AAC&U

FULL PROGRAM

June 2-5, 2025

icue

INSTITUTE ON CONNECTING THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE



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Overview

The Institute on Connecting the Undergraduate Experience (iCUE) is designed for any institution, system, or consortium engaged in transforming the undergraduate experience by breaking down silos and "connecting the dots" among general education, pedagogy, and assessment; career preparation; ePortfolios; and high-impact practices. Attendees can be at any stage in the change process. Teams should include a diverse set of colleagues to form a cross-silo team, including a senior leader with administrative and/or budgetary authority to ensure appropriate institutional support of the work.

Designed to enhance and improve undergraduate education, the AAC&U Institute on Connecting the Undergraduate Experience, or iCUE, is focused on identifying and capitalizing on points of connection among strategic goals, programmatic outcomes, and discrete learning experiences. The institute's customizable curriculum allows participants to develop, broaden, or advance campus change initiatives by concentrating, singly or in combination, on a range of topics, including career preparation, general education, high-impact practices, and ePortfolios. The emphasis throughout is on collaboration across departments and divisions, alignment of goals and resources, and integration at conceptual and strategic levels. During this intensive multiple-day engagement—away from day-to-day distractions and as a part of cross-silo campus teams—participants gain perspective, engage with experts and faculty mentors, and think expansively.

iCUE itself represents and embodies the generative possibility of cross-silo connection by integrating four previously offered AAC&U institutes—the Curriculum-to-Careers Institute; the Institute on ePortfolios; the Institute on High-Impact Practices; and the Institute on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment—into a single, comprehensive program guided by national experts in all these areas.

Curricular Structure

The iCUE program helps teams advance their work through three forms of engagement: (a) connection sessions, (b) concurrent sessions, and (c) team time/mentor consultations.

- There are four **connection sessions** threaded throughout the institute. Connection sessions are designed to integrate "core" topics related to institutional transformation across concentration areas. The purpose of connection sessions is to encourage teams to "connect the dots" among general education, pedagogy, and assessment; career preparation; ePortfolios; and high-impact practices. Connection sessions will help teams develop integrative

strategies for aligning resources and goals. They are also spaces for participants to gather as one community, as all are expected to participate in the connection sessions.

- **Concurrent sessions** are led by national experts, who also serve as institute mentors. These interactive sessions engage participants in activities and discussions focused on transforming the undergraduate experience around the four concentrations of the institute program.
- Throughout iCUE, there are dedicated blocks of **team time** and/or **consulting time** with institute mentors. This enables teams to come together, synthesize what they are learning, share insights, and advance their goals. Consultations with institute mentors provide just-in-time feedback on emerging ideas, strategic directions, and troubleshooting.

Final Project – The Action Plan

Action plans are the culminating product of a team's work during iCUE. The action plan template is designed to guide teams toward developing actionable next steps to ensure the successful progression and sustainability of each team's change initiative beyond the institute. All teams present their action plans at the conclusion of the institute to receive feedback from other campus teams and institute mentors. The action plan typically includes initial and continuing activities for the team, including implementation and advancement steps for enacting the plan, identification of key individuals to engage in the change process, and a realistic timeline for accomplishing goals.

Each team will present their action plan for peer and mentor feedback on **Thursday, June 5th, from 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ET**. Presentations should be brief, allowing time for critical conversations (10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for questions). You may involve all or multiple team members in the presentation. To save time, we encourage presentations without PowerPoint or including only a single slide.

Completed Action Plans are due **Friday, June 6th. Please submit your final action plan via email to icue@aacu.org. Please follow the naming convention of "[Institution Name] Action Plan" for the file.**

Institute Platform and Tech Support

To access our platform, follow these steps:

1. Make sure you have your AAC&U username and password readily available. Your username should be your institutional email address.
2. Visit the 2025 iCUE Hub: https://www.aacu.org/institutes/2025-icue-hub

3. Click the “log in” link in the paragraph below the banner.



(Note: If you are already signed in to your AAC&U account, you will be redirected automatically to the iCUE Hub’s Welcome page rather than being prompted to log in.)

We encourage you to bookmark our 2025 iCUE Hub’s hyperlink for future use. You will retain access to the session recordings and resources even after the Institute has ended.

https://www.aacu.org/institutes/2025-icue-hub

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to Jessie Cheng (jcheng@aacu.org *and* icue@aacu.org) with questions as you access our platform.

Program Partners

Thank you to our valued partners!

