2013 college access and success conference

November 4-5 • Chattanooga Convention Center
The 2013 Tennessee College Access and Success Conference is an opportunity for educators, business leaders, college access professionals, public service and community leaders to connect and share ideas and best practices aimed at increasing the number of Tennesseans enrolling and succeeding in postsecondary education.

Under Governor Haslam’s leadership and the Drive to 55 initiative, our state is working to dramatically increase college attainment levels. We are truly “turning the corner” with this targeted initiative and focus on college success in addition to access. Data and metrics are critical components of this work. The 2013 conference’s working plenary will take a special look at the metrics of our college access and success programs, what we measure and how we measure it. We invite you to share your expertise, discover new opportunities, and collaborate with others as we discuss how data can benefit our work and help us relay the most successful components of our programs.

sponsored by:
November 4

**BREAKFAST: 8:00 A.M.**

BALLROOM E/F

**WELCOME AND WORKING PLENARY: 8:30 A.M.**

BALLROOM E/F

Join the Tennessee College Access and Success Network for an engaging, facilitated group discussion around the common measures of college access and success being captured in programs around the state. Using data from the National College Access Network, TCASN, and your own programs, we will identify what key measures are already being captured and how they are being captured. We will also determine what key measures we are ignoring or simply cannot figure out how to track. The results of the process will guide the Network’s policy agenda for 2014.

**SESSION 1: 11:00-12:00 P.M.**

**MEETING ROOM 2**

**Why and How Do We Need to Support Rural Students? 2.0 – Overcoming External Perception and Internal Apathy for Career Success**

Jared Bigham, Director of College & Career Readiness, State Collaborative On Reforming Education (SCORE)

Allen Pratt, Coordinator of School Partnerships, Lincoln Memorial University

In the business and industrial realm, there are inaccurate perceptions of rural schools and the students that attend them. In many rural schools, students feel apathetic toward their education and their future because they lack the support structure at home or have not been exposed to the possibilities that are available to them. This presentation explains how the gap between these two groups can be bridged.

**MEETING ROOM 3**

**Revolutionize Your Parent Conferences – “STUDENTS TAKING THE LEAD” Student-Led Parent Conferences K-12**

Patti Hunt, Project Director, Bradley County Schools

Melissa Presswood, College Access Coordinator, Bradley County Schools

Utilizing elementary “Leaders for Life,” middle school “Junior Advisory,” and high school, “Advisory,” programs, the traditional parent/teacher conference is changing. Bradley County Schools is revolutionizing this annual event by, “STUDENTS TAKING THE LEAD.” We will describe, explain, and demonstrate how students are tracking their academic achievement and progress by developing data-notebooks and utilizing them to guide their discussion with parents in the Student-led Parent Conference.

**MEETING ROOM 7**

**Examining the Influence of Student Affairs Programs and Services on First-year Retention: An Assessment Model**

Denise Miller, Program Manager, Meritus Fund

Karen Lewis, Enrollment Management, Des Moines University

The Division of Student Affairs at University of Memphis has emphasized the importance of using scholarly literature and departmental evaluation to shape the direction of their programs and services. While previous efforts have assessed the impact of Student Affairs on learning outcomes, in 2012, administrators decided that they wanted to expand their analysis to examine the impact on student retention. Administrators solicited two doctoral students from Vanderbilt University to conduct a mixed-methods study. This presentation will (1) describe study design, (2) share significant findings, and (3) engage participants in a discussion of how assessment can be conducted in their institutional settings.

**MEETING ROOM 8**

**Awareness and Preparations for Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

Tammy Day, Program Director, Next Steps at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University

Tom Beeson, Program Director, FUTURE Program, The University of Tennessee Knoxville

Inclusive postsecondary education experiences on Tennessee college campuses have become viable options for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID). However, the recruitment of well-prepared students and families remains a challenge, due in part to the lack of awareness that such programming exists. A lack of awareness can mean the unintentional exclusion of goals in transition planning that would ensure success, and a lack of financial planning on the part of the families. This session, led by program directors, students, and alum will outline the benefits of postsecondary education for students with ID, will analyze the barriers in successful enrollment efforts, and will provide opportunities for involvement through a statewide Alliance.

