

SUMMER &
SPECIAL SESSIONS

ROOTED IN STUDENT SUCCESS



2025 NAASS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ATLANTA, GA



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are thrilled to welcome you to Atlanta, Georgia, for our annual gathering — a time to connect with colleagues, build community, and share in meaningful conversations. This year marks our 61st conference, and our theme, “Rooted in Student Success,” reflects our ongoing commitment to growth, collaboration, and impact in higher education.

Our NAASS conference is dedicated to promoting the advancement of scholarship and research, with the goal of enhancing the critical nature of summer and special sessions for higher education institutions.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT	PG 04
LOCATION & LAYOUT	PG 05
CONFERENCE SPONSORS	PG 06
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	PG 07
● SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8	PG 07
● SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9	PG 07
● MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10	PG 08
● TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	PG 09
● WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12	PG 09
SESSION 1-3 DETAILS	PG 10
EXCURSION DETAILS	PG 14
SESSION 4-7 DETAILS	PG 15

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. CHRIS PEVEY HARRY

Chief Student Success Officer
University of Wisconsin -
Milwaukee

Dear NAASS Members and Attendees,

On behalf of the entire NAASS leadership and planning committee, welcome to the 61st Annual National Conference of the North American Association of Summer Sessions (NAASS)! It's a true honor to have you join us in the vibrant and historic city of Atlanta, Georgia.

I'm excited to reconnect with familiar faces and extend a warm welcome to new members of our community. I'm confident that your time here will be professionally enriching, culturally engaging, and deeply inspiring.

NAASS was founded on the understanding that summer and special sessions play essential educational, operational, and financial roles within academic institutions. These programs face unique challenges, and our mission remains clear:

THIS CONFERENCE IS MORE THAN A GATHERING—IT'S A CELEBRATION OF OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SUMMER AND SPECIAL SESSIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS.

"To provide leadership for the continual improvement of academic quality, student services, and financial success of summer and special sessions in higher education."

We advance this mission through the dedication of volunteers who generously contribute their time, energy, and expertise. NAASS is a welcoming, diverse, inclusive, and collegial organization, and I hope you leave this conference having built meaningful connections with new colleagues.

This annual gathering is a cornerstone of our work, offering a platform for collaboration, innovation, and shared learning. This conference is more than a gathering—it's a celebration of our shared commitment to innovation, collaboration, and the transformative power of summer and

special sessions in higher education toward student success.

We deeply value the knowledge and experience each of you brings, and we recognize the critical role summer and special sessions play advancing student success: they increase access, support timely degree completion, offer flexible learning pathways, and help students stay on track academically. As institutions continue to navigate evolving student needs, summer and special sessions are more important than ever.

Our association thrives thanks to the commitment of volunteers who help foster connections and drive our shared goals forward. The Administrative Council (AC)—comprising regional vice presidents, the executive committee, and committee chairs—is the backbone of NAASS. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our leaders and encourage you to thank

those wearing ribbons that signify their contributions.

A special thank you goes to the conference committee for their hard work and dedication. Their meticulous planning and attention to detail have made this event possible, and we are truly grateful.

As we gather in Atlanta, a city known for its rich history, culture, and hospitality, I hope you find inspiration not only in our sessions but also in the connections you make and the stories you share. As we look ahead to next year's conference in the Northeast, let's continue to build momentum together.

Thank you for your participation, and I wish you a fantastic and inspiring conference experience!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The **Georgian Terrace** stands proudly in the heart of Midtown Atlanta, just steps from the Fox Theatre and minutes from the city's top attractions. This iconic hotel blends Southern charm with timeless elegance, offering beautifully appointed rooms, modern amenities, and exceptional service. Guests can enjoy on-site dining at Livingston Restaurant + Bar, unwind at the rooftop pool overlooking the city skyline, and take advantage of easy access to MARTA and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport—making it the perfect setting for both work and relaxation during the conference.

