



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON BLACK AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Northeast Region Spring 2016 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2016 NCBAA Northeast Region Spring Conference, **"Changing Faces of the American Community College."** This year was our largest conference. Our 146 conference participants were faculty, staff, administrators, graduate students and community college students hailing from Virginia to New Hampshire. Conference participants represented 36 different organizations in 9 states; 23 community colleges in the region were represented!

In addition to our full conference for community college professionals, we were excited to have 31 community college students attend as part of our one-day Community College Student Track. This one-day conference track offered presentations and discussions pertinent to the Community College Student experience. Students joined us from six colleges in the region; two students were graduating seniors attending the Academy of Health Sciences middle college on the campus of Prince George's Community College.

The students were extremely engaged in the sessions and spoke very highly of their experience at the conference. We look forward to making the student track a standard offering at the spring conference.

The spring conference is the premier event of the Northeast region and would not be possible without the support of the host college, sponsors, and the hard work of volunteers. First, a big thank you to this year's conference host, Essex County College. Dr. Gale Gibson, President of Essex County College, and the entire Essex team rolled out the proverbial red carpet for us!

The conference program would not be possible without the plenary and concurrent session presenters, roundtable facilitators, and panelists. A huge thank you goes out to all the conference presenters.

Last, but certainly not least, a tremendous thank you to Conference Planning Committee who spent many hours planning and preparing for this premier event. Led by Dr. Regan Hicks-Goldstein with special assistance from Mr. Jonelle Knox, the committee did an outstanding job planning an informative and engaging program. THANK YOU!

The 2016 NCBAA-NE Dissertation of the Year award, recognizing exemplary doctoral research that supports the mission of NCBAA, honored **Dr. Deborah Peoples**, graduate of the Morgan State University Community College Leadership Program.

Dr. Peoples' research, *Personal Connections and Career Reflections: Examining the Social Networks and Career Choices of African American Women Community College Leaders*, presents a compelling examination of the strengths and strategies African American women employ during the pursuit of leadership.

The Northeast Region board is actively promoting and recruiting participants for NCBAA's professional development programs, the **Dr. Carolyn G. Grubbs Williams Leadership Development Institute (LDI)** and the **Dr. Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership**. The programs will be held on **October 23-28, 2016**, in **St. Paul, MN**. Through these programs, we continue our commitment to ensuring African American professionals in our region are aware of, and have access to, these significant and transformative career development programs. Application materials for the LDI are available on the NCBAA national website (www.ncbaa-national.org). The Lakin materials are on the Presidents' Round Table website (www.theprt.org).

The Northeast Region is gearing up for our participation in this year's AACC 96th Annual Convention held in Chicago, IL on April 8-12. Members of the NE region board are contributing to the facilitation of the NCBAA Annual Meeting, the planning of the NCBAA Saturday Night Reception, and the Awards Breakfast.

Best Regards,

Rhonda

Rhonda Spells-Fentry, Ed.D. President, NCBAA Northeast Region



Dr. Gail Gibson, President of Essex County College Offers Greetings and Warm Welcome to Essex



It is my pleasure to welcome NCBAA-Northeast Region to Essex County College. The Essex County Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work to ensure that your experience at Essex and, the Conference is enjoyable and impactful. This conference will be one to remember, and my hope is that you enjoy the conference, our campus, and the City of Newark. Please let any of us know if we can be of additional assistance while you are visiting with us.

Concurrent Sessions

“Don't Get It Twisted: We Are More Than Capable if you Challenge Us”

Presenters: Dr. Monique Guishard, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Bronx Community College, NY

Prof. Justin Brown, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences, LaGuardia Community College, NY

Dr. Guishard expressed that at too many institutions, the master narrative with respect to student performance largely focuses on their inefficiencies. This presentation reflected on the importance of using critical race theories, and responsive androgenic in community colleges that largely serve minoritized students. Their work disrupts deficit-centered theories of under-performance and resists the erasure of non-white epistemology in the teaching of Social Psychology, Drugs, Society, and Behavior. Dr. Guishard discussed a cultural genogram and participatory survey project students complete in her Social Psychology class.

