



**VIRGINIA**  
College Personnel  
Association

## **Virtual State Drive-In Conference**

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The Next Chapter: Higher Education & Student Support in Virginia

June 21, 2024

Conference Information & Schedule

## Conference Schedule

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The conference schedule is presented below. Each session will be facilitated through a breakout room within the Zoom meeting. Attendees will be able to choose which room they wish to be in as each session begins.

	Main Zoom Room	Breakout Room 1	Breakout Room 2
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Keynote</b>		
9:15 AM			
9:30 AM		<b>Adapting Strategically: Building an Agile Plan for Student Affairs</b>	
9:45 AM			
10:00 AM			
10:15 AM			
10:30 AM	<b>Break</b>		
10:45 AM		<b>Cultivating a Sense of Belonging for LGBTQ+ Students</b>	<b>Applying the Spirit of Motivational Interviewing to Student Affairs</b>
11:00 AM			
11:15 AM			
11:30 AM			
11:45 AM	<b>Break</b>		
12:00 PM		<b>Using Appreciative Inquiry to Fill a Need</b>	<b>Learner Engagement Framework from Self-Determination Theory: Three Drivers of Engagement</b>
12:15 PM			
12:30 PM			
12:45 PM			
1:00 PM	<b>Break</b>		
1:15 PM		<b>Round Table 1 Working lunch</b>	<b>Round Table 2 Working Lunch</b>
1:30 PM			
1:45 PM			
2:00 PM			
2:15 PM			
2:30 PM			

# Conference Information

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## **Keynote |** Tricia Smith, MS, MBA

Tricia Smith serves as the Associate Vice President of Student Life at Radford University. In that role she is charged with supervision of and collaboration with offices involving recreation and wellness, diversity and inclusion, fraternity and sorority affairs, clubs and organizations, service learning, parent and family programs and the University's 380-acre Selu Conservancy. Tricia firmly believe that, if fulfilling its greatest potential, higher education has the potential to create curious, creative, and generous humans and communities that are invested in collective wellbeing and success.

## **Concurrent Sessions**

The conference will primarily consist of fix concurrent, hour-long sessions offered two at a time using Zoom breakout rooms. Attendees will be able to choose which session they attend by selecting the breakout room for their desired session at the appropriate time using the Zoom breakout room function. Concurrent sessions will start promptly as scheduled; a VACPA leader will be present in the main Zoom room to assist attendees who may run late or experience technical difficulties.

Attendees are asked to mute their microphones upon entering a breakout room until they are asked otherwise. Active participation through the chat functionality, polls, and facilitated activities is encouraged!

## **Breaks**

Regular, 15 minute breaks will be offered. Attendees as encouraged to use this time as they need!

## **Round Tables**

Conferences represent an invaluable opportunity for professionals to develop strong professional relationships and networks. The Round Table sessions are intended to both help facilitate these connections in a virtual context. Additionally, these sessions offer an opportunity for attendees to unpack their learnings, raise points of interest, ask questions, and discuss applications to practice. Attendees are encouraged to grab their lunches and make this a working lunch time!

## Session Descriptions

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### **Adapting Strategically: Building an Agile Plan for Student Affairs**

Join us as we share our journey in developing a dynamic strategic plan for Student Affairs following leadership and organizational transitions. We will discuss our inclusive process in crafting a mid-term strategic blueprint. We aimed to produce a realistic and agile plan that offers clarity and guidance for navigating critical issues within the current higher education landscape. By clarifying priorities, our plan focuses on fostering alignment across the unit, division, and institution, and mitigating ambiguity and tensions over resource allocation.

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Kenzel Hill, Assistant Director of Residential Life and Housing Virginia Commonwealth University	Yiyun Jie, Director of Assessment Virginia Commonwealth University
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Bria Taylor, Assistant Director for Student Engagement Virginia Commonwealth University	Rachel Siefring, Assessment Specialist Virginia Commonwealth University
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Connie Kottmann, Marketing Communication Manager Virginia Commonwealth University	Gabriel Driver, Coordinator Virginia Commonwealth University
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Trisha R Saunders, Associate Director for Wellbeing and Assessment Virginia Commonwealth University
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### **Cultivating a Sense of Belonging for LGBTQ+ Students**

Sense of belonging, while not a new concept, has gained more attention within higher education spaces in recent years. With anti-LGBTQ+ legislation on the rise, it is critical that colleges and universities provide safe and welcoming environments, and effectively support LGBTQ+ students. This session will explore recent literature on LGBTQ+ college students' sense of belonging and utilize the Model of Belonging for Privileged and Minoritized Students (Vacarro & Newman, 2016) to explore and generate strategies for cultivating a sense of belonging for LGBTQ+ students.

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Pam Scott, Graduate Instructor & Student University of Maryland, College Park
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## **Applying the Spirit of Motivational Interviewing to Student Affairs**

How do we motivate students to create change? Motivational Interviewing is one helping skill that student affairs professionals can use to support students in making lasting, positive changes to their lives. In this presentation, we focus on the application of the "spirit" of motivational interviewing to our work in student affairs and how to listen with accurate empathy. Participants will be able to leave with an understanding of how motivational interviewing can be applied to their own campus contexts.

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Rebecca Mattern, Success Coach  
George Mason University

Micah Hodges, Success Coach  
George Mason University

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Michael Rybak, Success Coach  
George Mason University

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## **Using Appreciative Inquiry to Fill a Need**

Are you looking to develop a brand new department, program, initiative, or strategy at your institution? Are you aware of a need on your campus but don't know where to start to fill that need? This session will highlight the ways in which Appreciative Inquiry, a high engagement, strength-based process for positive change with tangible and actionable results, can be used to co-create a solution focused on opportunities rather than deficits utilizing all the voices that need to be present.

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Josh Leidy, Director of LGBTQ+ Initiatives, Inclusive Engagement & Philanthropy  
Virginia Commonwealth University

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## **Learner Engagement Framework from Self-Determination Theory: Three Drivers of Engagement**

In the session, you will learn about using an actionable framework for designing learning environments to support learners' well-being, engagement, and success in ways that feel meaningful for them. Together, we'll build an understanding of core engagement drivers and reimagine how you could more strongly support these for learners. Regardless of your role in higher education, this framework can transform the way you lead.

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Elisabeth Fellowes, Senior Education Designer  
Education Design Lab