DIGICATION

https://www.digication.com/

CAREER LAUNCH™
– A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE –

https://www.careerlaunch.academy/homepage

Schedule at a Glance

Monday, June 2, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET	Welcome and Opening Plenary • Lynn Pasquerella, President, *AAC&U* • Kate Drezek McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Executive Director of VALUE, *AAC&U* • Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, *AAC&U* • Jessica Chittum, Assistant Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Director of VALUE Operations, *AAC&U*
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET	Combined Team Advising With Mentors
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET	30-Minute, Individual Team Advising Sessions With Mentors • Please coordinate your Individual Team Advising with your mentor during your Combined Team Advising block.
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET	**Connection Session #1:** Beyond Buy-in: Getting to Shared Vision and Values • Kate Drezek McConnell (moderator) • Christine Cruzvergara, Chief Education Strategy Officer, *Handshake* • Paul Hanstedt, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, *University of Minnesota Rochester* • Tracy Penny Light, Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost, *Capilano University* Action Plan Orientation
4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET	Team Time/Consulting

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET	**Connection Session #2:** Reframing and Advancing Student Success • Ashley Finley (moderator)

	• Jhenai Chandler, Vice President of Research and Policy, *NASPA* • Jillian Kinzie, Associate Director of Center for Postsecondary Research and the National Survey of Student Engagement Institute, *Indiana University School of Education* • Natasha Jankowski, Director of Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET	**Concurrent Sessions Block #1** Leading Change and Creating Buy-In • Christine Cruzvergara Formalizing the Intersection of Learning, High-Impact Practices, and Career Development Through Digital Learning Records • Ashley Finley • Mike Simmons Integration and Intentionality in Menu-Driven General Education Programs • David Hubert ePortfolios 101: Fostering Integrative Learning and Authentic Assessment • Jessica Chittum Strategic Planning for Student Success: Building Evidence-Based Action Plans • Traci Williams VALUE 101: An Introduction to AAC&U's Signature Approach to Assessment • Kate McConnell
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. ET	Team Time/Consulting
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. ET	**Concurrent Sessions Block #2** Navigating Uncertain Times: NACE Research Insights Into the Career Development and Employment of New College Grads • Mary Gatta

	Building Strategic Administrative Partnerships for Curricular Change and Academic Innovation • Mike Simmons Busting Silos: Taking a Systems Approach to Program Implementation • Samantha Streamer Veneruso Leveraging the Use of Learning ePortfolios to Support Student Learning During the First Year of College • Pablo Avila Transforming the Undergraduate Experience Through Reflective Inquiry Using Open AI Resources • Jeff Yan, Co-Founder and CEO, *Digication* • Eddie Watson Beyond Bean-Counting and Compliance: Authentic Assessment and Evaluation Strategies that Drive Meaningful Campus Reform • Kate Drezek McConnell
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET	Team Time/Consulting

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET	**Connection Session #3:** Cultivating Care in Campus Change: Individual and Systemic Approaches • Ashley Finley (moderator) • Timothy Eatman, Inaugural Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community, *Rutgers University-Newark* • Chris Navia, Acting Vice President of Belonging and Student Affairs, *Marquette University* • Kevin McClure, Murphy Distinguished Scholar of Education, *University of North Carolina Wilmington*
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET	**Concurrent Sessions Block #3** Faculty Development: Creating a Sense of Belonging in HIPs • Chris Navia General Education Reform on a Budget • Amy Johnson

	Utilizing Data for Effective Storytelling • Bethany Miller Sustaining HIPs at an Institutional Scale • David Hubert Embedding Education-to-Career Guidance into the Core Curriculum and Student Experience • Elizabeth Sturgeon, Interim Assistant Provost, Professor of English, Director of Assessment + ALO, *Mount St. Mary's University* • Jose Manzo, EOPS Faculty and Counselor, *Canada Community College* • Audra Verrier, Vice President of University Partnerships, *Career Launch* • Sean O'Keefe, Founder, *Career Launch* Leveraging AI with VALUE to Improve Assessment Practices and Outcomes: A Hands-On Workshop • Eddie Watson
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. ET	Team Time/Consulting
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. ET	**Concurrent Sessions Block #4** Careers in the Curriculum – Findings from a National Research Study • Mary Gatta • Ashley Finley Protecting Vulnerable Students, Faculty, and Staff in Reform • Amy Johnson Getting to Healthy Conflict in Student Success Focused Reform Projects • Samantha Streamer Veneruso Leveraging the Use of Showcase ePortfolios to Support Student Learning and Career Readiness • Pablo Avila Impacting Student Learning With HIPs • Traci Williams

