THE COLLEGE STAR NETWORK PRESENTS:

The College STAR Conference

Preparing Students Who Learn Differently for College Success!

Tuesday, October 26th 10:30am – 3:45pm (ET)

&

Wednesday, October 27th 10:30am – 4:45pm (ET)
COLLEGE STAR SUPPORT PROGRAMS

As-U-R Program
Appalachian State University

SKILL Program
Auburn University

Center for Student Success
Beacon College

PAL
Curry College

Arch Learning Center
Dean College

STEPP Program
East Carolina University

Erie County Community College

Bronco STAR
Fayetteville State

Educational Research
Landmark College

Learning Partners
Louisburg College

Learning Support Program
Marist College

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About the Conference

The College STAR Virtual Conference: Preparing students who learn differently for college success is a free, two-day, online conference for students, families, and professionals seeking meaningful resources and information about transition and access in higher education for students with diverse learning profiles.

This year, our topic areas focus on the differences between high school and college, college departments and resources, and the successful habits of college students. The first day of the conference will focus on high-level introductory information about these topics, while the second day dives a little deeper and gives participants the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, and strategies.

This conference aims to provide tools and resources for students with learning and attention differences and assist participants in identifying best practices when conducting the transition from high school to college. This year’s conference is the second annual conference hosted by the College STAR National Student Support Network.

Setting Up Zoom

The entire conference will take place over Zoom. Please see our Zoom page to create a free Zoom account and for more information about setting up Zoom on your device. If you have any trouble, please check in with our Virtual Information Desk. The Zoom meeting password for the entire conference is: cs2021

Virtual Information Desk

The Virtual Information Desk is a Zoom meeting room with College STAR Team members who can help point you to information and resources and troubleshoot any challenges you may be having as you access conference materials or meeting rooms. Please click here to access the Virtual Information Desk.

Conference Toolkit

Providing tangible takeaways from each session was a goal of the College STAR Student Support Network team. The 2021 Virtual Conference Toolkit is that takeaway. It is a collection of useful tools provided by the conference’s presenters. Please click here to access the Conference Toolkit.

Conference Feedback

At the conclusion of the conference, you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts with us. Your feedback is extremely valuable and we are grateful for your time in completing the post-conference survey. To show our appreciation, we will be sharing a $20 gift card to the first 10 people who complete the survey. Please complete the survey in its entirety and share your contact information at the end to be eligible for the gift card.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Moderator(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00 AM ET</td>
<td>WELCOME AND CONFERENCE KICKOFF</td>
<td>This session welcomes participants, reviews the agenda, and covers the technical aspects of the virtual conference.</td>
<td>Presenters: Alysha Gray, Ellen Bunn, &amp; Tanner Jones</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:45 AM ET</td>
<td>TYPES OF POST-SECONDARY SETTINGS</td>
<td>This session will provide participants with information about the different types of post-secondary settings available after high school. Participants will learn about settings specifically where students with disabilities can be successful independently as well as with additional support if needed.</td>
<td>Presenter: Robin Wright</td>
<td>Moderator: Alysha Gray</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:45 PM ET</td>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE</td>
<td>This session will highlight some of the key differences between high school and college that are helpful for college-bound students and their families to be aware of. We will also share transition tips related to each contrast, which students can use to start preparing for these changes long before arriving on campus.</td>
<td>Presenters: Emily Johnson, Adam Denney, Danielle Dietz</td>
<td>Moderator: Ellen Bunn</td>
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<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM ET</td>
<td>PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT -LIGHTNING ROUND</td>
<td>This session will spotlight the various support programs within the College STAR Network and allow participants to hear from various programs representatives who will be sharing information about their unique programs.</td>
<td>Presenters: Program Representatives</td>
<td>Moderators: Alysha Gray and Tanner Jones</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:45 PM ET</td>
<td>COLLEGE RESOURCES &amp; DEPARTMENTS</td>
<td>This presentation will provide families, educators, and students with important information about the college setting regarding disabilities, self-advocacy, the laws, and reasonable accommodations. Recipes will be provided on how to navigate the academic differences between high school and college, specifically in regard to student and parental roles, tests, and study responsibilities. Specialized programs, support services, and resources will be highlighted and discussed in detail. It is important for students to know what types of services and supports they may need when beginning the college search. Going off to college is a big transition, but with the necessary supports in place, success will occur.</td>
<td>Presenters: Krista Ackert, Maryellen Guardino, &amp; Susan Jenkins</td>
<td>Moderator: Emily Johnson</td>
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<td>3:00 – 3:45 PM ET</td>
<td>SUCCESSFUL HABITS &amp; BEHAVIORS</td>
<td>This presentation gives the &quot;secret formula&quot; to success in any class, any major, at any university. Originally created for first-year college students, particularly those who may or may not have family members, friends, or acquaintances to give them insight into what it takes to be successful in college, this presentation starts a discussion regarding some of the skills that students likely already possess and encourage students to build on those skills in order to start their college career successfully.</td>
<td>Presenters: Kelly Edwards</td>
<td>Moderator: Ellen Bunn</td>
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10:30 – 11:00AM ET **WELCOME AND DAY 2 KICKOFF**
This session welcomes participants to Day 2 of the Conference, reviews the day’s agenda, and covers the technical aspects of the virtual conference.
*Presenters: Alysha Gray, Ellen Bunn, & Tanner Jones*