**MEETING ROOM 9**

**Creating a Plan for Success for Nontraditional and ALL Students**

Cynthia Long, Director, Educational Opportunity Center, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Maria King, Social Work Intern, Educational Opportunity Center, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Create a plan for success for students to increase recruitment, retention, and student success. Learn what students need to know to get in college, stay in college, and graduate! We will discuss financial aid and admissions tips. We will share useful information for career planning and deciding major and show students and advisers how to compare colleges. Creating a comprehensive plan before college starts, or early thereafter, increases student success.

**MEETING ROOM 11**

**STEM in Southeast Tennessee: Partnering with the Community to Promote College and Career Readiness for All Students**

Tracey Carisch, Managing Director, SE TN STEM Innovation Hub

Keri Randolph, Director of Learning, SE TN STEM Innovation Hub

The Southeast Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub will share an overview of Hub programs supporting college and career readiness in STEM. The presentation will include a hands-on STEM activity, as well as a discussion of the important role community partnerships play in college and career readiness for all students including girls, minorities and first-generation college students. STEM Hub programs discussed will include teacher job shadow, informal education partnerships, and teacher professional development.

**NOVEMBER 4, 2013: LUNCH: 12:00 P.M.**

**TENNESSEE EDUCATION POLICY PANEL**

BALLROOM E/F
SESSION 2: 1:30-2:30 P.M.

MEETING ROOM 2
Seamless Alignment & Integrated Learning Support (SAILS): A Community College/HS Collaboration to Improve College Readiness in Tennessee

Kim McCormick, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chattanooga State Community College
Robert Denn, Dean of School Relations and University Articulation, Chattanooga State Community College
John Squires, Department Head for Mathematics, Chattanooga State Community College

The SAILS TN Leadership Team will introduce a proven solution to the TN college readiness challenge. Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS) embeds the TBR Learning Support math competencies in the HS bridge math course. The Team will demonstrate how the facilitated, hybrid online model blends online content with on-ground support from the HS teacher, preparing students for college-level math after HS graduation or even in the spring of their senior year through Early College. Presenters will explain the model, partnerships, pilot results, impact, and the statewide scale-up as part of the Governor’s Drive to 55 Initiative.

MEETING ROOM 3
It’s Greek to Me: Talking to Parents of Future First-Generation College Students

Jack Schmit, Assistant Dean of the Indiana University Graduate School and Creator of the A6 Framework

Parents, who never attended college, need information—information vital for their sons and daughters with college aspirations. Too often college access programs provide information far too late in the process, at too high of a comprehension level and it all seems Greek to them. The lack of attentiveness to prepare parents for this important role will continue to keep success rates low for this group of students. This session will explore ways to connect with parents to provide the information that all parents need to fulfill their key role as encouragers in the college access and success process.

MEETING ROOM 7
AVID in Action!: The Journey of a College Readiness System transforming two Tennessee High Schools

Jaime Lomax, AVID Center Program Manager
Elaine Plummer, AVID Teacher and Site Coordinator, Antioch High School (MNPS)
Laurie Vignon, AVID Site Coordinator and Teacher, McGavock High School (MNPS)

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an elementary through postsecondary college and career readiness system that prepares middle-performing students for four-year college eligibility and success. AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students with support from the higher education. This session will 1) provide an explanation of evidence-based strategies from AVID and Common Core integration, 2) an opportunity to analyze AVID student achievement data and college attendance rates and 3) discuss how AVID has transformed the culture, leadership, instruction and systems of two large high schools in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, TN.

MEETING ROOM 8
Using the Personal Finance Curriculum to Support College Counseling

Holly Tilden, College Counselor and Data Specialist, LEAD Academy High School
Christine Harris, Director of College Counseling, LEAD Academy High School

Financing college is one of the biggest challenges that students face as they apply to college. Come learn how to help students plan for this challenge by using a course already required for all high school students in TN. We will discuss a teacher-developed curriculum that leads students on a semester long college budget project and enhances the TN state standards for this course. You will leave the session with access to all of the materials used in the course and a way to increase the impact of college counseling on your campus without spending a cent!