	• Bethany Miller Tips and Tricks for Using AAC&U's VALUE Rubrics: An Introduction to "Hacking" the Rubrics to Meet Your Needs • Jessica Chittum
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET	Team Time/Consulting

Thursday, June 5, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET	Final Action Plan Preparation (Team Time)
1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. ET	Action Plan Presentations
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET	**Connection Session #4:** Where We Are Now: AAC&U Institute "Alum" Perspectives • Jessica Chittum (moderator) • Alison Chapman, Professor, *University of Alabama at Birmingham* • Abby Ruby Crew, Associate Dean of Academic Planning, Assessment and Improvement, *Colorado Mountain College* • Cheri Etling-Paulsen, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning, *University of Tampa* • Heather Lettner-Rust, Director of Civitae Core Curriculum, *Longwood University* • Christopher Minnix, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Blazer Core Curriculum, *University of Alabama Birmingham*

Program of Events With Session Abstracts and Zoom Links

**Note that only connection sessions and concurrent sessions are viewable here. Team time, action plan presentations, etc., are not included in this list.*

Monday, June 2nd

11:00 – 12:00 PM ET

Welcome and Opening Plenary

- Lynn Pasquerella, President, AAC&U
- Kate Drezek McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Executive Director of VALUE, AAC&U
- Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, AAC&U
- Jessica Chittum, Assistant Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Director of VALUE Operations, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/97477694450?pwd=yD6XiVbcyGLXaaGeU4iVnUysqx1Whb.1

Session password: 969398

3:30 – 4:30 PM ET

Connection Session #1: Beyond Buy-in: Getting to Shared Vision and Values

- Kate Drezek McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Executive Director of VALUE, AAC&U (moderator)
- Christine Cruzvergara, Chief Education Strategy Officer, Handshake
- Paul Hanstedt, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, University of Minnesota Rochester
- Tracy Penny Light, Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost, Capilano University

Session link: https://aacu.zoom.us/j/93471125573

This Connection Session brings together campus and organization leaders to explore transformative approaches for cultivating authentic faculty and educator participation in

institutional change. Moving beyond perfunctory “buy-in” strategies, panelists will share proven methods for developing genuine collective ownership of new initiatives at colleges and universities.

Tuesday, June 3rd

11:00 – 12:00 PM ET

Connection Session #2: Reframing and Advancing Student Success

- Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, AAC&U (moderator)
- Jhenai Chandler, Vice President of Research and Policy, NASPA
- Jillian Kinzie, Associate Director of Center for Postsecondary Research and the National Survey of Student Engagement Institute, Indiana University School of Education
- Natasha Jankowski, Director of Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Session link: https://aacu.zoom.us/j/95298361024

This Connections Session explores the ways in which commitments to student success must necessarily be integrative and collaborative. But what does that mean, and just as important, what does it look like? While graduation rates, retention, and time-to-degree provide valuable data points, this panel examines how these conventional measures offer an incomplete picture of portraying the nuanced ways that institutions create opportunities for success for every student. We need expanded frameworks for understanding, operationalizing, and ultimately communicating student success. The session will explore holistic frameworks that account for students’ multifaceted identities and varied educational journeys.

Concurrent Sessions Block #1

12:15 – 1:30 PM ET

Leading Change and Creating Buy-In

- Christine Cruzvergara, Chief Education Strategy Officer, Handshake

Session link:

https://aacu.zoom.us/j/98007787908?pwd=Db27L0QIvnxuwqrgaHalKiqDCM0dsT.1

Session password: 296621

Good ideas don't matter if you can't convince those around you to follow. Your success and your students' success rely on your ability to effectively lead change. Learn five principles for creating the necessary buy-in across your campus or organization. Using behavioral psychology as a foundation, you will leave with memorable stories and concrete techniques to use with your team, your colleagues, and even your children!