11:00 – 12:15PM ET **HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE - MINI SESSIONS**
These fifteen minute mini sessions address more specific differences between high school and college. The presentations in this session will address the following topics: High School Transition Planning/IEP Goals, Neurodiversity & differences in self-advocacy, key legal and service delivery, differences between high school and college, frequent college pitfalls, and choosing a college major.
*Presenters: Bianca Bragg, Connie Syharat, Danielle Dietz, Kelly Edwards, Alysha Gray*
*Moderator: Robin Wright*

12:30 – 2:00PM ET **PROGRAM MEET AND GREET**
We encourage you to attend our Program Meet and Greet as an opportunity to network and get to know more about the programs in which you are interested. Participants will be able to gather more specific information about the support programs and ask questions to program representatives. The following programs will be represented:

- Auburn University- SKILL Program
- University of Indianapolis- BUILD Program
- Marshall University- The College Program for Student with ASD
- Marist College- Learning Support Program
- East Carolina University- STEPP Program
- Louisburg College- Learning Partners
- Appalachian State University - As-U-R

02:00 – 3:15PM ET **COLLEGE RESOURCES & DEPARTMENTS**
These fifteen minute mini-sessions will address various college resources and common campus departments. The presentations in this session will highlight the following college resources and departments: Tutoring/Academic Support Resources, College Advising Departments, Career Services, Disability Services, and Independent Living Resources.
*Presenters: Lee Cope, Keely Donovan, Adam Denney, Andrea Obert, Brent Fragnoli*
*Moderator: Ellen Bunn*

3:30 – 4:45PM ET **SUCCESSFUL HABITS & BEHAVIORS**
These fifteen minute mini-sessions will review the successful skills, habits, and behaviors of effective college students. The presentations in this session will address the following topics: Executive Functioning Strategies for College Success, Preparing to learn online for students with LDs and ADHD, Implementing Effective Email Habits for College Students, Planning a Semester on a Page, and Creating Course Progress Reports.
*Presenters: Christina Crow, Tabitha Mancini, Ellen Bunn, Laurel Mason, Sarah Williams*
*Moderator: Danielle Dietz*
CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Krista Ackert (krista.ackert@marist.edu)
Krista Ackert has worked at Marist College for eight years. She is a Learning Specialist and an Assistant Director for the Office of Accommodations & Accessibility. Before coming to Marist in 2013, Krista's experiences ranged from teaching in the elementary through high school levels while also taking time to raise her two children. Krista received her bachelor's degrees in Education and Psychology from Assumption College. She also holds a master's degree in Reading- Remedial Reading and Language Arts from Southern Connecticut State University.

Bianca Bragg (hynes@marshall.edu)
Bianca Bragg is a Student Support Specialist in the College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She holds a bachelor's degree from Morehead State University and a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Marshall. Mrs. Bragg has worked with the West Virginia Autism Training Center since 2011, specializing in using a person-centered and individualized approach to serving college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is currently interested in research related to the understanding of social communication and behavior in intimate relationships for individuals with ASD.

Ellen Bunn (bunnek@appstate.edu)
Ellen Bunn started her journey with the As-U-R program in the Fall of 2015. Currently, she serves as the Assistant Director of Academic Strategy Instruction and the As-U-R Services Coordinator for the Student Learning Center at Appalachian State University. A two-time graduate of App State, Ellen received her B.S. in Special Education from Appalachian in 2017 and her Masters in Special Education at Appalachian State and certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2018. Additionally, Ellen has been a licensed special educator in the state of North Carolina since the summer of 2017 and is an adjunct instructor for the Reich College of Education's Reading and Special Education Department. Ellen is the acting Chair of the College STAR Conference planning committee and an active member of the College STAR Network.

