

REMOVING BARRIERS FOR ADULT LEARNER REENGAGEMENT

October 17, 2024

UofL Shelby Campus, Founders Union, 440 N Whittington Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40222



TIME	SESSION
9:00-10:15 a.m.	<p>WELCOMING REMARKS AND ADULT LEARNER STATE OF KENTUCKY ADDRESS</p> <p>Dr. Aaron Thompson, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, will open the event by welcoming attendees and setting the tone for the day's sessions. He will share key data and discuss the state's initiatives to reengage Kentucky's adult learners in postsecondary education.</p> <p>ROOTING FOR THE UNDERDOG: WHY ADULT LEARNERS ARE THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Mike Krause, managing director of the John M. Belk Endowment and former executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, will deliver the morning keynote. Drawing on his extensive experience in Tennessee and North Carolina, he will explore emerging trends in adult education and highlight significant shifts in policy, practice, and funding that impact this vital demographic.</p>
10:15-10:45 a.m.	<p>CONNECTING FOR SUCCESS: NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK</p> <p>Start off the day's convening by getting to know your fellow attendees. Designed to maximize your networking potential in a relaxed, informal setting, enjoy a cup of coffee and extended break between the morning keynote and the first set of concurrent breakout sessions.</p>
10:45 a.m.-Noon	<p>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (NON-REPEATING)</p> <p>1 Supporting Parenting Student Enrollment</p> <p>Navigating higher education as a parenting student presents unique challenges, particularly when it comes to finding reliable childcare solutions. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the national landscape of childcare support tailored for student parents, while also spotlighting specific regional efforts and innovations such as the Childcare Solutions Network and the Parenting Student Voice Research. Through a combination of national perspectives and local examples, attendees will gain actionable knowledge that can be used to support parenting students in their educational journeys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Carrie Welton, Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy, The Institute for College Access and Success
	<p>2 Re-Enrolling Adult Learners with Administrative Holds and Past Due Balances</p> <p>When students with some college, no credential (SCNC) are unable to re-enroll at their former institutions, institutions lose out on potential enrollments and students lose out on continuing their education. A number of administrative and financial barriers stand in the way of re-enrollment, including transcript holds, registration holds, past due balances, and other related issues. To help address these barriers within Kentucky, CPE partnered with Ithaka S+R to identify a set of actionable recommendations related to re-engaging and supporting stopped out students within the state. During this session you'll gain an overview of opportunities related to new Department of Education transcript withholding regulation, learn key insights from the data collected by Ithaka S+R related to the opportunities and challenges that exist related to past due balances, administrative holds, and holistic supports for SCNC learners, and receive high-impact recommendations based on opportunities that already exist within the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Joanna Dressel, Senior Analyst on Educational Transformation Team, Ithaka S+RChristy McDaniel, Researcher on Educational Transformation Team, Ithaka S+R

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Johnson, Vice President of Student Affairs, Southeastern Kentucky Community and Technical College • Sara Wheeler, Associate Director, University of Louisville • Hanna White, Assistant Director of Adult Services, University of Louisville <hr/> <p>Empowering Justice-Impacted Students through Innovations and Partnerships for Success Reentering higher education can be a transformative pathway for justice-impacted individuals, offering opportunities for personal growth, career advancement, and reintegration into society. However, this journey is fraught with unique challenges that require tailored support and innovative solutions. This session will explore groundbreaking programs and successful partnerships that are making a difference in the lives of justice-impacted students.</p> <p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Wachendorfer, Program Manager, Vera Institute of Justice • Amber Skaggs, Director, Division of Education, Kentucky Department of Corrections • Maggie Price, Director of Student Success, Maysville Community and Technical College • Ben Harris, Director of Academic Operations, Simmons College of Kentucky <hr/> <p>Credit for Prior Learning: Best Practices for Recognizing the Experience of Adult Learners Returning adult learners often bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from their professional and life experiences, but translating this into academic credit can be a complex process. This session will explore a continuous improvement approach for institutions focused on enhancing the process of awarding credit for prior learning to returning adult learners and highlight the exceptional efforts being made at Kentucky's colleges and universities as well as address common challenges faced by returning students.</p> <p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallas Kratzer, Senior Fellow, Council on Postsecondary Education • Matt Bergman, Senior Fellow, Council on Postsecondary Education
<p>NOON-1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LUNCH AND WORKFORCE PLENARY SESSION Following a networking lunch, Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President of Workforce and Economic Partnerships at CPE, will moderate a workforce panel that focuses on collaborative partnerships and strategies helping current employees enhance their skills and advance their career trajectories.</p>
<p>1:45-3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (NON-REPEATING)</p> <hr/> <p>Supporting the Basic Needs of Adult Learners Meeting the basic needs of adult learners is crucial for their success in higher education, particularly when navigating complex challenges such as financial instability, food insecurity, and access to essential services. This session will delve into Kentucky's collaborative efforts with the Hope Center and other state programs and discuss how those programs impact and support adult learners in re-enrolling, persisting, and completing their education.</p> <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Huelsman, Director of Policy and Advocacy, The Hope Center at Temple University • Carol Adkins, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, Kentucky Primary Care Association • Barb Tipmore, Owensboro Community and Technical College

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	<p>Lessons Learned about the Onboarding Journey of Adult Learners</p> <p>Navigating the complexities of higher education can be especially challenging for adult learners, who often juggle multiple responsibilities alongside their academic pursuits. To better support these students, understanding and optimizing their journey through the onboarding process is crucial. This session will explore the student journey and process mapping project led by SOVA at Kentucky institutions and attendees will gain insights into practical and replicable recommendations designed to enhance the onboarding experience for adult learners on their own campuses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nicole McWhirter, Project Director, SOVA
	<p>Pathways to Postsecondary Education for Adult Learners</p> <p>Kentucky faces a significant challenge with approximately 1.4 million adults lacking a postsecondary degree or credential, including around 219,000 individuals with less than a high school diploma. Presented by KYSTATS and CPE, the session will offer a deep dive into the comprehensive data on this population and explore how it can drive effective decision-making for educational institutions and employers. Additionally, it will explore Kentucky's Adult Education initiatives focused on degree and credential completion and discuss its recent partnership with KYSSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Matt Berry, Executive Director, KY Center for StatisticsJohn Gregory, Executive Director, Kentucky Adult EducationChris Ledford, Director of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics, Council on Postsecondary Education
	<p>Recognizing Excellence: Indiana's Collegiate Purple Star Institutions Supporting Military-Affiliated Students</p> <p>Supporting military-affiliated students requires a comprehensive and dedicated approach, from application through graduation. This session will highlight Indiana's postsecondary institutions that have distinguished themselves through exceptional support for U.S. military-affiliated students. Learn about the Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana (CPSI) and its role in recognizing institutions that excel in creating supportive environments for military-affiliated students. The session will also explore the thirty-seven standards across eight categories that institutions must meet to earn the CPSI designation and contribute to overall student success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Steven St. John, Director for Adult Program Implementation, Indiana Commission for Higher Education
3:15-4:00 p.m.	<p>CLOSING PLENARY AND ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>Join us for the final session as we review the key takeaways from the conference and outline actionable next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lilly Massa-McKinley, Assistant Vice President of the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, Council on Postsecondary Education