Formalizing the Intersection of Learning, High-Impact Practices, and Career Development Through Digital Learning Records

- Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, AAC&U
- Mike Simmons, Associate Executive Director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, AACRAO

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/94106501447?pwd=nkd3tWagO5kpbjgJ13QImx2rgWPCtK.1

Session password: 159650

"The transcript is a record of everything a student has forgotten." This quote, from Tom Black, a nationally recognized leader in developing alternative credentials, strikes at the heart of the innovation conundrum when it comes to institutional commitments to advancing workforce preparation. Even as campuses alter curricula to support students' career success, how can we better align those achievements—both in the design of curricula by faculty and students' achievement of experiences and outcomes—to be outward, rather than inward, facing? More specifically, how do we move from a summative list of baffling course codes to meaningful digital and evidence-based visualizations that are better utilized by students and more easily understood by audiences outside of academia? This session, co-facilitated by AAC&U and AACRAO, will share insights on the development of Digital Learning Records as an emerging alternative to actualizing the integration of students' learning, engagement, and skill achievement.

Integration and Intentionality in Menu-Driven General Education Programs

- David Hubert, Associate Provost for Learning Advancement, Salt Lake Community College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/97603489403?pwd=WCTmeeeCj2GzwYBFojvOlTRsRaBkxU.1

Session password: 894393

What can you do when your system or your legislature mandates a menu-driven, cafeteria-style General Education? What steps can you take to make it a more connected, meaningful experience for students? This session will explore reforms that can promote integration and intentionality while fighting the good fight against fragmentation in menu-driven General Education programs. It will share several practical ideas and stimulate conversation among participants.

ePortfolios 101: Fostering Integrative Learning and Authentic Assessment in Higher Education

- Jessica Chittum, Assistant Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Director of Value Operations, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/92992196504?pwd=xip3nDkLmZq1PWwspEGop0fSvALa1h.1

Session password: 746713

This session introduces participants to the fundamentals of ePortfolios—the 11th high-impact practice—as powerful tools for documenting, reflecting on, and showcasing student learning in higher education. Unlike analogue or digital file storage systems or archives of student work, ePortfolios offer a structured, intentional approach to curating academic and professional work with distinct advantages over traditional paper portfolios. Participants will explore how ePortfolios support integrative learning, student autonomy, identity development, and career preparation through their capacity for multimedia integration, embedded reflection, and thoughtful curation. The session highlights practical examples of ePortfolio implementation across various disciplines and for diverse purposes, including professional and showcase portfolios, learning portfolios, and assessment portfolios. Discover several ePortfolio best practices and explore additional resources for further study. This interactive workshop provides a foundation for institutions seeking to enhance learning assessment, promote integrative learning and student reflection, and support professional development through ePortfolio pedagogy.

Strategic Planning for Student Success: Building Evidence-Based Action Plans

- Traci Williams, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning, Chattanooga State Community College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/92278882545?pwd=bYmuIaA9SaPngD6uDsO7hTG79PCNju.1

Session password: 161137

Transformative initiatives demand more than good ideas — they require disciplined planning grounded in institutional evidence. This session will walk participants through a practical, systematic model for strategic planning in the context of curricular and co-curricular reform. Emphasis will be placed on setting measurable objectives, defining inclusive student success indicators, and aligning initiatives with institutional missions, strategic plans, and accreditation expectations.

VALUE 101: An Introduction to AAC&U's Signature Approach to Assessment

- Kate McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Executive Director of VALUE, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/96689744949?pwd=ttAhj221umyDDS6aapVGwcitVK4yaB.1

Session password: 974356

This session will provide a "grand tour" of AAC&U's VALUE (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) System for authentic assessment. Beginning with the VALUE rubrics—long-standing, educator-facing Open Educational Resources (OERs)—participants will leave with a foundational understanding of the tools, resources, and services available to help institutions with local teaching, learning, and assessment efforts. The VALUE approach to assessment can be modified to meet campus needs for course, programmatic, and institutional assessment efforts, while connecting to broader national conversations about learning.

Concurrent Sessions Block #2

3:00 – 4:15 PM ET

Navigating Uncertain Times: NACE Research Insights Into the Career Development and Employment of New College Grads

- Mary Gatta, Director of Research and Public Policy, NACE

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/96707383427?pwd=8d7p7BHvCuj4fxyZwba63wwCJFZjsm.1

Session password: 815755

Changes in our labor market and higher education policies are rapidly unfolding as students and recent college graduates navigate their career pathways. Our ability to serve students and early career talent, especially in these times, needs to be grounded in empirical evidence. Dr. Mary Gatta, Director of Research and Policy at NACE, will share the latest NACE research on the state of the job market for college graduates, skills-based hiring, experiential learning in and out of the classroom, internships, and student experiences, to help ground our programs and recruiting strategies.