SESSION 3: 2:40-3:40 P.M.

MEETING ROOM 9
My College Compass

Kara Vazquez, STUDY Foundation, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

STUDY Foundation (Scholars in Tennessee Uplifting the Dreams of Youth) Foundation, presents “My College Compass”, a tool for first generation Americans (including but not limited to immigrant, refugee and undocumented students and their families). “My College Compass” was designed through the collective knowledge of documented and undocumented students, compiling ideas and resources from diverse groups throughout the state. The presentation will explore some cultural differences and unique challenges that these students and their families face as well as discuss some of the highlights of “My College Compass” and its unique information in comparisons to other college tools.

MEETING ROOM 11
Advising as a Rosetta Stone – Translating Academic Expectations into Better Academic Decisions

Melissa Irvin, Academic Advisor/Counselor, Tennessee Tech University
Demetria Mell, 2+2 Academic Advisor, Tennessee Tech University

The difficulty with most advising models is that assistance is often focused on the time that is most frantic and the least proactive: course registration time. Intrusive advising has been shown to improve the effectiveness of interventions, enhance student academic skills and increase retention (Earl, 1987). This presentation will show how introducing more effective methods of advising early in their enrollment can assist the student in making informed choices. Early student involvement leads to increased motivation in their academic progress. Using direct contact, a problem is identified and the student is introduced to an available structured program as well as a concrete program of action. Other key components of intrusive advising that will be discussed are orientation content, early registration, block scheduling, and early alert programs.

MEETING ROOM 2
So Much to See, So Much to Do: Best Practices in College & Career Counseling from Us to You!

NETCO i3 College & Career Counselors

Jessica Jennings, School Counselor, Jefferson County High School

In today’s world, there is a definite push for a “college-going culture.” With the many demands placed on school counselors today, it is often hard to find time to focus on the various aspects of college and career counseling. In this presentation, best practices surrounding post-secondary planning and success will be discussed and examples to use in your school counseling programs will be shared. Be a participant in this session and learn helpful tips, ideas, concepts and practices that you can implement into your program to promote a strong college and career going culture.

MEETING ROOM 3
Real-Life Taste of College: Essential Elements of a Pre-College Experience for Urban Youth

Angie Hamstead, College/Career Access Team Leader/Fulton Feeder Schools, Project GRAD Knoxville
Steven Waller, Associate Professor, The University of Tennessee Knoxville

Students from urban areas, youth of color and youth from poverty often lack academic readiness, basic needs, enriched experiences, and 21st Century skills. Session participants will be engaged in an exploration of barriers to student progress and successful strategies for increasing the grit/persistence and postsecondary perseverance of these young people. Innovative pre-college programming for this population of students gives first-hand opportunity to test-drive a college experience. The Project GRAD/UTK Summer Institute combines a residential experience with inventive academic programming, social activities, mentoring from current college students, guided self-reflection, service, and confidence building. The GRAD acronym means Graduation Really Achieves Dreams.
MEETING ROOM 7

Youth. Onward. Upward. Franklin County School District’s Catalyst and SEED Initiatives

Rebecca Sharber, Director of Schools, Franklin County School District
Jennie Turrell, Postsecondary Coach, Franklin County School District

Are you looking for strategies to build college-going awareness? Are you looking for ways to provide support that will increase your college-going rate? Over thirty strategies will be shared in this session that build college-going expectations and awareness and that support students’ pursuit of postsecondary education or training. When Franklin County School District received TCASN Catalyst and SEED grants in 2012, the District had the eighth lowest college-going rate in the state. TCASN funding has enabled the District to put strategies and action steps in place that were chosen for their potential to positively impact postsecondary-going in Franklin County.