Prof. Justin Brown discussed a drugs education autobiography and editorial assignment his students



complete in which they evaluate their person, formal, and media education about psychoactive substances prior to and after enrollment in the class.

“Retention and Success 101: A Brief Look in to Current Practices for Student Retention and Success”

Presenter: Ms. Tamara Wilkerson, Doctoral Student, Morgan State University

Ms. Wilkerson discussed practices encouraging student success that are currently implemented at various community colleges, specifically to reach students of color and encourage degree completion. The Strategies included the Center for Male Engagement, First Year Experience and Subiendo el Nivel. Each program was explained and their respective success with implementation.



“Students Helping Students: How advising offices can use peer assistance to help students through the advising process”

Presenter: Ms. Candice Caldwell, Program Manager/ Adviser, Prince George's Community College, MD

Are you looking for a way to further engage and support your students? **Ms. Caldwell** discussed the value of peer assistance programs at institutions. Factors addressed included: time and financial costs, recruitment, training, supervision, and creative strategies to help peer assistants, and engage students in order to support retention efforts. Participants asked questions and shared their own success with peer assistance.



“Keeping the Promise”

Presenters: Ms. Barbara Martin, Director, CUNY COPE Program

Ms. DeDra Polite, Director, Single Stop USA Services, Bronx Community College, NY

Ms. Denise Comara, Project Coordinator, Bronx Community College, NY

This interactive presentation displayed specialized programs and services for changing faces in the community colleges. They presented three programs that service a special population of students that need the tools and support to meet their educational goals: Cope Program, Graduation Success Initiative, and Single Stop.



Lunch Keynote Speaker

"Innovative Approaches to Leading Successful Accreditation Process"

Presenter: Dr. Tonja L. Ringgold, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Baltimore City Community College MD

Dr. Ringgold provided a comprehensive discussion about innovative approaches to involving the entire college community in the accreditation process as well as how to develop sustainable practices for maintaining positive accreditation and business processes.



Concurrent Sessions

"From Here to There: A Proposed Success Model for First Generation Underrepresented Students"

Presenter: Dr. Faye M. Butler, Executive Administrator Enrollment, LaGuardia Community College, NY

This session presented a proposed student success model for first generation underrepresented students. The "H2T" or the "Here 2 There". Dr. Butler's model uses a rating system of 'presence or absence' of an activity and how the level of the activity influenced student success. She presented the model with a short survey to participants that they could keep. The survey was a 'quick' self-study of programming activity at their institutions. Participants had concrete evidence of methods that may be scalable to a high school pre-college program or activities in a first year experience. She stressed the importance of contributing to or continuing to support a Culture of Evidence and Inquiry at their institutions.



"Redefining Transfer Opportunities: Is California onto Something?"

Presenter: Ms. Theresa Hammonds, Student Success Coach, Bronx Community College, NY

In 2015, the state of California community college system signed articulation agreements with nine

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). According to CCCS Transfer Articulation Agreements' website specific information is offered to transferring community colleges students about transfer pathways to HBCUs, the decision was made based on the "excellent academic track records of HBCUs. The presenter discussed California's decision to create a framework for informing student about HBCUs and for using existing structures to develop transfer pathways for students who may be interested in these institutions.

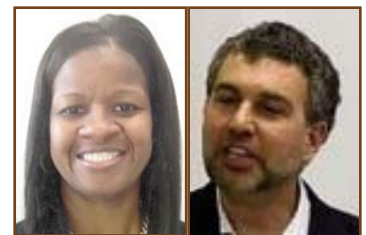


"College Media/Reading Practices: Critical Media Literacy Pedagogy to Improve Developmental Reading in Classroom Results"

Presenters: Dr. Tonya Johnson, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, NY

Dr. Edward Lehner, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, NY

This sessions examined youth media as a strategy that provides for unique learning opportunities that straddle the boundaries of reading skills and media engagement. It underscored the data



points, demonstrating the efficacy of critical youth media practices as an effective developmental reading pedagogy. Their presentation highlighted that critical youth media practice improves classroom motivations, lowers classroom turnover, and yields higher test scores compared to the classes taught without the such methods. The result calls for more innovative ways to deploy critical youth media practice in order to reach Latino/a and African Diasporic Communities enrolled in college developmental reading courses.