Building Strategic Administrative Partnerships for Curricular Change and Academic Innovation

- Mike Simmons, Associate Executive Director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, AACRAO

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/94933762620?pwd=Xa1wXnKQwiDbRZJzvYjed7kWrT39M2.1

Session password: 088628

This session emphasizes the necessity of moving beyond a solely faculty-driven approach to curricular change in higher education. It underscores the importance of building strategic partnerships between faculty and administrative stakeholders, particularly the registrar, to achieve meaningful and sustainable curricular innovation. The presentation will provide participants with strategies to identify key stakeholders, understand their perspectives, foster collaboration, and develop actionable plans for strengthening campus partnerships to support curricular change and academic innovation.

Busting Silos: Taking a Systems Approach to Program Implementation

- Samantha Streamer Veneruso, Associate Director of Conference Strategy and Innovation, Association for Talent Development

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/98326734631?pwd=6sb5LaUDlcvOZEobt8Cb51rT9BYNxu.1

Session password: 176683

You spent months, maybe even years, digging into the pedagogy, epistemology, praxis, organizational values, internal and external requirements, collecting stakeholder input, and other factors that influence the design of your program. Now you are getting pushback from faculty about how much work the new program is. In this session, we will consider general existing organizational processes such as curriculum, assessment, program review, scheduling, and department-level processes that might impact successful implementation. Using a systems mapping perspective, we will develop strategies to help reduce the change fatigue and resistance, as well as increase the efficiency and practicality of systems related to your program.

Leveraging the Use of Learning ePortfolios to Support Student Learning During the First Year of College

- Pablo Avila, Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, LaGuardia Community College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/99488416380?pwd=JEugyhlFxE37GzQaqvweGh4aHb0KUu.1

Session password: 287905

This session will focus on two High-Impact Practices: First Year Seminars and ePortfolios. We will discuss how learning ePortfolios can be used to introduce students to their career of choice, their field of interest, and as a catalyst to understand their career choices. We will also discuss ways in which learning ePortfolios can help students build connections among ideas, courses, and experiences. We will also discuss, reflecting on LaGuardia's FYS work, how ePortfolios are integrated as a key element of the student experience during the first year.

Partner Session: Transforming the Undergraduate Experience Through Reflective Inquiry Using Open AI Resources

- Jeff Yan, Co-Founder and CEO, Digication
- Eddie Watson, Vice President of Digital Innovation, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/95332319858?pwd=Gfrp4VF5LL6vgWa2H9ISJvxYBV1sOY.1

Session password: 289843

As institutions engage in meaningful curriculum reform, AI offers powerful tools to support these efforts by assisting institutions in their own reflective inquiry and planning,

strengthening high-impact educational practices, and helping prepare students for future careers.

Jeffrey Yan, Co-Founder and CEO of Digication, and Eddie Watson, Vice President of Digital Innovation at AAC&U, team up to demonstrate how OAIR, Digication's newly launched Open AI Resources platform (oair.org), empowers educators through pedagogically grounded AI tools that support reflective inquiry and evidence-based approaches.

This session will (a) showcase how the OAIR platform supports curriculum reform by enhancing high-impact practices with AI-powered reflective inquiry tools; (b) demonstrate methods for integrating and assessing reflective learning across courses and programs; (c) introduce the research project TORI (Taxonomy of Reflective Inquiry) that establishes a pedagogical foundation for meaningful reflection; (d) provide access to free, vetted AI resources that help faculty design curriculum experiences that prompt deeper student engagement and metacognition; and (e) connect participants with a community of educators using AI to reform undergraduate education curricula through enhanced reflective practice.

Whether you're redesigning general education programs or seeking to strengthen high-impact practices within existing curricula, this webinar offers practical strategies for implementing meaningful reflection through AI-enhanced tools.

Beyond Bean-Counting and Compliance: Authentic Assessment and Evaluation Strategies that Drive Meaningful Campus Reform

- Kate Drezek McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Executive Director of VALUE, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/98205716490?pwd=Y1cG0SXKpM3JrBWGa0Fgyi8aViO1Fb.1

Session password: 074247

Campus reform initiatives often fail not from lack of vision, but from inadequate assessment and evaluation plans that prioritize accountability over authentic improvement. This interactive workshop guides participants through designing and executing assessment and evaluation strategies that generate actionable insights for sustainable institutional change.