MEETING ROOM 8

An Introduction to CollegeForTN.org

Gray Flora, Outreach Specialist, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Kate Watts, Outreach Specialist, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

CollegeForTN.org is a free comprehensive online tool for high school, college, financial aid, and career planning that is available to all Tennesseans. This presentation will introduce attendees to the many features of CollegeForTN.org, which include career assessments, high school academic plans, resume builders, college and career search tools, and a professional center for educators. CollegeForTN.org can be used by students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, admissions officers, and non-traditional learners to help navigate the college and career search while promoting a college-going culture in Tennessee.

MEETING ROOM 9

Financial Aid 101: Funding a College Education

Jason Seay, Director of Outreach, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

The financial aid process is littered with an alphabet soup of acronyms like COA, EFC, FAFSA, and SAR which the most seasoned college access professionals can barely keep straight let alone our college-going families. Financial Aid 101 removes much of the red tape and attempts to make the financial aid process as simple as saying your ABCs for the families we serve. This workshop will provide information and updates about the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

MEETING ROOM 11

Drive to 55: How the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Can Assist in Reaching the Goal

Dr. Mike Ricketts, Dean, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Division, Chattanooga State Community College

According to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, the “Drive to 55” initiative “…is not just a mission for higher education, but a mission for workforce and economic development, a drive to reduce unemployment and improve quality of life.” The newly-named Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (formerly Tennessee Technology Centers) are uniquely positioned to help Tennessee meet its goal. This session will focus on two hallmarks of the TCAT system – Access and Success – that will enable the 27 institutions to contribute to the workforce and economic development of the state.
As college access and success practitioners, we know that time is scarce and we all need tools to maximize our workflow. Whether you’re looking to clean up an out-of-control inbox, maintain a social media presence, stay abreast of the latest research, collaborate with partners scattered across the country, or provide around-the-clock support for students, there’s an app for that! This session will cover some of the best free or low-cost tools to help us cope with information overload, manage our workflow, and extend our capabilities, including tools that are specific to Tennessee students and educators.

**Meeting Room 3**

**Three Sure-Fire Ways to Increase College-Going Rates – Parents, Paperwork, Preparation**

*Carmen Andrews, Assistant Principal/College Access Coordinator, Meigs County High School*

This workshop will focus on three main areas that help to increase college-going rates — parents, paperwork, and preparation. First, barriers to effective parental involvement will be identified, and strategies for overcoming these barriers will be presented. Secondly, strategies will be provided for hosting an effective Senior Signing Day and FAFSA Days where students are provided with assistance with the paperwork that goes along with the college-going process. Finally, ways to better prepare students for post-secondary education will be discussed, including increasing dual enrollment classes and getting more students “college ready” by offering bridge math and improving ACT scores.

**Meeting Room 8**

**tnAchieves College Success: As Important as it is to Attend College, it is More Important to Finish!**

*Krissy DeAlejandro, Executive Director, tnAchieves*

Jackie Hartmann, Director of Programs, tnAchieves

tnAchieves, a last-dollar scholarship and mentoring program that currently exists in 27 Tennessee counties, will discuss its college success components. From the Summer Bridge Program expansion to the Ambassador Program, tnAchieves will explain its strategy for retaining all student cohorts. tnAchieves will demonstrate the effectiveness of its programs with both empirical and anecdotal evidence. The program will also encourage dialogue in an effort to learn best practices from across the state.
MEETING ROOM 9
Exploring FAFSA’s Value and its Connection to Postsecondary Completion Data
Greg Darnieder, Senior Advisor to the Secretary on the College Access Initiative, U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA has a direct link to college access, persistency and completion. This session will provide insight into the national data surrounding FAFSA. FAFSA completion and how college access programs can get involved to ensure FAFSA is working to provide realistic options for students. Hear from Secretary of Education’s Senior Advisor on College Access about current and future FAFSA initiatives.

MEETING ROOM 10
College and Career Readiness for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Andie Scott, College Mentor, Oasis College Connection

For several reasons, many high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing are underprepared for a postsecondary environment. There are language barriers both at school and at home, leaving students who are deaf with many unanswered questions about college. During the 2012-2013 school year I mentored a group of high school students who are deaf to reach their postsecondary goals and it inspired me to create a resource for them. Come learn how to use this resource and be an advocate for your students who are deaf or hard of hearing!