Roundtable #1 "An Exploration of Best Practices for Supporting English Language Learners and Low-income Students in Community College"

Presenters: Dr. Charles Edwards, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, NY
Dr. Kaemanje Thomas, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, NY



Drs. Edwards and Thomas discussed current models used to support English Language Learners and examined the "best practices" that appear to work. They addressed the practice of instruction that examines how faculty and instructors address culturally responsive teaching in their respective classrooms.

Roundtable #2 "An Active and Nurturing Community-Building Teaching Philosophy for Student Retention and Academic Success"

Presenter: Mr. Kelvin Cooper, Assistant Professor of Health, Bronx Community College, NY

The presentation focused on a nurturing and active community -building philosophy explored through health and fitness activities. Cooper thinks that when students are respected and connected, they will continue college matriculation and achieve academic success. Key tools



for creating this safe environment in the classroom were shared. The participants discussed the use of identified activities that encourage trust, engage participation and examine learning. These activities and teaching strategies help build student confidence and create collaborative opportunities to leverage one another's skills.

Round Table #3 "Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice: A Recipe for Successful Relationship between Black Practitioners and Black Students in Community Colleges"

Presenter: Dr. Alexis McLean, Lecturer/Counselor, Medgar Evans College, NY

The discussion was based upon findings from a study that examined the ways in which Black practitioners and students at community colleges define success, and the role of their relationships with each other, in achieving such success. Also examined was whether institutions provide students and practitioners with resources that promote the success of Black students. Participants were provided with strategies to sustain a student-centered culture that centralizes both academic and personal resources.



Round Table #4 "The Speed of Trust: ... A Balancing Act in the Workplace!"

Presenter: Dr. Judith Stang, Assistant Dean/Campus Director, Springfield College, Wilmington, DE Campus

Trust is the challenge that the workplace faces most today. We behave ourselves out of the trust and behave ourselves back into trust with others. What are the core values that we need to rebuild trust with others in the workplace? Dr. Stang's group discussed assessing one's behavior and looked at what is needed to develop behavior that will maintain trust and relationships. Participants also discussed the use of reflection as a tool to maintain trust with others. The participants had a robust discussion concerning TRUST!





The Twin Poets–Featured Entertainment

Identical twin brothers, **Nnamdi Chukwuocha** and **Al Mills**, the Twin Poets, were named the 17th poets laureate by Delaware Governor Markell. Their powerful spoken-word performances have won awards and landed them on national TV. The Twins, who are both social workers, are known for their rhythmically spoken poetry that details issues like gun violence, poverty, drugs and the criminal justice system. Their powerful spoken-word poetry has been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, "BET's Lyric Cafe", and NPR's Poetic License. More recently, they were the subject of a documentary called, "Why I Write," The title is a reference to one of their favorite poems, which describes that they write poetry to change the social ills plaguing the inner city.

Mills is a therapist and co-founder of tutoring and mentoring programs. Chukwuocha serves on Wilmington City Council and the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission.



Interactive Spotlight Session

"Maintaining Momentum-New Tools to Address New Challenges in Student Success"

Presenters: Dr. Michael Baston, Keynoter–Interactive Spotlight Session

The American Community College is changing. **Dr. Baston** thoughtfully presented a number of those changes and the need for new tools to address them. Words like "access" and "affordability" often suggest opportunities that do not fully address the real cost of higher education for low income students -costs which greatly exceed tuition. He acknowledged that traditional financial aid sources, such as Pell grants, student loans, state financial aid programs and scholarships are important. However, Dr. Baston stressed the need for a holistic student support infrastructure as critical for the persistence and completion of this growing segment attending America's colleges and universities. Many students who are used to life circumstances that are much different from being in college may be driven away from enrollment because it represents a painful and costly break from the status quo. The session addressed some of the student engagement challenges faced by today's community colleges and focused on the importance of creating a calibrated set of engagement activities, academic, financial and social, that can help students and the institutions that serve them maintain momentum.



Keynote Speaker

"Pathways to Postsecondary Educational the Role of Community Colleges in the Prison-to-School Pipeline"

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Terrell A. Blount, Keynoter **Terrell A.**



Blount is a motivational speaker, mentor, and activist for both prison reform and civil rights. His main topic of discussion was post-secondary education for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, race and class, police brutality, and his own experiences within the criminal justice system.