Drawing from successful reform efforts across diverse institutional contexts, participants will learn to move beyond surface-level metrics toward assessment and evaluation approaches that capture the complexity of educational transformation. The session

emphasizes techniques that simultaneously improve teaching and learning while providing robust evidence of reform impact.

Wednesday, June 4th

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

Connection Session #3: Cultivating Care in Campus Change: Individual and Systemic Approaches

- Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, AAC&U (moderator)
- Timothy Eatman, Inaugural Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community, Rutgers University-Newark
- Chris Navia, Acting Vice President of Belonging and Student Affairs, Marquette University
- Kevin McClure, Murphy Distinguished Scholar of Education, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Session link: https://aacu.zoom.us/j/99009043340

This Connection Session addresses the human-centered and relational dimensions of institutional transformation. The panel explores how a thoughtful approach to care—both personal and institutional—can transform challenging dynamics into opportunities for community building and sustainable change. Panelists will share their experiences on integrating care as a core value throughout change. They will share practical strategies for self-care and empathetic leadership that help change agents maintain resilience amidst challenging transitions.

Concurrent Sessions Block #3

12:15 – 1:30 PM ET

Faculty Development: Creating a Sense of Belonging in HIPs

- Chris Navia, Acting Vice President of Belonging and Student Affairs, Marquette University

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/94680108054?pwd=zgb0tKAA91SWkSY1OeyhvThqtsd4jY.1

Session password: 746301

While often cited for their positive impact on learning, high-impact practices are also effective vehicles for creating a strong sense of belonging among the students who participate in them. This workshop will explore ways to design and implement HIPs in the classroom that promote learning environments that foster a sense of positive identification in relation to the college community. The workshop will open with an exploration of the notion of belonging, why it is important to students' intellectual, social, and emotional development, and how it differs from the notion of inclusion. The workshop will then take a deeper dive into the ways high-impact practices may be more intentionally designed with the notion of belonging in mind, as well as ways to assess or measure the benefits of participation in a high-impact practice on a student's overall sense of belonging.

General Education Reform on a Budget

- Amy Johnson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Success, Old Dominion University

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/92585557139?pwd=KjsWTR9syiRpsHtv8SBSTZBx07p3a1.1

Session password: 000081

General education reform can be costly, but it does not have to be. In this concurrent session, we will discuss how to identify existing opportunities, budgets, and staff to make impactful changes with limited financial resources.

Utilizing Data for Effective Storytelling

- Bethany Miller, Associate Provost and Chief Data Officer, Macalester College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/94381710836?pwd=CbIm3f2f5Sp1adytNH8P9gyprV7pzK1.1

Session password: 065204

Data is not just for collection and visualizing; data can be a powerful tool in effective storytelling. As institution leaders work to more clearly and effectively tell the stories of their organization to a much wider and more skeptical audience, it is imperative to use data as a cornerstone of effective storytelling. This session will focus on the foundations of using data as a key component of effective storytelling, while urging campus leaders to pause, reflect, evaluate, and innovate in their use of data for effective storytelling.

Participants will actively engage in discussions and activities as well as have the opportunity to practice storytelling with data.

Sustaining HIPs at an Institutional Scale

- David Hubert, Associate Provost for Learning and Advancement, Salt Lake Community College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/99561473219?pwd=kWtBh2kRaIaTFSwan4ZsuuWsKgoSIH.1

Session password: 174361

This session will assist institutions in building a "HIPs Sustainability Hexagon," a platform of six essential touchstones that will help participants sustain high-impact practices through personnel changes and other disruptions. Based on years of faculty and administrative experience, the touchstones discussed here will provide a powerful heuristic to mobilize faculty and help supportive academic administrators build and sustain a HIPs initiative. Participants will be encouraged to share how their own efforts might already fit parts of the hexagon.

Partner Session: Embedding Education-to-Career Guidance into the Core Curriculum and Student Experience

- Elizabeth M. Sturgeon, Interim Assistant Provost, Professor of English, Director of Assessment and ALO, Mount St. Mary's University
- Jose Manos, EOPS Faculty and Counselor, Cañada Community College
- Krysta Foster, Associate Director, Career Services Lyman Briggs College, Michigan State University
- Melissa Leavitt, Vice President, Post Secondary Strada Education Foundation
- Audra Verrier, Vice President of University Partnerships, Career Launch and Former Associate Vice Provost for Career Development, Loyola Marymount University
- Sean O'Keefe, Founder, Career Launch and Faculty, Santa Clara University

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/99316641697?pwd=nqQhwgZotNxzZBY8qoP7lkIbxst558.1

Session password: 819548

Learn how colleges are utilizing research and principles from Strada Education Foundation's education-to-career quality coaching guidance and research from the

National Association of Colleges and Employers on career readiness competencies to create transformative learning outcomes in core courses. Experts share a variety of perspectives on the development of curricula that address professional development, career readiness, and social capital in the classroom alongside activating alumni networks through student engagement. Hear from colleagues from the Provost Office at Mount St. Mary's University on their plan for integrating career readiness into the first-year experience core courses this fall 2025 to ensure all students gain successful post-graduation employment.

