

TUESDAY

8:00 - 9:00AM BREAKFAST & NETWORKING

Dining Room

If you are a first-time attendee, keep an eye out for a table where you can meet the Network Organizers and learn how to make the most of your time at the conference.

9:00 - 11:00 MORNING PLENARY

Dining Room

9:00 - 9:20 WELCOME FROM THE NETWORK ORGANIZERS & OUR COMMUNITY HOSTS

Edith Njuguna, Education Systems Center at NIU; Dr. David Sam and Dr. Mary Perkins, Elgin Community College

FLASH TALK**9:20 - 9:40 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE ILLINOIS 60 BY 25 NETWORK IMPACT REPORT**

Edith Njuguna, Education Systems Center at NIU

As the Illinois 60 by 25 Network enters its eighth year, what do we know about the progress that has been made and knowledge gained through its work? Member communities have learned about what it takes to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment in Illinois, even as their work has begun to move the needle. Previewed in this session, the forthcoming Network Impact Report will document the value of the Network and efforts by participating communities, as well as lessons learned and plans for moving the work forward.

KEYNOTE**9:40 - 10:50 THE FUTURE CAN'T WAIT Re-Inventing Collaboration for Radical Transformation**

Dr. Kyle Hartung and Dr. Amy Lloyd, JFF - Jobs For the Future

National leader JFF will dive into research about the future of work, and how states like Illinois are implementing creative policy strategies, re-imagining programs, and deepening cross-sector collaboration to ensure young people have the skills and knowledge they need to launch careers that lead to economic advancement.

10:50 - 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION PREVIEWS**11:00 - 11:15 BREAK**

AGENTS OF CHANGE

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE STUDENT & COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

FEBRUARY 25-26, 2020

CONFERENCE AGENDA

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1700 Spartan Drive
Building E - University & Business Center
Elgin, IL 60123

#IL60by25

www.60by25.org

BREAKOUT 1 **STATE POLICY UPDATES FROM THE FIELD, I**

E100.1

PaCE & Transitional Instruction

Kalene Heaton, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Marcus Brown, Illinois Community College Board; Heather Penczak, Education Systems Center at NIU

The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Act of 2016 provided policy frameworks to support communities in re-tooling how they prepare their students for everything that comes after high school. This session will highlight how communities are using the Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework and transitional instruction in math/English Language Arts, to more holistically prepare their students for postsecondary success.

BREAKOUT 2 **GUIDANCE FOR GUIDES**

E106

Tools to Support Postsecondary Planning

Dana Horstein, Chicago Jobs Council; Dr. Matt Liberatore, Illinois School Counselors Association and District 214; Emily Rusca and Charlie Rosemond, Education Systems Center at NIU

What does it mean to support young people as they plan for their future? This session will dive into growing statewide efforts to re-think postsecondary planning. Participants will learn about how college and career guides in high schools, community based organizations, and beyond can gain the skills and information they need to effectively guide young people to and through postsecondary education, as well as explore exciting new data tools like the Illinois Postsecondary Profiles designed to support students and their guides.

BREAKOUT 3 **CHANGE CATALYSTS**

E108

Backbone Organizations & Governance in Collective Impact

Dr. Darryl Hogue, MORE; Neil Gambow, Evanston; Evan Krauss, East St. Louis

Moderated by Jill Gottfred Sohoni, Advance Illinois

How can backbone leadership organizations best position themselves to effectively support a collective impact effort? This session will provide an overview of collective impact and clarify the roles and leadership characteristics of the “backbone.” Attendees will have an opportunity to consider the best governance structure for their own community. Network Leadership Communities will share their real-world experiences in identifying a backbone organization, establishing their process and governance structure, and working through challenges to ensure their community’s collective impact initiative remains strong and sustainable.

BREAKOUT 4 **EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES**

E201

Improving Individual & Organizational Decision-Making

Dr. Shawn Bergman, Vela Institute; Sam Nelson, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

The concept of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) seems simple – high-quality decisions should be based on a combination of critical thinking and the best available evidence. But how do you make sure evidence and data are really high quality? And how do you then use evidence to inform practice? This session will review the EBP approach to decision-making and day-to-day work practice. Participants will learn how to identify and critically evaluate relevant evidence and practice these techniques for truly informed decision-making.

