



CONFERENCE

# DEVELOPING AND MANAGING COMPETENCY- BASED EDUCATION

May 15 -17, 2018

Orange County, CA





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*Understand, plan, enhance, and optimize competency-based education (CBE) on your campus.*

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## OVERVIEW

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Learn how your institution can overcome challenges and make sound decisions as you develop or improve your competency-based education (CBE) program. This conference goes beyond an overview of what CBE is in order to help you make genuine progress on your initiative. With the guidance of our experts you will be better able to:

- Understand CBE trends and what may work best for your institution
- Determine institutional priorities and readiness to adopt the CBE model
- Prepare for CBE accreditation, financial aid, transcribing, and resourcing
- Learn sound principles for program design and student learning assessment

Experts from five institutions on the leading edge of CBE will connect you with the tools you need to create and maintain high-quality CBE programs. Whether you are in the beginning stages of planning your program or are already entrenched in the development process, this program can help your CBE initiative succeed.

## LEARN FROM THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURE OF OUR EXPERTS

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Our speakers come from a wide range of institutions and they can guide you toward a successful program regardless of your unique institutional context. They have succeeded; they have failed; they've rallied to find solutions to their challenges; and now they are joining us to share what they've learned. Join us to hear from institutional leaders working on the cutting edge of CBE, including:

- **James Selbe**, formerly with Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- **Hope Nordstrom**, Lipscomb University
- **Josh Greenberg**, University of Maryland University College
- **Sheane Robinson**, University of Maryland University College
- **William Pena**, Southern New Hampshire University

[VISIT EVENT PAGE](#)

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## TWO CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

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### **Pre-Conference: Maintaining Quality in Your Competency-Based Programs**

In this pre-conference workshop, you will delve into the C-BEN Quality Principles and Standards and learn how this framework can provide guideposts for your own CBE program. You will also review a case study from Lipscomb University and learn how you can apply the tactics discussed at your own institution.

### **Post-Conference: Translating Experience into College Credit with Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)**

To retain and graduate more adult learners, institutions are using PLA to award college-level credit for work and life experiences. This workshop will address how PLA can be designed to translate experiential learning into college credit.

## REGISTER TWO PEOPLE AND A THIRD CAN ATTEND FOR 50% OFF!

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Academic leaders tasked with implementing and managing CBE curriculum are encouraged to attend this conference with their committee. You and your team will leave with a working plan to creatively develop, implement, and manage your CBE programs. **To encourage team participation, every third participant can register for 50% off!**

## LEARNING OUTCOME

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After participating in the conference, you will be able to take the next steps in developing and implementing competency-based education (CBE) at your institution.



## AGENDA

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DAY 1: MONDAY, MAY 15, 2018

### **Pre-Conference Workshop: Maintaining Quality in Your Competency-Based Programs**

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

**Registration and Continental Breakfast (included in workshop registration fee) for Pre-Conference Workshop Attendees**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **Pre-Conference Workshop: Maintaining Quality in Your Competency-Based Programs**

In this opening workshop, you will review the C-BEN Quality Principles and Standards for Competency-Based Education Programs released in 2017. We will explore how these quality principles and standards can provide much-needed guideposts regardless of how your CBE program is structured. This workshop will focus primarily on curriculum design, assessment strategy, and continuous improvement. Included will be a case study on Walden University's approach to developing its own CBE programs and a discussion of challenges, strengths, and lessons learned.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**Lunch for Pre-Conference Attendees (included in workshop registration fee)**

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

**Registration for Main Conference**

1:00 - 1:45 pm

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

### **The Foundations of Successful CBE Programs**

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

#### **Trends, Data and CBE Models**

CBE programs take many different forms within higher education. In this first hour, we will look at trends within CBE, as well as different models that institutions have adopted. We will review the opportunities and challenges associated with each trend and model discussed.

2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

**Afternoon Break**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

#### **Getting Started: The Key Ingredients Needed to Develop CBE**

Regardless of the CBE model that your institution follows, there are key elements that must be included. The lessons shared will allow you to explore the fundamental features that your institution must have to start a CBE program.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

#### **Assessing and Evaluating Your Institutional Readiness to Implement CBE**

Making the transition to a learner-centered approach to education can be a challenge, especially if it is made too quickly. To ensure that your initiative is successful, you must develop strategies for implementation. Learn how to identify your institution's readiness to implement CBE and how you can continue moving your program forward.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Networking Reception (included in registration fee)**



## AGENDA

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### DAY 2: TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)**

#### **Administrative Considerations in CBE**

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

##### **Making the Big Decisions and Choosing What Works Best for Your Institution**

As we launch day two, we will focus on making the right decisions for your unique institutional context. When making decisions you will be better prepared to make decisions that:

- Align your strategy for CBE with your institutional mission
- Address organizational challenges associated with CBE
- Place CBE in the context of your current educational model

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.