Leveraging AI With VALUE to Improve Assessment Practices and Outcomes: A Hands-On Workshop

- Eddie Watson, Vice President of Digital Innovation, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/92369951175?pwd=Phk6IPaI75NC5B6GJja4fG2CNYXakJ.1

Session password: 324650

Designed for those who are interested in employing AI within the context of their curriculum, courses, and assessment practices, this hands-on workshop will begin by providing participants with a guided exploration of the current generative AI landscape. The world of generative AI is not monolithic, as there are a variety of systems, and each has different strengths and weaknesses. After exploring this context, the workshop will shift to applications of AI within teaching and learning settings with a specific focus on how AI can be used to improve assessment practices and outcomes. All frontier models, such as Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini, contain the AAC&U VALUE Rubrics. As a result, AI tools can be used to leverage VALUE in service to assignment design and assessment practices, and participants will be provided with ideas and prompts to try within the context of their own work. This will be a hands-on session, and participants are encouraged to bring assignments and other elements of their assessment processes to reconsider with the assistance of AI.

Concurrent Sessions Block #4

3:00 – 4:15 PM ET

Careers in the Curriculum – Findings From a National Research Study

- Mary Gatta, Director of Research and Public Policy, NACE

- Ashley Finley, Vice President for Research and Senior Advisor to the President, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/98597629213?pwd=5dsIWmMycxWR88fU0pkKeXrtEJiF89.1

Session password: 507201

This session will share findings from two national research studies (conducted by NACE, AAC&U, and SEE) of faculty focusing on integrating careers into the curriculum. This session will share new research focusing on the ways faculty support career readiness and how faculty and staff are connecting experiential learning and high-impact learning practices with career preparation for students. It also offers recommendations for how institutions of higher education and their faculty and staff can work together to support deeper engagement of faculty in the career development and, ultimately, the outcomes of students to support greater institutional effectiveness.

Protecting Vulnerable Students, Faculty, and Staff in Reform

- Amy Johnson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Success, Old Dominion University

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/93276603848?pwd=3fXhakQlfGkNSG0d3Wvo2faZasPY96.1

Session password: 817206

General education reform can negatively impact vulnerable campus stakeholders in its design, process, and outcomes. This session will help participants identify potential pitfalls and develop strategies to mitigate harm.

Getting to Healthy Conflict in Student Success Focused Reform Projects

- Samantha Streamer Veneruso, Associate Director of Conference Strategy and Innovation, Association for Talent Development

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/93254477836?pwd=gx3p3vD2RuyGa1LG7tcBHcox9IEuNL.1

Session password: 397635

Conflict is inevitable in any reform or change process; however healthy conflict is generative, engaging, and productive. In this session, we will explore how to move the

needle between high conflict and healthy conflict in higher education. Join us for this constructive conversation about how conflict manifests at institutional, committee, department, and individual levels; how and why we respond to conflict negatively, and generative, healthy approaches to conflict. Together, we will build a framework for understanding conflict, its impact, and we will chart impactful strategies for positively engaging conflict, resolving destructive conflict, and inviting generative conflict. We will use theory and strategy and invite lived experiences as we explore the role conflict plays in your change initiatives.

Leveraging the Use of Showcase ePortfolios to Support Student Learning and Career Readiness

- Pablo Avila, Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, LaGuardia Community College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/96331784356?pwd=Fbm5HIxAGyeRjrCEYjO9aU0FNPpHbD.1

Session password: 890663

This session will focus on how ePortfolios can be used to support student learning near the point of graduation with an emphasis on career readiness. We will discuss how showcase ePortfolios can help students identify an audience and craft a multi-modal collection of artifacts that demonstrate their learning. We will discuss how ePortfolios are well-positioned to support students as they reflect on their learning over time and as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Impacting Student Learning With HIPs

- Traci Williams, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, Chattanooga State Community College
- Bethany Miller, Associate Provost and Chief Data Officer, Macalester College

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/91659666354?pwd=DmR6HPCHTydirYazU1LTAzjEV6y0lR.1

Session password: 168093

The connection between course, program, and/or institutional student learning outcomes (SLOs) is not always top of mind when designing or implementing HIPs. In this session, participants will practice aligning HIPs and HIP-related student assignments and products to SLOs and design a student assignment that is not only high impact but also focused on providing evidence of student learning directly

connected to SLOs. The session will also include a discussion of the use of AI as a planning feedback loop.