Lee Cope (copeiial@appstate.edu)
Lee Cope joined Appalachian State University in February of 2018 as Director of University Tutorial Services (UTS), and Lee began serving as Executive Director of the Disco Student Learning Center in June 2020. Lee has several years of experience coordinating academic student growth by promoting and improving peer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, and study skills support. Prior to working at ASU, Lee worked in the Student Support Services Program at Mars Hill University. Additionally, while serving at MHU, Lee coordinated the design and implementation of seminars and program initiatives focused on student development. A native of McDowell County, NC, Lee earned a B.A. in Sociology and a B.A. in Spanish from Mars Hill College in 2004. He earned a Master of Liberal Arts degree from UNC-Asheville in 2011 while researching sustainability through the lenses of Environmental Sociology and the Sociology of Religion.

Christina Crow (christina.crow@du.edu)
Christina Crow is an Executive Functioning Coach and the founder and CEO of ReMind Brain Training. Christina specializes in executive functioning, brain development, learning differences, disabilities, types of neurodiversity, and the utilization of research-based strategies to intentionally target and effectively enhance individual neurological development. Through her work with ReMind Brain Training and the Learning Effectiveness Program at the University of Denver, Christina provides executive functioning coaching and consulting services for students, families, educators, and professionals of all ages; assisting individuals in better understanding their own strengths, challenges, purpose, and potential while gaining the functional skills to achieve personal success.

Adam Denney (denneya15@ecu.edu)
Adam Denney is the Senior Associate Director for Program Services with the STEPP Program at East Carolina University. Adam has a Bachelor of Science in Special Education and a Master of Science in Counselor Education with a focus on Higher Education and Student Affairs, both from ECU. As the Senior Associate Director for Program Services, Adam is able to combine his educational experience with his passion for supporting students' personal, academic, and professional success.
Danielle Dietz (dietzd21@ecu.edu)
Danielle Dietz has recently joined the team at the ECU STEPP Program this fall 2021. Before coming to ECU, Danielle worked in the K-12 setting as a high school special education teacher and most recently as a program specialist. In addition to her K-12 classroom experience, Danielle had also been teaching first-year classes for college success.

Keely Donovan (kdonovan@email.arizona.edu)
Keely Donovan is the Assistant Director of Bartlett Labs, part of the SALT Center at the University of Arizona. She assists with data management and assessment within the department. Prior to this role, she worked directly with students as an academic advisor, and she is also a former high school teacher.

Kelly Edwards (edwardska2@appstate.edu)
Kelly Edwards received her undergraduate degree in Social Work, her Master of Science in Clinical Child and School Psychology, and then her Specialist degree in School Psychology. She worked as a Lead School Psychologist in the western North Carolina region for approximately three years before transitioning into her current position of Assistant Learning Specialist. She has always had a professional and personal interest in helping students reach their fullest potentials, often higher than they even thought possible!

Brent Fragnoli (bfragnol@nd.edu)
Brent Fragnoli has a Master's in Higher Education and a specialty in working with students with Autism. He has spent the past three years at Marshall University’s Autism Training Center College Program, supporting students in various ways. Now at the University of Notre Dame, Brent manages the intake process along with all housing accommodations for the Sara Bea Accessibility Office, as well as coordinates efforts for the education of students, staff, and faculty as we work to create a culture that is inclusive and welcoming for all students.

Alysha Gray (grayal18@ecu.edu)
Alysha Gray is the Director of Tutoring and Learning Skills Specialist at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. In this role, she promotes the academic success, professional development, and personal wellness of medical students. Over the past year, Alysha has served as the Co-PI and Network Director for the College STAR Network. She has previously held positions as the Instructional Specialist for the STEPP program at ECU and as a School Psychologist within the NC public school system.

Maryellen Guardino (maryellen.guardino@marist.edu)
Maryellen Guardino graduated from Marist College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and obtained her teaching certificates in elementary and special education in New York State and New Jersey. She is a certified School Psychologist with a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology and School Psychology. She has been working at Marist College since 2008 and is the Director of the Office of Accommodations and Accessibility at Marist College.