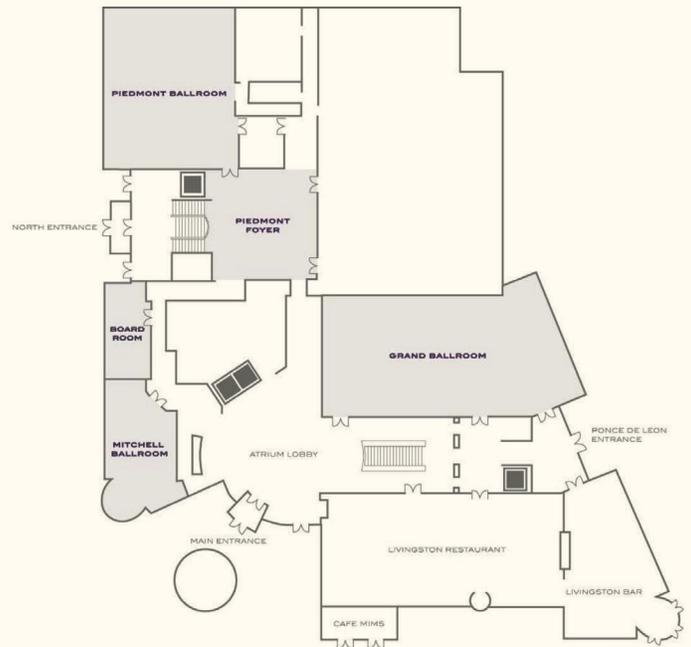


LOCATION

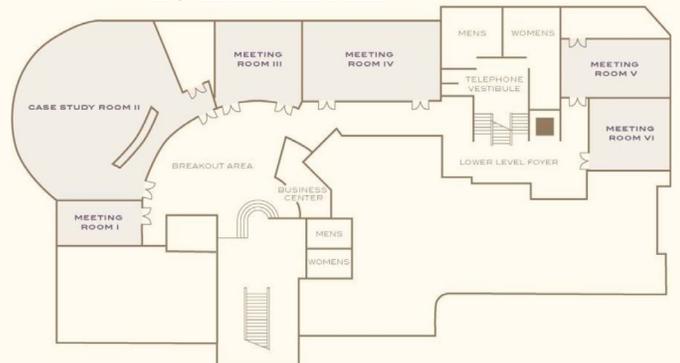


LAYOUT

BALLROOM LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL



Address : 659 Peachtree St NE,
Atlanta, GA 30308

Phone: (844) 650-8052

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
SPONSORS**

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their generous support and partnership. Your contributions have been instrumental in the success of this year's conference and in creating a truly engaging experience for all attendees.

☆☆☆
**Platinum
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summer discovery
**managed
services**



☆☆
**Diamond
Sponsor**



Reach
Student Life Management

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 8

2:00 - 5:00 PM: REGISTRATION / HELP DESK

Atrium Lobby

3:00 - 4:00 PM: EC / AC MEETING

Meeting Room III

6:00 - 8:00 PM: EC / AC DINNER

Invite Only

Business meeting for the NAASS Executive Council and Administrative Council only.

6:00 - 8:00 PM: NAW DINNER

GT Restaurant Livingston Mezzanine

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 9

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM: REGISTRATION / HELP DESK

Atrium Lobby

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM: NAW WORKSHOP

Meeting Room IV

12:00 - 1:00 PM: NAW LUNCH

Meeting Room IV

4:00 - 4:50 PM: NEW MEMBER WORKSHOP

Meeting Room III

5:00 - 6:00 PM: SPEED NETWORKING

Meeting Room II

6:00 - 7:00 PM: PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom

7:30 - 9:00 PM: DINNER WITH SPONSOR OR ON YOUR OWN

Various

Tonight, you have an opportunity to explore the culinary delights of the city on your own.

Join our platinum sponsor - Summer Discovery - for an Evening Social over drinks and appetizers across the street at Publik Draft House or grab a bite at one of our recommended restaurants with a new friend from the conference.