Tips and Tricks for Using AAC&U's VALUE Rubrics: An Introduction to "Hacking" the Rubrics to Meet Your Needs

- Jessica Chittum, Assistant Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Director of VALUE Operations, AAC&U

Session link:
https://aacu.zoom.us/j/98413654502?pwd=J0R96fkr4KloMUhlxOTRV8lw3HeyrD.1

Session password: 657444

This interactive session explores practical strategies for adapting and implementing AAC&U's VALUE (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) rubrics to enhance teaching, learning, and assessment practices in higher education. Participants will examine the philosophical foundations of the VALUE Rubrics while learning how to thoughtfully customize these tools for specific institutional contexts, such as for grading, course-based, and programmatic assessment. While addressing the careful balancing act between maintaining assessment validity and allowing for pedagogical innovation, curricular alignment, and faculty autonomy, attendees will gain exposure to rubric best practices and begin to develop customized rubrics for various assessment levels, exploring appropriate ways to "hack" the rubrics while preserving their essential assessment potential. This session provides valuable insights for faculty and administrators seeking to implement effective, contextually relevant assessment practices, with participants returning to their campuses ready to implement rubric strategies appropriate to their institutional context.

Thursday, June 5th

4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Connection Session #4: Where We Are Now: AAC&U Institute "Alum" Perspectives

- Jessica Chittum, Assistant Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation and Director of VALUE Operations, AAC&U (moderator)
- Cheri Etling-Paulsen, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning, *University of Tampa*

- Abby Ruby Crew, Associate Dean of Academic Planning, Assessment and Improvement: Curriculum Review and Innovation, *Colorado Mountain College*
- Heather Lettner-Rust, Director of Civitae Core Curriculum, *Longwood University*
- Alison Chapman, Professor, *University of Alabama at Birmingham*
- Christopher Minnix, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Blazer Core Curriculum, *University of Alabama Birmingham*

Session Link: https://aacu.zoom.us/j/97424006335

This final Connection Session will feature previous institute participants who have translated institute insights into meaningful campus transformation. Institute alumni will share candid reflections on implementing their action plans and offer practical advice on navigating the complex realities of higher education change in the scope of their institutions. Key topics include:

- Practical approaches for sustaining momentum
- Strategies for adopting plans when facing unexpected institutional obstacles
- Techniques for translating theoretical frameworks into concrete action steps
- Methods for building sustainable coalitions across campus constituencies
- Common pitfalls to avoid when implementing change initiatives

Team Time/Consulting Guide

Have a strategy for navigating the Institute's curriculum

- As a team, discuss which sessions to attend—divide and conquer!
- Use a portion of team time to report out to other team members about what was learned in sessions.
    - All sessions are intended to be discussion-based and interactive.

Make good use of your team time during the Institute

- Find the right balance between working on your own, engaging with other teams, and consulting with institute mentors.
- Mentor consultations should not replace team time.

Portions of team time can be used to consult with individual Institute faculty on specific topics or issues your team is grappling with

- There is no formal process for scheduling consulting time. Find the mentor you want to consult with and email them to ask for their availability.
- All mentor email addresses are provided within this program and online in the Institute Hub.
- Consulting sessions are typically 30 minutes in length.

Campus/Mentor Pairings

Mentor(s)	Campus Teams
Bethany Miller	Benedictine University Drexel University
Christine Cruzvergara	Marist College University of Delaware
Chris Navia	The University of Illinois Springfield Virginia Tech
David Hubert and Amy Johnson	Jacksonville State University Kansas State University-Salina Campus
Jessica Chittum and Pablo Avila	Kean University University of Redlands Team 1 University of Redlands Team 2
Kate McConnell and Mike Simmons	Michigan State University Suffolk University University of Northern Colorado
Mary Gatta	California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo Clayton State University
Samantha Streamer Veneruso	Skidmore College Tri-County Technical College
Traci Williams	Winona State University

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