Upon completion of a 6 year prison sentence in 2009, Terrell enrolled in Rutgers University, graduating with a dual degree in Communication and Africana Studies in 2013. He is currently a Program Associate for Vera Institute of Justice's Second Chance Pilot Program and enrolled in the Master's in Public Administration at Rutgers-Newark Campus.

The Second Chance Pilot Program aims to support postsecondary education programs for people in prison by developing and strengthening college-corrections partnerships.

Federal Update: A Conversation with David Baime "Federal Policy and Community Colleges in a Presidential Election Year: What Can We Expect?"

Presenter: Mr. David Baime, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Research, AACC

Moderator: Dr. Charlene Dukes, President, Prince George's Community College, MD



Presidents' Panel: "Changing Faces of Community Colleges: the Presidents' Perspective"

Each president reflected upon the experiences and perspective of leading a community college during a time of The Changing Faces of American Community College.

The Presidents' Panel; Moderator – **Dr. Carolyn G. Williams**

- **Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith** – River Valley Community College, NH
- **Dr. Thomas Isekenegebe**, – Bronx Community College, NY
- **Dr. Quentin Bullock** – Community College of Allegheny County, PA
- **Dr. Scott Evenback** – Guttman Community College, NY



COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SESSION

**NCBAA-NE 2016
DISSERTATION OF THE YEAR AWARD
Recipient: Dr. Deborah Peoples**

Dr. Peoples is the recipient of the NCBCAA-Northeast Region's second Dissertation of the Year Award. Dr. Peoples is a member of the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program (CCLDP) at Morgan State University, MD.



Student Plenary Speaker

"Networking: Building Impactful Relationships"

Presenter: Mr. Ronald E. McKnight, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Bergen Community College, NJ

Ronald McKnight, explored proven techniques for college student on how to build lasting and powerful relationships that will assist them in their career goals. This interactive session covered appearance, motivation, conversation starters, the "30 Second Brand Commercial", exploring and recognizing business opportunities, and business etiquette.



Roundtable #1 "Personal Connections and Career Reflections: Examining the Social Networks and Career Choices of African American Women Community College Leaders"

Presenter: Dr. Deborah Peoples

Dr. Peoples presented a compelling examination of the strengths and strategies African American women employ during the pursuit of leadership.



Contrary to what is reported in the literature about the networking behaviors and characteristics of women and people of color, the experiences shared by the study participants demonstrates their

network creation strategies are effective and often result in the attainment of leadership positions. The study highlights that given the opportunity, they can be as successful as their male counter parts.

Roundtable #3 "Transfer Planning and Scholarships"

Presenter: Mr. Edwin Roman, Academic & Transfer Resources Coordinator, Bronx Community College, NY

The session focused on the need for community college students to begin transfer planning early to ensure that degree program and curriculum are congruent with their future career or educational plans. Scholarships are a vital part of transfer planning and should be addressed early. The session provided students with information on preparing for and researching scholarships and essay writing.



Roundtable #4 "It's All Greek to Me: Examining Social Capital Among Historically Black Greek Lettered Organization Members"

Presenter: Dr. Ted N. Ingram, Associate Professor, Bronx Community College, NY

The significance of Black Greek-lettered Organizations (BGOs) on college campuses is a concern. Nonetheless, membership provides student involvement and leadership skill development for African Americans in college and beyond. The presentation highlighted the need for and created the awareness of the "Divine 9". During the session the facilitators provide practical strategies and interacted with BGO representatives.



Concurrent Sessions

“Recognizing Stressors Affecting Urban Community College Students to Ensure Student Success”

Presenter: Mr. Gregory Cobb, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, NY

The workshop introduced participants to practical strategies designed to improve the capacity of students to manage the stress associated with the urban community college experience.

Cobb offered proactive approaches, to empower students in developing effective social and peer supports, self-awareness of social conditions and time managed study skills, within the context of the individual student experience, or in support of one another as members of a college community.