**Morning Break**

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

##### **Clearing the Path to Accreditation**

Learn how the Department of Education (DOE) and other accrediting bodies are addressing CBE models from an accreditation and Title IV funding perspective. With this knowledge, you can more effectively design your programs and prepare for the accreditation approval process.

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

##### **Preparing Your Financial Aid Team for CBE**

Learn about the key factors critical to financial aid success for CBE programs, including:

- Managing a prepared and coordinated team
- Developing partnerships throughout student services
- Selecting the right software for your institution
- Staying on top of regulations and compliance requirements.

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

**Lunch (included in registration fee)**

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

##### **Translating Competencies into Grades and Transcripts**

CBE presents a unique challenge regarding student transcripts. When a student leaves your institution, what does their transcript tell employers or other colleges about their performance? In this session, we will explore your institution's options for grading systems and learning transcription within CBE so that you will gain a better sense of what your institution should be doing to improve this process.

2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

**Break**



## AGENDA

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### DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

#### **Resourcing Your CBE Program: Staffing and Cost Models**

Supporting your CBE program will inevitably require you to change how resources are allocated at your institution. Learn what variables you need to consider and how those variables translate to your institution's business model. With a special emphasis on staffing and cost models, you will leave with a better understanding of how to properly resource your CBE program.

#### **Principles for CBE Program and Course Design**

4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

#### **Methods for Articulating Competencies**

Programs built on competencies require an upfront and granular approach to articulating learning throughout the program. We will show you practical methods for articulating and modeling competencies upfront in your design process.

### DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2018

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

#### **Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)**

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

#### **Practicing Backward Design Principles**

From a curricular perspective, CBE programs begin by assessing the knowledge and skills need to display and working backward from there. We will instruct you on how to backward design your CBE program by:

- Identifying a list of competencies that students need to develop
- Determining how you can help students achieve those competencies

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.

#### **Morning Break**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

#### **Assessing Student Learning Beyond Tests and Papers**

Learn how you can directly assess subsets of competencies by designing learning evaluation exercises that invoke observable behaviors from students. During this working session you will be divided into small groups to brainstorm a series of assessments (instead of traditional tests and papers) that could be used to evaluate student learning. We will end by reviewing how you can use the data from these assessments to identify at-risk students.

11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

#### **Supporting Faculty and Students to Succeed in CBE**

Faculty members' roles change dramatically within the framework of CBE programs. We will discuss the critical role that faculty play in personalized learning, assessing student learning, and coaching to encourage student success. You will gain insights as to how you can engage faculty and ensure that they are comfortable both teaching and supporting students in this new model.

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **Wrap Up**

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

#### **Lunch for Post-Conference Workshop Attendees (included in workshop registration fee)**



## AGENDA

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### DAY 3 (CONTINUED)

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Post-Conference Workshop: Translating Experience into College Credit with Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)**

To retain and graduate more adult students, institutions are using PLA to award college-level credit for work and life experiences. PLA kick starts student success, provides economic and time benefits, increases student persistence, and encourages lifelong learning by allowing students to engage in a course challenge, take a challenge exam, or present a portfolio to demonstrate his or her mastery of competencies. This workshop will address:

- How PLA can be designed to translate experiential learning into college credit
- Defining Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and what it involves
- Types of PLA
- How PLA contributes to academic success
- Multiple approaches to PLA
- How professional development can help prepare your faculty and administrators



## INSTRUCTORS

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### **Josh Greenberg, Business Analyst, AccelerEd**

Josh has been a business analyst in information technology consulting, manufacturing, and higher education for over 17 years. He specializes in customer focused analysis and making projects solve the right problems. He currently works in higher education where he focuses on student focused solutions and competency based education.

### **Cara Harris, Instructional Design Consultant**

Cara Harris has been in higher education for 6 years with the last two and half of those years working for the College of Professional Studies at Lipscomb University as an Instructional Designer where she combined an A.A.S. in Visual Communication and an M.Ed. in Instructional Technology to create quality, visually appealing courses. Cara worked specifically with the college to develop competency-based courses for a new competency-based program that launched in 2016. She worked with the curriculum director and faculty content creators to create courses and was responsible for designing the courses in the learning platform as well making changes and developing a system for continuous improvement. Cara also worked closely with the Curriculum director to develop ongoing trainings for faculty on subjects like backwards design and quality feedback. In addition to her role with the College of Professional Studies, she also worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning at Lipscomb doing internal Quality Matters reviews for online courses. She is currently taking on contract instructional design roles and consulting. One of her current projects is with GoLong Consulting working to create competency-based online trainings for direct care workers in the state of Tennessee.

