Leading a Dynamic College Counseling Program
Sept. 25–26

Wednesday, Sept. 25

7:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.
Registration and Breakfast

8 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Welcome, Introductions, and Overview

8:15 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.
Study in Wales: Admission Criteria Updates for the Cost-Aware USA Applicant
Dr. Maggie Parke, USA Manager for Study in Wales

More and more cost-aware, high-achieving students are considering the international opportunities open to them for college, and the universities in Wales are a prime location to explore. With high academic profiles and excellent quality of life at a low cost, Wales offers options for undergraduate degrees equal to US degrees, but completed in three years. Learn more, including recent updates to the admission criteria.

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Defining and Understanding Leadership
Stacy Richardson, Lead College Counselor, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School (DC)
Rosemary Martin, Director of College Counseling, St. John’s College High School (DC)
Chelette Stephenson, Director of Counseling, St. John’s School (TX)
DeEnna Holohan, Director of College Counseling, St. Thomas High School (TX)

Take an intricate look at leadership from a college counseling perspective. Discuss its definition, models of leadership, and how it’s enacted.

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Session 1: Defining and Aligning Your Mission
Aaron Fulk, Director of College Counseling, Marin Academy (CA)
Stacy Richardson, Lead College Counselor, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School (DC)

A dynamic college counseling program starts with its mission and goals. Explore the need for a clearly articulated mission and discuss how to ensure that it is aligned with your school’s mission or vision statement.

10:45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Break

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Session 2: Building and Managing a College Counseling Program
Rosemary Martin, Director of College Counseling, St. John’s College High School (DC)
Jamie Kim, Director of College Counseling, St. John’s School (TX)

Examine personnel issues, budgetary considerations, and communications. Learn a variety of strategies that will create the strong and nimble foundation needed to support a dynamic program.

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Session 3: Assessing Your College Counseling Office and Programs for Inclusivity: Are You Meeting the Needs of All Students?
Stacy Richardson, Lead College Counselor, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School (DC)
Jamie Kim, Director of College Counseling, St. John’s School (TX)

You might be intentional in counseling diverse populations, but is everyone in your department as conscientious? Is the impact you are hoping for aligned with your intentions? We will explore how college counseling departments can assess how inclusive they are in engaging with all students and families. By sharing best practices and some of the glaring (or not-so-glaring) ways our college counseling departments sometimes falter, we will discuss the questions we should be asking, what we are doing to address diverse populations, and create a list of action items so our departments are better prepared to serve all of our students and families.

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Session 4: Data-Driven Decision-Making: Using Data to Improve College Counseling
Aaron Fulk, Director of College Counseling, Marin Academy (CA)
Rosemary Martin, Director of College Counseling, St. John’s College High School (DC)

Without data, conversations about college can get caught up in the idea of a namesake, cost, or national acceptance rates. With the help of session leaders, attendees will develop a clear understanding of how to forecast, collect, translate, and recycle data to be useful for a variety of constituencies: the college counseling office itself, students, families, principals/head of schools, and board of trustees or district personnel. Learn about a variety of approaches to implementing more data during the coming year.

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Daily Reflection, Questions, Wrap-Up, and Evaluations

Thursday, Sept. 26

7 a.m. – 8 a.m.
Breakfast

8 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Session 5: Emerging Trends
Chelette Stephenson, Director of Counseling, St. Thomas High School (TX)
DeEnna Holohan, Director of College Counseling, Notre Dame High School (CA)
Mike Steidel, Dean of Admission, Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
Vern Granger, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Connecticut
Nicole Curvin, Dean of Admissions, Middlebury College (VT)

Deans and directors of admission shed light on the current landscape of college admission and discuss current trends and hot button issues in the profession. Identify geographic and regional trends affecting the college admission process and understand how to best address them while supporting students and families.

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Session 6: Deans Panel
Mike Steidel, Dean of Admission, Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
Vern Granger, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Connecticut
Nicole Curvin, Dean of Admissions, Middlebury College (VT)

Deans and directors of admission shed light on the current landscape of college admission and discuss current trends and hot button issues in the profession. Identify geographic and regional trends affecting the college admission process and understand how to best address them while supporting students and families.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Session 7: Preventing Counselor Burnout
Chelette Stephenson, Director of Counseling, St. Thomas High School (TX)

Counselors promote work-school balance to students, but often find they are unable to find a work-life balance that allows them to continue in their profession. With increased caseloads and additional tasks, coupled with busy personal lives, counselors often fail to take care of their needs. This session provides strategies to help counselors work smarter.

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Wrap-Up and Evaluations