BREAKOUT 5 **IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

E211

Lessons from Collective Impact in Early Care & Education

Amber Peters, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning; Janice Moenster, Greater East St. Louis Partnership for Early Learning and Innovation Zone; Trish Rooney, SPARK - Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten the Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration

What does collective impact look like in action? The Early Care and Education community has been using a collaborative approach for over a decade to increase alignment and improve outcomes for our youngest learners. Their work brings together early childhood providers, community organizations, business leaders, school districts, and higher education in communities across the state, all working together to close equity gaps that start early. Attendees will hear about the lessons they have learned, best practices for collaboration, and tips and tricks for aligning efforts from cradle to career.

12:15 - 3:25
Dining Room

LUNCH & PRESENTATIONS

PLENARY PRESENTATION

1:15 - 1:45

ELIMINATING EQUITY GAPS ON THE ROAD TO 60% BY 2025

Emily Rusca, Education Systems Center at NIU; Lisa Castillo Richmond, Partnership for College Completion

As a state, we have been working toward the goal of 60% of Illinois adults earning a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by 2025 to ensure our workforce is skilled and prepared to meet the needs of tomorrow. However, we also know that averages never tell the whole story – in fact, current levels of postsecondary attainment vary widely across socioeconomic and racial groups. Learn about work to update the State’s 60% by 2025 goal to address these equity gaps, as well as how a cohort of postsecondary institutions in the Partnership for College Completion’s Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) initiative are transforming their efforts to close gaps for their students.

1:45 - 2:05

FLASH TALK

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

The Illinois State Perkins Plan

Whitney Thompson, Illinois Community College Board

Over the course of 2019, the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois State Board of Education have been working in collaboration with stakeholders around Illinois to develop a State Plan for Career and Technical Education promoting success for students, as well as economic growth for the community and state. Learn about the innovative strategies in the Plan that will empower and support all our students to achieve their life and career goals through an aligned, equitable, and high-quality college and career pathway system.

2:05 - 3:05

PLENARY PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

THE STATE WE'RE IN

A Report on Public Education in Illinois

Robin Steans, Advance Illinois; Jesse Ruiz, Deputy Governor of Education

What really is the state of education in Illinois, from cradle to career? Where are there shining lights of progress that can be learned from, and what are some of the troublesome gaps in access and outcomes that we still need to combat? Using new data from Advance Illinois' recent *The State We're In* 2019 report, this session will delve into these questions and then turn to an intimate conversation with Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz, who will share his insights on where we stand as a state in Early Childhood access, K-12 growth, and postsecondary enrollment and completion.

3:15 - 3:25

BREAKOUT SESSION PREVIEWS

3:25 - 3:40

BREAK

3:40 - 4:40

BREAKOUT SESSION, ROUND TWO

BREAKOUT 1
E100.1

STATE POLICY UPDATES FROM THE FIELD, II

Dual Credit & College & Career Pathway Endorsements

Dr. Danielle Hauser, District 211; Megan Knight, District 214; Juan Jose Gonzalez, Education Systems Center at NIU

College and Career Pathway Endorsements (CCPE) aimed at bridging the gap between high school and college can be a game-changer for students. High schoolers can earn endorsements on their diploma by completing career focused course sequences and engaging in hands-on professional learning. At this session, attendees will learn how to assess feasibility for early college expansion, identify early college courses that can be foundational to pathways or 2+2 programs, and leverage strategic awarding of early college credit to make these opportunities even more valuable to students.

BREAKOUT 2
E106

SETTING TABLES

Value-Driven Stakeholder Engagement & Coalition Building

Amber Peters, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning; Nancy Coleman, Alignment Collaborative for Education; Mary Perkins, Alliance for College

Moderated by Edith Njuguna, Education Systems Center at NIU

Community-level approaches to college and career readiness require deep commitment from partners from cradle to career. This kind of coordination requires investment, communication among institutions and stakeholders, aligned learning systems, and a model for sustainability. Attendees will hear about how leaders learned to get the right people to the table, keep them there, and create consensus around values to build deep coordination and drive toward the goal of increasing postsecondary degree and credential attainment.

BREAKOUT 3
E108

DATA: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

Using Data to Tell Our Stories & Inform Our Decisions

Emily Rusca and Charlie Rosemond, Education Systems Center at NIU; Helen Zhang and Melissa Figueira, Advance Illinois

We know that using data is an essential practice for ensuring our work is addressing the challenges facing our communities, but we are often overwhelmed by all the numbers - what should we look at, and how should we make sense of it all? This workshop will provide attendees tools to both figure out what data can help answer the questions they have about their community or work, as well as what to do with the information once they obtain it. Attendees will both learn about data resources available to them and also practice using easy-to-use data protocols that can inform their collective impact efforts.