Whether you're dining solo, with fellow attendees, or connecting with a sponsor, enjoy a night out and savor the flavors of the city.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 10

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM: REGISTRATION / HELP DESK

Atrium Lobby

8:00 - 8:50 AM: BREAKFAST

Grand Ballroom

9:00 - 9:50 AM: OPENING PLENARY

Grand Ballroom

Rethinking Summer: Expanding Access and Redefining Student Success in a Changing Higher Ed Landscape

Moderator:

Dr. Steven P. Girardot - Past NAASS President & Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Georgia Tech

Panel includes:

Richard Clark - Executive Director at GA Tech

Dr. Allison Calhoun-Brown - Senior VP for Student Success at GA State University

Dr. Shelley Dempsey - Assistant Provost at University of South Carolina

As higher education faces increasing demands for flexibility and measurable outcomes, summer sessions remain vital for expanding access and accelerating student success. This panel will examine how summer and special session initiatives can improve retention, completion, and overall institutional impact.

10:00 - 10:50 AM: SESSION 1

Various

See session details on [Page 10](#).

11:00 - 11:50 AM: SESSION 2

Various

See session details on [Page 12](#).

12:00 - 12:50 PM: LUNCH

Grand Ballroom

1:00 - 1:50 PM: SESSION 3

Various

See session details on [Page 13](#).

2:00 - 2:50 PM: REGIONAL MEETINGS

Middle Southern Region - Meeting Room III

Northeastern Region - Meeting Room IV

North Central Region - Meeting Room VI

Western Region - Meeting Room V

Meet members from your region and discuss topics impacting institutions in your area. Not sure what region your school is a part of? [View maps on the website](#).

3:30 - 6:00 PM: OUTINGS & EXCURSIONS

Various

See excursion details on [Page 14](#).

6:30 - 8:30 PM: REGIONAL DINNERS

Various

Join fellow members from your region for an evening of connection and delicious cuisine. These dinners offer a relaxed setting to deepen conversations from your regional meeting, forge new friendships, and continue shaping your region's plans for the year ahead. Respective dinner location to be announced during regional meetings.

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 11

7:00 - 8:00 AM: MORNING RUN

Meet in Hotel Atrium Lobby

Start your day with energy and connection—join fellow attendees for a refreshing morning run that welcomes all paces and fitness levels. This group activity sets an energizing tone for the day, offers a chance to explore the hotel's surrounding area, and encourages casual networking while on the move.

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: REGISTRATION / HELP DESK

Atrium Lobby

8:00 - 8:50 AM: BREAKFAST

Grand Ballroom

9:00 - 9:50 AM: SESSION 4

Various

See session details on [Page 15](#).

10:00 - 10:50 AM: SESSION 5

Various

See session details on [Page 16](#).

11:00 - 11:50 AM: SESSION 6

Various

See session details on [Page 17](#).

12:00 - 1:45 PM: LUNCH & BUSINESS MEETING

Grand Ballroom

2:00 - 2:50 PM: SESSION 7

Various

See session details on [Page 18](#).

3:00 - 5:00 PM: FREE TIME

Various

If you're looking for more than just catching up on emails during this break, consider joining a guided tour of Georgia Tech's campus to see how other institutions innovate and inspire.

5:00 - 6:00 PM: COCKTAIL HOUR

Grand Ballroom

6:00 - 9:00 PM: BANQUET

Grand Ballroom

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 12

10:00 - 11:00 AM: AC / CONFERENCE TRANSITION MEETING

Meeting Room I

This is the business meeting for the NAASS Executive Council, Administrative Council, and incoming & outgoing chairs.

BREAKOUT

DETAILS

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 10

SESSION 1: 10:00 - 10:50 AM

GIVING YOUR STUDENTS AN EDGE WITH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND CAREER READINESS LEARNING

Location: Meeting Room III
Presenters: Caitlin Cochran, Georgetown University; Devi Sahny, Founder and CEO of Ascend Now

Directing Today's students are different. Their heavy reliance on technology due to the multi-year pandemic are impacting their human, soft skills. At Georgetown, we were looking to integrate life skills like critical thinking, resilience, and problem solving, often deemed social-emotional learning (SEL), into our summer pre-college curriculum. We struggled until we discovered The Edge. Piloted in 2024 summer, The Edge is a life skills program focused on providing students the opportunity to assess, explore, and enhance key areas of their personal development. The content incorporates a dynamic blend of soft and hard skills, offering a comprehensive learning experience beyond traditional education.

