing Pennsylvania Western University**

### **Hall 5**

Presenters: Tracy Sheetz, California University of PA,  
Diane Raybuck, Edinboro University of PA,  
Carrie Thompson, Clarion University of PA  
Ben Brudnock, California University of PA

An overview of Pennsylvania Western University, the integration of California, Clarion, and Edinboro Universities. Discussion topics will include the academic program offerings, on-campus and online programs, application & admissions Q&A, and NCAA & Middle States updates.

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## **Providing Students with a Plan for Financial Security**

### **Hall 1**

Presenter: Gene Natali, Troutwood

An interactive investment education and financial planning session. The consequences of early financial decisions can be far-reaching, perhaps permanent. But not all decisions have negative consequences. Age is an opportunity powerful enough to transform the lives of a generation. Let's talk about how.

## 10:55 AM Breakout Session 2 - Select 1 of the following options:

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### **The Benefits of a HS Internship & How to Get One!**

#### **Hall 4**

Presenter: Emily Donato, Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania  
Lisa Abel-Palmieri, Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania

In this session participants will learn about why high school internships and afterschool work readiness programs are valuable and ways they can connect their students to them. Learn about Boys & Girls Clubs Career Works Programming for teens including our Career Works High, Artificial Intelligence Pathways Institute and more; in these programs students can earn free college credits, vo-tech credentials and get paid for their time. Youth also explore financial literacy, learn how to reduce risky behavior and more. We will share outcomes from the last two years of running these programs. Last, hear directly from youth who have participated in these programs and how internships & workplace mentors made a difference in their preparation & post-secondary goals. We will share best practices for engaging companies and how to successfully run a summer internship program and unveil our new program B-Unbound, in partnership with Big Picture Learning.

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### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - Promoting Filing the 22-23 FAFSA and Future Changes to the FAFSA**

#### **Hall 3**

Presenter: Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA  
Julie Fontana, PHEAA

Learn about free resources to promote FAFSA filing and successful strategies you can use to encourage FAFSA filing for 2022-23. We will also discuss the FAFSA Simplification Act, which passed on Dec. 27, 2020 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and what it means for future FAFSA filers. The FAFSA Simplification Act makes significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form and need analysis and may require changes in policies and procedures at post-secondary schools.

## **11:40 AM Breakout Session 3 - Select 1 of the following options:**

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### **Reaching Across the Desk—Best Practices for Admission and Secondary School Counselors**

#### **Hall 5**

Presenters: Caitlin Engel, Robert Morris University  
Danyelle Boyd, Chartiers Valley High School

What we wish we could tell you: Admissions reps and high school counselors discuss what they would like each other to know about their jobs. A panel of people from both sides of the desk discusses hot topics in admissions for the panelists and audience to discuss and bridge gaps in understanding. We will also come up with solutions to common communication issues.

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### **How America Pays for College - Families' College Experience in the Pandemic**

#### **Hall 4**

Presenter: Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae

This past year has been like no other. Join us for a discussion of findings of "How America Pays for College 2021" - Sallie Mae's national research study. We'll explore the effects of the pandemic on college choice, families' attitudes toward a college education, their decisions about how to cover college costs, and the role of online learning in the overall college experience.

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### **Student Support: Relationship Health and Safety Despite Covid-19**

#### **Hall 3**

Presenter: Cora Koller, Crisis Center North

Overview of individual interpersonal and family challenges and the impact on student health and well-being, academic persistence, career development. Challenges to be addressed include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) such as the intersections of childhood abuse/neglect/dependency and/or foster care placement, and increased vulnerability to dating violence and stalking, alcohol or drug abuse or dependency, and the impact of these challenges on student engagement, persistence, success, and career development. Strategies for supporting students and available community resources will be identified.

## 11:40 AM Breakout Session 3 - Select 1 of the following options:

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### **How to Create the Wheel of Inclusion: Multicultural Recruitment 101**

#### **Hall 2**

Presenters: Karla Romero, Slippery Rock University  
Jarrett Coleman Boxley, Clarion University

Admission Offices cater to many different populations, one specifically being multicultural students. This presentation will discuss how to cater to multicultural students and their needs from the admissions process to being supported as an enrolled student at a university. In addition, we will explore how admissions officers, school counselors, and many others can expand their roles to be more inclusive throughout the college search process.

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### **Project-Based AP Courses: Learn How AP Computer Science Principles and AP Seminar are Impacting Student Outcomes**

#### **Hall 1**

Presenter: Cassandra Allen, College Board

This session will share exciting new student outcomes about two project-based AP courses, AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) and AP Seminar. AP CSP is designed to attract a greater diversity of students to the field, focusing on creative problem solving and real-world applications to better prepare students for college and career. AP Seminar, the first course of the AP Capstone Diploma program provides students with fundamental critical thinking and collaboration skills required for success in AP subject exams and the inquiry and research skills required for undergraduate success. Recent research shows that students who take these courses have increased participation and improved performance on subsequent AP exams, have higher first year college GPAs (compared with non-AP students) and are more likely to declare a specific STEM major in college. CSP often provides the first AP STEM experience for Black, Hispanic, and first-generation students and the data confirms that these students are experiencing success.

## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tanya I. Garcia



Dr. Tanya I. Garcia is Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). In this role, she oversees long-range planning for higher education in Pennsylvania, the implementation of statutory and regulatory responsibilities governing postsecondary education, and educator certification. Before joining PDE, Dr. Garcia held various roles in state government, national nonprofits, and philanthropy where she dedicated her work to improving policies and practices for all students from high school to postsecondary to the workforce. A first-generation student, Dr. Garcia earned a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.S. in Biology at Florida International University. Her M.A. in Higher Education Administration is from The George Washington University. She earned a Ph.D. in Public Administration at American University.



Thank you 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 and in particular, Stephanie Hendershot and Kevin Hearn, for supporting the Roundtable efforts and for always making your campus available for this event. We really appreciate you!

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

~ **Wendy Dunlap, President, WPACSR**