2016 Academic Advising Summit
September 30, 2016
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Check-in
HSC Regency Room 8:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Welcome & Program Overview
HSC Regency Room 8:15 – 8:25 a.m.

NIU PLUS Program
Dr. Renique Kersh
Associate Vice Provost Engaged Learning & Director of the Office of
Student Engagement & Experiential Learning
HSC Regency Room 8:25 – 8:40 a.m.

NIU Advising Council
HSC Regency Room 8:40 – 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Address
Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden
Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer
HSC Regency Room 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Concurrent sessions will be held in the Capitol, Illinois, Lincoln, and University Suite meeting rooms. The Capitol Room is located on the main floor of the HSC. The Illinois, Lincoln, and University Suite rooms are located on the 2nd Floor.

Group A Sessions 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

*A1: The Value of Diversity Centers in Student Academic Success
Gena Flynn, Director, Center for Black Studies
Michelle Bringas, Director, Asian American Resource Center
Don Bramlett, Graduation Specialist and Coordinator of BMI & SOL
Carrie Williams, Assistant Director, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center

This session will address the value of cultural diversity centers in the academic success and retention of diverse students. It is important to honor the unique identities of students while offering spaces where they can further develop their cultural identities. Because cultural centers’ missions are rooted in social justice, they provide a safe space where students who feel marginalized based on their ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, can express and discuss their struggles and issues, promoting critical skills that support student persistence and retention and achievement beyond graduation.

*Note: Sessions with an asterisk will be repeated.
**A2: Engage PLUS and Beyond**  
*Renique Kersh, Vice Provost for Engaged Learning & Director of OSEEL*

This roundtable discussion will provide an avenue for participants to share ideas related to assessing student engagement outcomes at NIU. As we roll out the Engage PLUS program, we enter a unique time at NIU that provides us with an opportunity to develop a more strategic strategy for assessing the outcomes related to student engagement. Participants will contribute to learning outcomes and assessment strategies.

**A3: What’s Trending in College Student Mental Health?**  
*Brooke Ruxton, Executive Director, Counseling & Consultation Services\nBillie Cali, Counseling & Consultation Services*

This session will focus on current trends regarding college student mental health and current initiatives to address the mental health needs of NIU students. It will provide information about common mental health concerns, symptoms, behaviors, and resources available to assist advisors in responding to students of concern. It will also provide a summary of the purpose, development of, and initial work of the campus-wide Mental Health Action Planning Team.

**A4: UNIV 101/201 + Advising = Retention**  
*Kelly Smith, Director, First & Second Year Experience\nShelley Maas, Program Advisor, First & Second Year Experience*

This session will share essential information and opportunities related to advising, retention and UNIV 101/201. Attendees will learn about their influence and opportunities to shape UNIV 101/201 to fit the needs of NIU students from the various colleges, departments and programs as an approach to increase student retention and connection in specialized ways. Not only is advising a course topic, advisors are primary in explaining and enrolling students into the course, which are often taught by advisors as well.

**Group B Sessions**  
**11:10 – 12:10 p.m.**

*B1: The Value of Diversity Centers in Student Academic Success* *(repeat session)*  
*Gena Flynn, Director, Center for Black Studies\nMichelle Bringas, Director, Asian American Resource Center\nDon Bramlett, Graduation Specialist and Coordinator of BMI & SOL\nCarrie Williams, Assistant Director, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center*

This session will address the value of cultural diversity centers in the academic success and retention of diverse students. It is important to honor the unique identities of students while offering spaces where they can further develop their cultural identities. Because cultural centers’ missions are rooted in social justice, they provide a safe space where students who feel marginalized based on their ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, can express and discuss their struggles and issues, promoting critical skills that support student persistence and retention and achievement beyond graduation.

*Note: Sessions with an asterisk will be repeated.*
**B2: Financial Aid & Advising**  
*Rebecca Babel, Director, Student Financial Aid Office  
Andrea Allen, Student Financial Aid*

This session will address key information academic advisors need to know related to financial aid. Items discussed will include new regulations and requirements. We will also discuss Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.

**B3: Experiences of Building Resilience and Helping Students Thrive**  
*Brooke Ruxton, Executive Director, Counseling and Consultation Services  
Billie Cali, Counseling & Consultation Services*

This roundtable discussion will expand upon the information provided in the “What’s Trending in Mental Health” session. It will provide detailed information about available resources as well as facilitate conversation regarding common concerns for faculty and staff when responding to mental health needs including FERPA, confidentiality, safety and confidence. There will be discussion of examples of common situations on campus regarding mental health and students of concern. Participants will also be able to share examples and ask specific questions regarding situations they have experienced when working with students who may be dealing with mental health issues or other emotional struggles.

**B4: Theory to Practice: Advising in Action**  
*Margee Myles, Director, Student Services, College of Education  
Jennifer Such, Coordinator of Retention, College of Education  
Brittany Hall, Graduate Assistant, College of Education*

This session will provide a discussion of theoretical approaches to academic advising with role plays performed for demonstration.

**Lunch (On Your Own)**  
*12:15 – 1:15 p.m.*  
**HSC Blackhawk Annex is reserved for those who would like to dine together.**

**Group C Sessions**  
*1:30 – 2:30 p.m.*

**C1: SSC-Campus Roundtable: How are you using it so far?**  
*Steve Estes, Director, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Advising  
Russ Devereaux, Academic Counselor, College of Business  
Kristie Crane, Advisor, Department of Sociology  
Jerri Reynolds, Academic Advisor, College of Health & Human Sciences Advising*

This roundtable discussion will focus on how academic advisors and/or advising offices utilizing the SSC Campus platform thus far. Tips and tricks learned across colleges and from the perspective of a departmental advisor will be shared to help attendees efficiently and effectively utilize the platform.

*Note: Sessions with an asterisk will be repeated.*
**C2: Financial Aid & Advising (repeat session)**
*Rebecca Babel, Director, Student Financial Aid Office*
*Andrea Allen, Student Financial Aid*

This session will address key information academic advisors need to know related to financial aid. Items discussed will include new regulations and requirements. We will also discuss Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.

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**C3: Strategies Supporting Students with Disabilities**
*Debra Miller, Director, Disability Resource Center*

This session will provide an overview of disability law in higher education and how advisors and others can better understand students’ rights relative to accommodations and subsequent obligations the university must maintain.

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**C4: Theory to Practice: Advising in Action (repeat session)**
*Margee Myles, Director, Student Services, College of Education*
*Jennifer Such, Coordinator of Retention, College of Education*
*Brittany Hall, Graduate Assistant, College of Education*

This session will provide a discussion of theoretical approaches to academic advising with role plays performed for demonstration.

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**Open Session for Academic Advisors with SSC Campus Training Team**
*2:45 – 3:30 p.m.*

HSC Capitol Room

*This session is optional and geared toward current users of SSC Campus.*

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