MEETING ROOM 11
CMT Goes Back to School
Lucia Folk, Director of Public Affairs, Country Music Television

CMT (Country Music Television) will highlight how the CMT EMPOWERING EDUCATION campaign is encouraging their viewers to pursue higher education. Attendees will learn how to utilize CMT resources to encourage members of their communities to pursue post-secondary education.

SESSION 6: 10:40-11:40 A.M.

MEETING ROOM 2
Exploring College Affordability: How much does a college education really cost?
Eric Stokes, Assistant Director of Admissions, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
James Snider, Outreach Specialist, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

College costs in Tennessee have soared, while the discount impact of financial aid has remained stagnant. Some stakeholders have even posed the question of, “is a college degree worth it.” We’ll these presenters think it is, but believe this question is noteworthy and merits a serious discussion. Join this session to explore the overall affordability of college in Tennessee. We will take a closer look at cost of attendance and the variances within the University of Tennessee (UT) and Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) systems. Moreover, we will analyze institutional aid programs, as well as state financial aid programs, and the role these play in net price calculation.

MEETING ROOM 3
How to Organize the Application Process for Seniors and Promote Ownership
Christine Harris, Director of College Counseling, LEAD Academy High School
Holly Tilden, College Counselor and Data Specialist, LEAD Academy High School

Feeling overwhelmed managing your students’ materials? Perhaps your caseload is too large or you would like your students to remain involved and organized during the application process. We invite you to join our session to take advantage of our organizational tools, which encourage student ownership and enable student/counselor organization. Learn how our College Counseling Department tracks admission applications, scholarship applications, student involvement applications (i.e. honor programs & living and learning communities), enrollment checklist, and summer program applications. In our session, we will introduce helpful tools from our department, and also discuss how to implement these strategies into our personal schools.

MEETING ROOM 7
Turning STEM into STEAM: Increasing Student Achievement using Roller Coaster Science
Peggy Rochelle, Assistant Professor, Tusculum College
DiAnn Casteele, Professor and Department Chair, Tusculum College

This session highlights the use of a hands-on STEM to STEAM activity, which illustrates Common Core State Standards for Literacy in Science. Participants will have a better understanding of instructional shifts in science instruction. The session will emphasize the role of reading and language arts to advance student achievement, typical barriers for students pursuing careers in science. Participants will complete a STEAM activity.

MEETING ROOM 8
AnyCollege: Recreating the College Experience in the Classroom
Nicole Williams, College Mentor, Oasis College Connection

Williams from Oasis College Connection developed the AnyCollege Simulation to help students conceptualize the aspects of college that are generally discussed in classroom presentations. In this session, you will discuss the origins, objectives, and outcomes of the simulation. You will also participate in an abbreviated version of the activity and receive a presentation handout that includes the purpose of the simulation, data, and our results.

MEETING ROOM 9
How America Pays for College - 2013
Sonja McMullen, Vice President of Sales, Sallie Mae

In its sixth year, the national study of How America Pays for College paints a picture of the commitment and resourcefulness of undergraduate college students and parents as they make the investment in higher education. One of the survey’s leading findings confirms what we all hear: families believe in the value of a college education. However, in this new post-recession reality they have become more cost conscious and are taking steps to make it more affordable. Join us for this session to learn about some of the actions they are taking along with other findings to determine how you can continue to provide families with well-informed guidance and support for making decisions regarding their financing their education.

MEETING ROOM 11
College is a Scam: Shaping the College Opportunity Message
Benjamin Smith, Executive Director, Southern Word

Southern Word has produced one round of college access spoken word videos and is producing the second round. In this workshop, we will review the existing video footage, conduct a sample writing exercise based on the video content, review college counter-messaging, and discuss opportunities for extending and increasing the impact of the college-going conversation. Attendees who feel we need to shift how we communicate with youth about college should participate and help hone the message. Share your strategies and leave with a new set of talking points for discussing the college opportunity with youth.