BREAKOUT 4
E201

ASSET FRAMING IN ACTION

Lessons from Thrive Chicago & My Brother's Keeper

Christopher Goins, Thrive Chicago; Jessica Ramos, Advance Illinois

Words frame our world and the messages we develop can be monumental or detrimental. As practitioners, we are often tasked with telling the story of the communities we serve and use narratives to secure funding, gain publicity, communicate challenges and progress, and obtain public support. Asset framing enables us to develop and use narratives that define communities by their aspirations, rather than the challenges they experience. In this workshop, participants will explore: the psychological and cultural power of narrative, why deficit framing sabotages equity, and how we can begin shifting conversations about the people we serve. Thrive Chicago will also highlight the My Brother's Keeper initiative that focuses on increasing opportunities for Black and Latino young men in the city of Chicago through a collective impact, asset-based approach.

**TOOLS & TACTICS FOR IMPLEMENTING
HIGH-QUALITY WORK-BASED LEARNING**

Heather Penczak, Education Systems Center at NIU; Kim Kuchenbrod, Vermilion Advantage; Kris Noble, Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

Interested in empowering young people through work-based learning? Illinois has a powerful framework for high-quality, intensive work-based learning called Career Development Experiences (CDE), and the newly-released CDE Toolkit and online resources provide valuable guidance on how to establish and implement a CDE program. Participants will engage directly with CDE Toolkit resources and map out how they might develop new practices or enhance current programs to provide work-based learning experiences that help the youth they work with explore careers and develop valuable skills.

4:40 - 4:50 **BREAK**

FLASH TALK

4:50 - 5:10
Dining Room

**IMPLEMENTING A TEACHER PATHWAY
FROM HIGH SCHOOL THROUGH COLLEGE
& BACK TO YOUR DISTRICT**

Linda Thorson, Rolling Meadows High School

District 214 launched its Educator Prep program in 2016 with the goal of developing the next generation of accomplished educators. Students experience a sequence of courses and hands-on learning developed in cooperation with community partners across primary, secondary, and postsecondary education. High school students dive in as early as freshman year and over time have the opportunity to teach, receive early college credit and professional development, and potentially work in local schools after college graduation.

5:10 - 5:30
Dining Room

TAKING STOCK
Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Preview

Join us in taking stock of what we have learned so far and reflecting on how we can apply our new knowledge and techniques to our communities' progress toward the 60 by 25 goal. We will also look ahead to the exciting content and activities in store for Day 2.

5:30 - 7:30
Atrium

**RECEPTION FEATURING
ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA &
LOCAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

Abril Gomez and Christopher Lopez, Streamwood High School; Hayley Alcantar, U-46; Amy Hernandez Central High School

WEDNESDAY

All sessions on Day 2 will take place in the Dining Room

8:00 - 9:00AM **BREAKFAST & NETWORKING**

9:00 - 9:10 **WELCOME BACK**
Recap of Day 1

FLASH TALK

9:20 - 9:40 **SOMETHING SIMPLE**
Small Changes for Big Impact

Jahmal Cole, My Block, My Hood, My City

When the challenges facing our communities can feel overwhelming, what can be done? Even simple, small actions can dramatically change the trajectory of young people and put them on a path to success. We can all take direct action on creating a safer and more interconnected community. Jahmal Cole will challenge us all to consider, "What's something simple you can do that will have a positive impact on your block?"

9:40 - 9:55 **BREAK**

9:55 - 12:00PM **LEADING FOR EQUITY**
Interactive Workshop and Team Time

Julie Koenke, ConnectED National

This interactive plenary workshop will focus on effective practices of high-functioning leadership and governance teams and strategies to ensure we're using an equity lens to improve outcomes for all students. This will empower conference attendees with actionable tools to take home and apply in their communities, and help teams get clear on ways to improve their work.

12:00 - 12:45 **CLOSING & LUNCH**

We will come together one final time to reflect on two days of learning and look ahead as we go forth as agents of change. Boxed lunches are provided for participants to eat on site or take with them.

ILLINOIS 60 BY 25 NETWORK

GOAL

To support communities to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment and civic engagement.

ORGANIZERS



@advanceillinois



@EdSystemsNIU



@ISACFinAid