Susan Jenkins (susan.jenkins@marist.edu)
Susan Jenkins holds a BA in English from Virginia Tech and an M.Ed. in Special Education from George Mason University. She was a middle and high school special education teacher before starting at Marist in 2007 when she began working as a Learning Specialist in the Office of Accommodations & Accessibility (OAA). Susan currently works as a Learning Specialist and an Assistant Director for the OAA.

Emily Johnson (johnsonem@ecu.edu)
Emily Johnson is the Associate Director for Transition Support with the STEPP Program at East Carolina University. In this role, she assists students, families, and K-12 schools in navigating STEPP's recruitment and admissions process and works with admitted students throughout their transition from high school to college.
CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Tabitha Mancini (tabithamancini@landmark.edu)
Tabitha Mancini has over 10 years of experience in issues pertaining to disability services in higher education, was a Learning Strategies Instructor at the University of Connecticut in the Center for Students with Disabilities, and was a Director of a Student Disability Services office. Currently, she is the Director of Outreach for Online Programs at Landmark College and is an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Connecticut where she teaches graduate-level courses in the topics of issues in disability services, disability-related policy in postsecondary education, and assistive technology. Tabitha holds a bachelor’s degree with the highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley in sociology with an emphasis in disability studies. She holds a master’s degree in educational psychology with a concentration in special education from the University of Connecticut in which she focused on college transition and disability services in postsecondary education.

Laurel Grigg Mason (lgrigg@arizona.edu)
Laurel Grigg Mason is the Director of the Bartlett Labs, part of the SALT Center at The University of Arizona. She oversees data management and assessment within the department and collaborates with researchers around the world on projects that explore students with learning differences in college. Prior to this role, she worked directly with students and peer tutors. Her doctoral work in Higher Education focuses on college access and success for disabled students.

Andrea Obert (aobert@ec3pa.org)
Andrea Obert has been working in Higher Education for the past 8 years in a wide variety of roles. She received her master's in Elementary and Secondary School Counseling at Bloomsburg University in 2013. Andrea started her career in Higher Education at Seton Hill University working in their Trio Student Support Services Program in 2013. She moved closer home after securing a job at Mercyhurst University where she worked for 6 years in the Autism Initiative and Learning Differences programs. Andrea now serves as a College Counselor at the newly established Erie County Community College. She is passionate about helping students succeed and empowering them to become advocates for themselves.

Connie Syharat (connie.syharat@uconn.edu)
Connie Syharat is a Research Assistant at the University of Connecticut as a part of the NSF Revolutionizing Engineering Departments (NSF-RED) project, "Beyond Accommodation: Leveraging Neurodiversity for Engineering Innovation." In her time at the University of Connecticut, she has also worked as a Research Assistant for NSF CAREER project "Promoting Engineering Innovation Through Increased Neurodiversity by Encouraging the Participation of Students with ADHD" and has served as Program Assistant for the related summer program for middle school students with ADHD. Prior to joining the University of Connecticut, she spent eight years as a K-12 teacher in Connecticut public schools, where she maintained a focus on providing a varied learning environment and differentiated instruction for all types of learners. She received her Master of Arts in Modern Languages from Central Connecticut State University in 2011. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies and her teaching certificate from Connecticut College in 2001. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction at UConn’s Neag School of Education.

Sarah Williams (williamssar@ecu.edu)
Sarah Williams the Executive Director of the Office for Faculty Excellence and STEPP Program at East Carolina University. For the past 10 years, she has served as the PI for College STAR, a grant-funded initiative focused on helping universities learn to become more welcoming places for students with learning and attention differences. She previously held positions as a faculty member in the College of Education at ECU and as a middle school special education teacher in the NC public school.

Robin Wright (rwright@louisburg.edu)
Robin Wright is currently the director of Accessibility Services and the Learning Partners Program at Louisburg College in Louisburg North Carolina. She retired from the North Carolina Public schools system in January of 2020 as the Executive Director of the Exceptional Children’s Department in Wilson County Schools. During her 31 years in education, she has served as special education, school level administrator, district administrator, and long-time advocate for students with disabilities as well as learning differences. Dr. Wright holds a BS in Special Education, MSA in School Administration, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Her short time working with the College Star network has allowed her to assist students graduating from Louisburg College to further their educational journey by transitioning to other larger institutions based on the right institution for them.
Virtual Toolkit

Interested in a tangible takeaway?

Visit our virtual toolkit page for more resources from the conference!

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Thank you to the OAK Foundation for making this conference possible and for their continued support of the College STAR National Student Support Network.

THANK YOU!