Imagine a place where students not only gain essential life skills but also hone their practical abilities. They explore personal development, communication, and career readiness, learning to manage stress, build resilience, and confidently present ideas. Student feedback was nothing short of excellent. One of our students stated: "As a teenager, I never thought skills like "resilience" or "networking" were learnable. I thought you were born with it. I was proved wrong with Edge. I love how easy it is to use Edge, and how creative and engaging the videos are." GU will expand The Edge to all non-credit pre-college participants in summer 2025 and is considering other opportunities for expansion in the future. This presentation will showcase the potential outcomes your students can achieve by integrating soft skills SEL into your summer pre-college programming.

SPONSOR

LIMITED BUDGET - BIG OUTCOMES!

Location: Meeting Room IV
Presenters: Danniele Biala and Omega Lee, University of California, Davis

In today's competitive landscape, effective marketing doesn't always require a hefty budget. Our presentation, "Limited Budget - Big Outcomes," explores innovative strategies we used to maximize our impact without breaking the bank. By leveraging campus partnerships and in-house marketing resources, we were able to achieve remarkable results. Utilizing the budget you have through campus partnerships and in-house marketing, we will demonstrate how collaboration with campus partners and stakeholders can serve as powerful tools for student engagement, enrollment, and aligning with your University's goals. These partnerships not only enhance your reach but also foster a sense of community. Join us as we delve into practical examples and success stories that highlight the effectiveness of these collaborative efforts.

MARKETING

SLATE-D FOR SUCCESS: FOUNDATIONS FOR A STRONG CRM

Location: Meeting Room II
Presenter: Shanna Harper, Tulane University

CRM implementation is more than a technical project; it's an opportunity to transform how you connect and work with your campus community. Whether you're starting fresh or looking to optimize your existing instance, this session will give you a scalable roadmap built on strategic planning, not just technical know-how. We will go behind the scenes of Tulane Pre-College Programs' Slate instance to explore the why and how behind their build - as well as lessons learned along the way. You will leave with fresh ideas and a toolkit of resources to make your work more efficient and transformative.

OPERATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUNDTABLE: FINDING YOUR WINTER BREAKTHROUGH

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenter: Krystal Ladao, Rutgers University - New Brunswick

Reached your Winter Session breaking point? Whether you're looking to increase enrollment, improve student outcomes, or align your winter session with your institution's goals, this roundtable will give you some fresh ideas and a practical tip or two to try out. We'll share our experiences (both wins and challenges) and exchange best practices for making your winter program more successful. Topics will include student engagement, creative marketing ideas, and assessing program outcomes. Come ready to share your story, learn from others, and discover your own breakthrough for a winter session that enhances student success.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

SESSION 2: 11:00 - 11:50 AM

STUDENT-CENTERED SUMMER COURSE PLANNING

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenters: Tammy Johnson, University of California, Merced; Ursula Rendon, University of California, Santa Cruz

How do we, as Summer Sessions professionals, know that the courses offered in our terms meet our students' needs? Given the current financial situation of higher education, how can we identify opportunities for efficiency while still prioritizing our students? Is your institution consolidating majors or adding new? How do you plan for these changes? In this session, we will explore a number of strategies you can use to ground your summer course planning and recommendations in student success and degree completion, regardless of your institution's size. UC Merced (<10,000 students) is a young R1 institution that serves predominantly first-generation, Pell-eligible, and populations historically underserved in higher education. UCSC, a 60-year-old public institution, is also classified as an R1 institution (~18,000 students), an HSI, and a part of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SMALL OFFICE, BIG IMPACT: ELEVATING SUMMER THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

Location: Meeting Room IV

Presenter: Anne Van Arsdall, Colorado State University

Centralized/decentralized summer office models present unique challenges and opportunities. Learn how a small summer office has raised enrollments, visibility, and revenue through a series of thoughtful partnerships and initiatives, to streamline communication, and support student success. Gain practical, scalable, and relatively low-cost strategies to foster campus-wide collaboration, deliver support, and elevate summer programming and prominence.