“Pathway to Leadership Purpose”

Presenter: Mr. Manny Lopez, Associate Director of Success & Leadership, Guttman Community College, NY

Indecision and conflict can stunt the motivation needed to identify and follow-through with aspirations. Averting

this dilemma is possible by becoming aware of one's “Leadership Purpose”. Knowing one's Leadership is the compass or GPS that can drive lucid decision-making. Participants gave thought to aligning their actions with their values and began to identify purposes for which to take leadership.



“Usage of Social Media: Building Your Person Brand”

Presenter: Ms. Kani Bassey, Director of Marketing & Digital Media, Montgomery College, MD

Ms. Bassey discussed the advantages and strategies for managing an online presence. Her presentation focused on managing and building a professional image with sites such as LinkedIn and Twitter, while networking in today's digital age. Attendees learned how to use social media to build their person brand, attract employers and the significance of becoming thought leaders in their respective fields.



Shaheen addresses student loan debt at RVCC Roundtable

By Cameron Paquette

CLAREMONT – **U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen** made an hour-long stop at River Valley Community College (RVCC) discuss legislation and potential solutions to the national issue of student loan debt with students, administrators and city officials. “Student debt is a huge issue,” said Shaheen, who said that student loan debt is second only to mortgage debt nationally, having surpassed credit card debt. According to **Julia Dower**, director of Financial Aid for RVCC, federal regulations require that institutions offer students applying for financial aid the full amount of loans available. Dower said that packaging the loan amount based on the individual's course load and anticipated graduation date could help keep debt in check.

“If we had the right to package only what a student needs in tuition and fees, it would help them up front borrowing just what they need,” said Dower. According to Dower, RVCC students took out an average loan of \$6,700 per year. “I tell students, for every \$10,000 a student borrows, they're paying back \$125 a month for 10 years and that's a standard repayment,” said Dower.

Superintendent **Cindy Gallagher** spoke about efforts to foster programs at the high school level that allow students to earn college credits toward community colleges and four-year college institutions. Students can get first-year college credits through articulation agreements. “Students can go through engineering and start getting college credits in ninth grade through our tech centers. We have students walk out with their first

semester [of college] done,” said Gallagher. “We've got some great relationships that give people jump starts.”

Shaheen and **U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)** have co-sponsored the Student Protection and Success Act, which “seeks to improve the U.S. Department of Education's data surrounding the repayment of federal student loans and help ensure that borrowers are getting good jobs that set them up for success after college.” I don't think the federal government should be making the money it is off student loans.” In addition, institutions that enroll and graduate a significant number of low- and moderate-income students would receive a Pell bonus that will be funded through revenue gained from the risk-sharing provision and allocated based on the number of Pell grant students enrolled in the institution. “It encourages colleges to do a better job of looking at what students are paying in terms of student loans,” said Shaheen.



U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (left) sits alongside River Valley Community College President Alicia Harvey-Smith during a roundtable discussion on student loan debt. — D.F. DASCENZO

WE WERE THERE!



NETWORKING



ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND HONORS

BMCC Welcomes New Academic Leader

Christopher Shults, BMCC's new Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning at Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York.

Christopher Shults will oversee and develop an institutional effectiveness system aimed at refining programs and services, as BMCC's Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning. Shults has served as Executive Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Suffolk County Community College. He earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education at the University of Michigan.



Guttman CC Opens New Student Food Pantry

The College celebrated the opening of the new Student Food Pantry in partnership with the Single Stop office and the Food Bank for New York City. **Charles H. Pryor, II**, Dean of Student Engagement, stressed the importance of having a food pantry on campus to alleviate food insecurity among students. **Scott E. Evenbeck**, President, and **Joan M. Lucariello**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, emphasized how the food pantry is another example of the College's commitment to students. The event honored **Nicola Blake**, Assistant Professor, English, **Nicole Saint-Louis**, Assistant Professor, Human Services, and **Carolee Ramsay**, Associate Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards for their commitment and creative vision to establish a resource for students with food insecurities. First-year students **Suzanne Herrera** and **Nicole Gutierrez** also shared their beneficial experiences working with the Single Stop office to seek nutritional support and other assistance.



(L to R): Scott E. Evenbeck; first-year students Suzanne Herrera and Nicole Gutierrez; and Joan M. Lucariello.

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