### **Hope Nordstrom, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Professor, Lipscomb University**

As a director, Nordstrom develops curriculum for the competency based education program. She collaborates with other faculty members and clients to develop new programs and courses for university and corporate uses. Additionally, she assists faculty members in implementing best practices for online teaching and learning.

Nordstrom has her bachelor's and master's degrees from Tennessee Technological University and her Ed.D. from Trevecca Nazarene University. She most recently worked in the College of Education at Lipscomb University as the Director of Advanced M.Ed./Ed.S. Programs and the faculty coordinator of the technology integration program. She came to Lipscomb with 10 years of experience as a middle school language arts teacher. She has also earned an Advanced Online Teaching Certificate from the Online Learning Consortium (OLC). Nordstrom has presented at the local, state, and national level on effective technology integration strategies, online learning, and personalized learning.

### **William Pena, Associate Vice President, Student Financial Services, Southern New Hampshire University**

William leads the University's financial aid interests relating to emerging and alternative learning models including competency-based education, direct assessment programs and the Department of Education's Experimental Sites Initiatives. He also oversees the Student Financial Services office serving the students and business partners of College for America.

Prior to Southern New Hampshire University, William served with the University of Wisconsin leading financial aid initiatives for their state-wide portfolio of CBE programs, including obtaining the first federal financial aid approval for a public university offering a direct assessment program. He is also a member of the Competency-Based Education Network and has contributed to the organization's publications on federal financial aid while also collaborating with accreditors and the U.S. Department of Education on emerging trends and challenges in the CBE space.

William has been in the higher education industry since 2004, serving primarily as a financial aid administrator. He has worked in the for-profit, public and private/nonprofit sectors with specialized focus on federal student aid compliance, alternative learning models and competency-based education programs.





## INSTRUCTORS

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### **Sheane Robinson, Business Analyst, AccelerEd**

Sheane Robinson is a Business Analyst with over 12 years of experience spanning various industries including higher education. She has a passion for using focused facilitation to support her business stakeholders in the areas of process engineering, problem identification, and strategic planning. She combines traditional analysis with creative facilitation to empower business leaders to plan effectively, improve processes, and drive collaboration across their organization.

### **James Selbe, Selbe Consulting**

Jim is a higher education consultant, specializing in online, competency-based education, enrollment growth, and serving student veterans. He served for over seven years as the President of Hopkinsville Community College. Until January 2015, Jim served as the System Director for Distance Learning Initiatives at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and guided the development of foundation principles for competency-based online education to be used statewide. Jim was also the director of KCTCS' online, modularized, competency-based Direct2Degree program (D2D). Jim has had a distinguished career as a college and university administrator for more than 36 years. Having served at a private liberal arts university, a technical institute, a regional research university, and several community colleges, Jim brings a wealth of knowledge from a variety of higher education sectors. He brings a unique perspective to guide planning and execution with full understanding of the cross-function implications.



OTHERS	VS	ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS
Typically large annual event		<b>Intimate, workshop-style event with personalized attention</b>
Many concurrent sessions; forcing choice		<b>One focused learning track</b>
Uneven sessions and less outcome-focused, driven by an open call for proposals		<b>Needs-driven</b> and meticulously planned with practical outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plans and next steps to use upon returning to campus</li> <li>Carefully-vetted expert instructors that are also practitioners in the field</li> </ul>
Lecture-based		<b>Learner-centric</b> and designed for interaction and collaboration
Large networking events with vendors		Small-scale opportunity to <b>truly connect with colleagues</b> in the same position at other institutions
Some slide presentations posted online after the event		<b>200+ page workbooks</b> with references, worksheets, articles, templates, exercises, and planning documents

**96%**  
of past attendees would recommend an AI conference to a colleague

**250+**  
and growing of AI member institutions (AI Pro)

**15,000+**  
higher ed professionals served

AI Conference Experiences

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Academic Impressions provides valuable exploration of timely and pragmatic challenges to higher education institutions. The combination of impassioned subject matter experts as presenters and means of engaging conference attendees was potent.

- C. Tennent, Associate VP of Facilities Management, University of Saskatchewan

This conference was the complete package: relevant topics, philosophical and practical applications, fantastic speakers, fantastic location. One of the BEST conferences I've ever attended. It is what a conference should be! Full of collaboration, networking and solutions.

- M. Lowe, Associate Professor and General Reference Librarian University of Louisiana at Monroe



## LOCATION

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November 14 - 15, 2017 :: Orlando, FL

### HOTEL:

Hyatt Regency Orange County  
11999 Harbor Blvd  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
714.750.1234

### ROOM RATE:

The rate is \$159 for single or double occupancy, plus applicable tax.

### ROOM BLOCK DATES:

The nights of March 14, 15 and 16, 2018.

### RATE AVAILABLE UNTIL:

April 23, 2018.

Please book early - rooms are limited and subject to availability.