Key features include: (1) the Summer Enrichment Map, an interactive tool guiding students to opportunities to stay on track and build career competencies each summer—complete with a QR code linking to detailed resources and student videos; (2) a Summer Advising Tip Sheet providing comprehensive, up-to-date summer policies, practices, and resources for student guidance; (3) a K-12 Summer Programs searchable website

and guide offering a framework for campus coordinators to design, promote, deliver, and assess youth programs—including concrete examples and key contacts; and (4) customizable marketing and social media assets to help faculty promote their courses and empower students to share their experiences.

OPERATIONS

MEASURING BEYOND HEADCOUNT: RETHINKING SUCCESS METRICS IN INTERSESSION ADMINISTRATION

Location: Meeting Room II

Presenter: Paul Cesarini, Loyola University New Orleans

This presentation will hopefully prompt reflection and discussion among intersession administrators by helping them analyze how they measure the overall effectiveness of their January term, May term, and summer sessions.

RESEARCH

PANEL: THE ARCHITECTURE OF LEARNING: STRUCTURING CLASSES, CHOICES, AND CAPACITY

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenters:

Christopher Cofer, Syracuse University

Merissah Gilbert, Syracuse University

Alana Speth, University of Virginia

David Mallen, UNC, Chapel Hill

Jennifer, Larson, UNC, Chapel Hill

Lucretia Penfield, Dartmouth College

We will discuss different program formats beginning with the application and course selection. Specifically, do students apply to the program and then select courses later or do students apply for admission to the program and specific courses together. Next, we will examine layers of the scheduled day with an understanding of program priorities. Ex: are students taking one class per 'session' that occupies the entire day or do students take different morning and afternoon classes. We then want to examine the philosophy and opportunities related to evening and weekend programming.

PRE-COLLEGE

SESSION 3: 1:00 - 1:50 PM

SUMMER OPERATIONS AT SCALE: INSIGHTS, TRENDS, & TECHNOLOGY FROM 16,000+ STUDENTS ACROSS 20+ CAMPUSES

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenters:

Scott Rosenbluth, VP of Operations

Sam Berey, VP of Partnerships

Jesse Candelario, Regional Director

Jenn Le Blanc, Regional Director

Operating residential summer programs across multiple university campuses provides unique insights into what works and what doesn't. This session shares key learnings from Summer Discovery's 2025 season, including operational best practices, emerging trends in pre-college programming, and the technology infrastructure that enables efficient, scalable operations. We'll explore practical challenges and solutions across the student lifecycle: managing high-volume communications, streamlining billing and enrollment processes, coordinating on-campus operations (including incident reporting and health records), and using data to drive real-time decision-making. Drawing from direct experience managing programs at numerous leading institutions, we'll discuss what operational processes proved most effective and how technology can support or hinder summer program success. The session will also introduce an integrated platform solution that several university partners are now leveraging to enhance their own summer operations, with a live demonstration of key features and functionality. Attendees will leave with actionable operational insights and a clear understanding of how the right technology infrastructure can transform summer program management.

SPONSOR

PANEL: EMPOWERING STUDENT ASSISTANTS IN SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAMMING

Location: Meeting Room IV

Moderator: Elena Rivera-Himmelstein, Georgia Institute of Technology

Panelists: Tyson Brown, Calinikos Price, Nidhi Reddy, Ignite intern team

This panel will explore how Georgia Tech's Ignite intern team has been effectively integrated into the planning and implementation of a first-year summer bridge program. By leveraging their perspectives and experiences, student assistants can enhance program development and assessment, create and implement high impact practices, and facilitate events and workshops.

Attendees will learn strategies for recruiting, training, and empowering student workers to support new students' transition to college. Further, the panel will demonstrate how student assistants contribute to fostering a supportive, inclusive environment while gaining valuable professional skills for their future careers.

BRIDGE PROGRAMS

FILL YOUR CUP: PRACTICAL TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR WELL-BEING IN SUMMER SESSION PROGRAMS

Location: Meeting Room II

Presenters: Tim Danos, University of Delaware and Andreas Armenis, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Summer Session leaders, as well as the communities within their programs, encounter a number of unique and unprecedented challenges each summer. They must lead, with limited time and resources, programming that balances conflicting demands and priorities; addresses sensitive dynamics and issues; produces strong institutional outcomes; and has a positive impact on the lives of young students and staff. As these responsibilities can make it challenging to prioritize well-being and work-life balance, this session will provide a dedicated space for leaders to reflect, connect, and gain insight into a number of wellness strategies that can be used to sustain themselves, their teams, and their students during even the most challenging times.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ROUNDTABLE: THE CONFIDENCE GAP: RECOGNIZING AND OVERCOMING IMPOSTER SYNDROME IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenter: Jacob Wierson, Saint Louis University

Imposter syndrome – it happens to all of us, regardless of our role in higher education, and regardless of how many years we've been in the field. This interactive roundtable brings together administrators and educators of all levels to explore common triggers and patterns of imposter syndrome, identify practical strategies for recognizing this in ourselves, and to develop tools to build genuine self-assuredness in our work. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out in higher education, this session will help us reframe imposter syndrome from a challenge we navigate alone to an opportunity for building authentic confidence and professional growth.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATLANTA

GEORGIA



1. CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK

100 Ivan Allen Jr Blvd NW
 1 Mile from hotel
 5 min Uber / 23 min walk
 Hours: 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 COST: \$0

2. GEORGIA AQUARIUM

Located in Centennial Park
 1.1 Miles from hotel
 6 min Uber / 26 min walk
 Hours: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
 COST: \$45

3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Located in Centennial Park
 0.9 Miles from hotel
 5 min Uber / 21 min walk
 Tu-Fr, Sun Hours: 12:00 - 5:00 PM
 COST: \$20

4. WORLD OF COCA-COLA MUSEUM

Located in Centennial Park
 1 Mile from hotel
 5 min Uber / 23 min walk
 Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 COST: \$22

5. PONCE CITY MARKET & ATL BELTLINE

675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE
 1.2 Miles from hotel
 4 min Uber / 26 min walk
 Hours: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 COST: \$0

6. THE KING CENTER

449 Auburn Ave NE
 1.8 Miles from hotel
 8 min Uber / 45 min walk
 Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 COST: \$0

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 11

SESSION 4: 9:00 - 9:50 AM

INFORMING SUMMER SCHOOL STRATEGY THROUGH STUDENT SURVEY DATA

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenters: Jennifer Larson; Erin Willis, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

This session will share our process for designing and implementing a Qualtrics survey to better understand student preferences in Summer School. We will describe how we developed survey questions, created a blueprint to ensure alignment with key topics, administered the survey, and analyzed the results. Attendees will gain insight into our methods and be invited to discuss how their institutions gather similar feedback and the types of questions they include in their own surveys.

RESEARCH

SUPERCHARGE YOUR GI BILL

Location: Meeting Room IV

Presenters: David Ford and Briana Ford, Western Carolina University

Navigating VA education benefits can be complex, and summer terms bring additional challenges for military-affiliated students (MAS). 4% of Western Carolina University's students self-identify as military-affiliated (though the actual percentage is likely higher), so it is imperative for WCU to provide a solid support system for MAS. Most institutions have dedicated offices to assist with benefit processing and advocacy, but many don't collaborate with their institution's summer session offices to address the additional considerations associated with summer classes.

This session will provide an essential overview of GI Bill policies and key differences between summer and fall/spring terms that impact student eligibility and funding. We will also highlight the pivotal role of military student support offices and VA certifying officials in helping MAS maximize their benefits. By understanding these nuances, summer session administrators can reduce some administrative hurdles to better support MAS' academic success in summer.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SUMMER LOVES ADVISORS: CELEBRATING CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

Location: Meeting Room II

Presenters: Becka Simons, University of Montana; Tammy Johnson, University of California, Merced

Advisors and mentors are at the heart of student success, especially when it comes to helping students discover and enroll in summer courses—and we couldn't do it without them. This session shares the stories behind our now-annual Advisor Gratitude Lunches and how they have become a cornerstone of our summer marketing strategy. Join us as we reflect on the learning outcomes and explore how these celebrations strengthens partnerships, supports advising efforts, and honors the essential role advisors and mentors play in connecting students with summer opportunities.

MARKETING

ROUNDTABLE: PRE-COLLEGE COMMUNICATION METHODS & PROTOCOLS

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenter: Yaohui (Sandy) Paul-Wei, Syracuse University

We want to discuss what technologies are used and how we, and learn how others, deploy and utilize a multifaceted communication strategy for students according to their class of enrollment, their residential floor community, their building community, the program as a whole, and other sub-groups as needed (like move-in/out day groups, airport transfer groups, etc.) for effective dissemination of important information.

PRE-COLLEGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SESSION 5: 10:00 - 10:50 AM

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenter: Shelley Dempsey, University of South Carolina

The last few years haven't always been easy ones in higher ed. Declining enrollments, reduced funding, and increased needs from students.... so much we can't control. But we DO have a role in how we build positive work environments. This presentation will explore how prosocial behaviors in the workplace lead to greater retention, workplace civility, and production. You'll leave with ideas you can take back to your own office.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HIGH EXPECTATIONS, HIGH SUPPORT: STUDENT EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT FROM A-Z

Location: Meeting Room IV

Presenter: Lindsay Osborne, University of California, Santa Cruz

Student Employees are some of our greatest assets in connecting with incoming students and serving as resources, guides and role models. Carrying great responsibility for representing the ideals of the University, our student Peer Mentors must be able to quickly foster connections while supporting a diverse body of students for whom they may be the first point of contact. Moving away from the transactional employer-employee relationship there is an opportunity to serve students on both sides of the lens: program participant and student employee.

Drawing on student development theories and a focus on professional and personal development, we work to highlight student success and build a culture of appreciation in the day-to-day work. Intentional training is the base from which students grow into inclusive and knowledgeable student leaders. Learn more about our best practices and holistic approach to student professional development in an early start program.

BRIDGE PROGRAMS

FROM 0 TO 210 IN 8 MONTHS: KEYS TO LAUNCHING A SUCCESSFUL PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM IN LESS THAN 1 YEAR

Location: Meeting Room II

Presenters: David Mallen and Marion Comi-Morog, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Explore@UNC is an innovative pre-college program at UNC Chapel Hill that encourages student inquiry into academic majors to assist with their college major selection process. This presentation will share steps for creating the program, tips for harnessing institutional assets, and data outcomes from a successful launch season that will inform intentions to scale up and triple offerings and capacity in Year Two to meet growing demand. We will also discuss marketing strategies that promoted cross-pollination across all academic summer programs on campus and helped expand UNC's presence in the pre-college social media landscape.

PRE-COLLEGE

ROUNDTABLE: PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS: IS THE GRASS ALWAYS GREENER?

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenters: Maeve Skidmore, Southern Methodist University

The stereotype of private universities is often that they have larger budgets, more student support, and less scrutiny from state legislatures. However, anyone who works for a private knows that there are no lack of issues to confront. Join NAASS members from private institutions to talk about the state of winter and summer programming and common challenges.

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

SESSION 6: 11:00 - 11:50 AM

WHAT'LL YA HAVE? WORKING WITH FACULTY TO BUILD A STUDENT-DRIVEN SUMMER

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenters: Samantha Lamon and Sara Wade, Emory University

As summer administrators, how do we foster faculty input and engagement while ensuring that we continue to meet student needs? This presentation will explore strategies for using data-driven approaches to build a high-impact roster of summer courses; working with faculty to develop special programs and experiential learning opportunities; and addressing tough topics surrounding teaching and training expectations, salary, and course cancellations to create a collaborative planning process where both faculty and students feel supported.

OPERATIONS

GOAL SETTING AS A CULTURE BUILDER: STRENGTHENING TEAM IDENTITY AND COLLABORATION

Location: Meeting Room IV

Presenter: Barbara Rusen, Rutgers University

Too often, goal setting is treated as a compliance exercise rather than a meaningful opportunity for growth and connection. This workshop reimagines goal setting as a powerful tool for building team culture, deepening collaboration, and reinforcing shared purpose. Participants will explore how inclusive goal-setting processes can clarify priorities, strengthen professional relationships, and increase motivation across teams. Through a case example, reflection prompts, and collaborative discussions, attendees will walk away with practical strategies for making goal setting a culture-building practice, not just a task on a timeline.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING A STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD: EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICES FOR CAMPUS SUCCESS

Location: Meeting Room II

Presenter: Amanda Therrell, University of South Carolina

Driven by a focus on student outcomes, the Student Advisory Board (SAB) at the University of South Carolina was established under the Graduation and Retention Network (GARNET) to elevate student voices in shaping program initiatives. This undergraduate-led board plays a key role in enhancing high-impact programs such as Summer Semester, Winter Session, Accelerated Study Plans, and Interdisciplinary Certificates. Selected through a competitive and inclusive process, SAB members contribute diverse perspectives that inform program development, accessibility, and student engagement strategies. Monthly meetings provide space for strategic planning and creative problem-solving, while student-led information sessions promote open dialogue and community engagement.

This session will explore the SAB's structure, responsibilities, and impact on summer and winter programming. Attendees will gain practical strategies for engaging students in initiative planning, improving retention, and increasing awareness of institutional resources. Institutions looking to integrate student voice into program decision-making will gain a replicable framework for developing advisory boards that empower student leadership. Participants will leave with actionable ideas for launching or strengthening student advisory models that position students as active partners in institutional success.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

ROUNDTABLE: WELCOME TO YOUR JOURNAL: SUMMER ACADEME

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenters:

Paul Cesarini, Loyola University New Orleans

Omega Lee, University of California, Davis

Alana Speth, University of Virginia

Dr. Omega Lee, Ms. Alana Speth, and Dr. Paul Cesarini welcome you to attend a roundtable discussion about Summer Academe -- the premiere journal for NAASS and AUSS. The editors look forward to brainstorming with each of you to make the journal even more relevant than it has been. They will also present a brief overview of what the journal has to offer and how you can play a role in writing for it or contributing to it in other ways. Be prepared for lively discussion!

RESEARCH

SESSION 7: 2:00 - 2:50 PM

ROUNDTABLE: THE SUMMER WISHLIST: A COLLABORATIVE SPACE FOR FRESH IDEAS

Location: Meeting Room VI

Presenter: Ursula Rendon, University of California, Santa Cruz

Join colleagues from across institutions for an interactive brainstorming session designed to spark creativity and inspiration for current/future summer and inter-session programming. Together, we'll build and share innovative ideas, challenges, and best practices to reimagine student success, collaboration, and engagement. Come ready to exchange insights, dream big, and leave with new perspectives to bring back to your campus.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

MANAGING A SUMMER OFFICE IN A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

Location: Meeting Room IV

Presenter: Debra Boucher, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Summer sessions are evolving—and so must the offices that run them. This interactive workshop equips summer administrators with practical tools to lead through change using data and analytics. Participants will explore real-world strategies for tracking key metrics, forecasting demand, and prioritizing initiatives that make the biggest impact. Through hands-on activities and peer exchange, attendees will leave with actionable resources to streamline operations, communicate insights, and build a more responsive, student-centered summer experience.

OPERATIONS

THE POWER OF PRE-COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS: CREATING PATHWAYS TO ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND BELONGING

Location: Meeting Room III

Presenters:

Christopher Cofer, Syracuse University

Aprille Logan, Syracuse University

Karen Turner, Georgetown University

We will discuss why partners are important to our mission and will share the model we use with our ~30 partner organizations. This model is successful in funding ~30% of our students annually (381 students in 2025). We will discuss how we keep track of and manage partner relations, our nomination process for specific scholarships, etc. Other panelists will share how they work with partners and how it is influenced by their institutional placement and alignment with their mission.

PRE-COLLEGE

THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring this year's conference to life.

Your ideas, energy, and generosity made this gathering possible. We're so grateful for the many hands and hearts that continue to make the NAASS community strong.

With appreciation,
The Conference Chairs



NAASS

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SUMMER SESSIONS