

# CREATING A COORDINATED SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

November 11 - 12, 2019 | Atlanta, GA



## *Be the champion for grad student success across your campus.*

Many institutions have support services for graduate students that are often inconsistent, decentralized, and department-specific. By not having a campus-wide cohesive support system, this can lead to feelings of isolation, added stress from both internal and external factors, and increased mental health challenges for grads. Learn how your university can build a coordinated support system for graduate student success across your campus.

Working with your graduate students presents an opportunity to create a sense of community and to cultivate lifelong relationships. Join us to learn how to create a comprehensive student support system for this growing and important constituency. Over two days of combined presentation and working time, you'll learn alongside your peers who are engaged in the same work and faced with the same challenges.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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The content of this conference is for those tasked to develop or who recognize a need for coordinated services for graduate student success. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Faculty, Directors, and Coordinators of Graduate Programs
- Deans of Graduate Education
- Directors of Graduate Student Services
- Directors of Graduate Enrollment
- Advisors and Career Counselors Who Work with Grad Students
- Champions for Grad Students (even if you do not work within a specific grad-support unit)

# AGENDA

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## DAY 1 | November

### Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

### Welcome and Introductions

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

### Understanding Grad Student Support on Your Campus

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

What are your current grad student support structures, and where do they exist on your campus? Learn how the structure of your support services affects their impact. You will have an opportunity to discuss your current structure and look for areas of “quick win” improvements, as well as long-term goals you will set.

### Morning Break

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

### Models of Providing Grad Student Support Services

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Whether your grad student support structure is centralized or decentralized, making sure that departments have clear roles and communication is paramount to providing seamless support for your grad students. We will discuss training needed for each model and the pros and cons of each. Included in support services will be: advising, career counseling, and financial counseling.

### Lunch (included in registration fee)

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

### Working Session

1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

During this session, you will have an opportunity to work with peers to priorities improvement in your graduate support program based on seven criteria.

### Afternoon Break

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

### Creating a Sense of Community with Grad Students

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Graduate students, despite their importance and size, are often under-engaged. You will hear examples of how the University of Notre Dame successfully engaged graduate students upon enrollment, created opportunities for social connections during their program, and built meaningful connections to the university.

### Working Session

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

You will have an opportunity to workshop your current community-building efforts with grads. We will close the day by having attendees share their ideas and get feedback from peers and facilitators.

# AGENDA

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## **DAY 1 (CONTINUED)**

### **Breakout Session: Supporting PhD Students or Supporting Master's Level Students**

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

In this 45-minute breakout session, you will have an opportunity to discuss unique needs of PhD students versus those at the Master's level. The intensity of these programs often differs and can be stressful for students in different ways.

### **Day 1 Wrap Up**

4:45 - 5:00 p.m.

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

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

## **DAY 2 | November**

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

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

### **Day 2 Welcome**

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.

### **Mental Health Support**

8:45 - 10:00 a.m.

Grad students typically juggle a number of priorities. They may still be working full-time, may have a family, or may be struggling with finances or other challenges. Grad students report feelings of isolation more so than undergrads, which can exacerbate challenges they face. In this session, you will learn how other institutions have provided support to grads to help them manage stress loads and prioritize their needs as they move through their program.

### **Morning Break**

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

### **Supporting International Graduate Students**

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

International grad students not only have all the needs of domestic grads, but also tend to need even more support to connect with community, manage their day-to-day tasks, and manage stress. Through a case study, you will gain ideas for how to best support your international grad population.

### **Final Working Time, Questions, and Evaluation**

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## INSTRUCTORS

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### **Mimi Beck**

**Program Director, Graduate Student Life, University of Notre Dame**

Mimi Beck is the founding director of Notre Dame's Office of Graduate Student Life, charged with creating and implementing a strategic vision to promote the success and well-being of Notre Dame post-baccalaureate students. In collaboration with key partners in academics and student affairs, she manages all communications, programming, assessment, advocacy, and administration for Graduate Student Life. Mimi is currently serving as the national co-chair for the NASPA Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services knowledge community and is preparing a book chapter for publication on Graduate Student Affairs.

### **Mark Schuster**

**Dean for Graduate Student Life, Rutgers University – New Brunswick**

Mark was a Vice President of Operations for IBS, a software company, prior to joining Rutgers in 1999 where he was originally the undergraduate Dean of Students for Rutgers - New Brunswick until his current position in 2016, as the Dean for Graduate Student Life. Dean Schuster is affiliate faculty in American Studies, Educational Psychology of the Graduate School of Education, Psychology, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Rutgers. He has been actively involved connecting all graduate students with the medical school at Rutgers and RWJ, on the board of the "Gender Center of NJ" through an interdisciplinary series on Humanities and Medicine. Dean Schuster has been a keynote speaker on civility, social justice, the impact of travel bans on graduate and international students, and the intersection of transforming bodies and identities, including transgender military service at the national and international level. He has a Bachelors in English and Communications from SUNY Plattsburgh and an MBA from the University of New Hampshire. He received a Master's in Sport Psychology and Cultural Studies of Sport concurrently with his Ph.D. coursework in Higher Education, both from the University of Iowa. Before coming to Rutgers, Mark worked at the University of New Hampshire, NYU, SUNY Stony Brook, The New School for Social Research and the University of Iowa. Mark helped create the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness of the American College Personnel Association. He was a consultant for the current NCAA policies for transgender athletes, gave one of the earliest presentations on LGBTQ athletes for the NCAA national conference, and served on the board of the first conference in the US at MIT/Harvard on LGBTQ athletes.

### **Lisa Webb**

**Executive Director, Academic Affairs in the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University**

Dr. Lisa Webb has over 15 years of professional experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of student programs and academic support services in high school and graduate health sciences education, as well as management of health career pipeline programs. She is responsible for the overall management of VCU Pipeline programs and all academic support service programs for graduate and professional health sciences students at the university. Dr. Webb has served as Principal Investigator on federally funded programs through the U.S. Department of Education and is an experienced program evaluator. In her current role, Dr. Webb's primary responsibility is to ensure the alignment of academic, disability, and pipeline programs at VCU with university and health system priorities. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) with a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, both from VCU. Her areas of research interest are in impact evaluations of health career pipeline programs and implementation evaluations of new initiatives within higher education administration.

## ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS STAFF

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### **Elizabeth Ross Hubbell**

#### **Senior Program Manager, Academic Impressions**

Elizabeth Ross Hubbell is an educator, author, and speaker with more than 20 years' experience across many levels of education. She serves as Program Manager for Student Affairs where she conducts market research on current trends and issues impacting Higher Education, collaborates with subject matter experts, and designs professional learning experiences. Her primary topics of interest include women in higher ed leadership and new innovations in advising and career services. Prior to joining Academic Impressions, Elizabeth served as a K12 consultant, focusing on instructional strategies and technologies. She has presented at ASCD, ISTE, Colorado TIE, Learning Forward, SREB, NSBA's T+L, and EARCOS conferences. Elizabeth is a former Montessori teacher.

## LOCATION

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***November 11 - 12, 2019 | Atlanta, GA***

***Hotel:***

Grand Hyatt Atlanta  
3300 Peachtree Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
404.237.1234

**Room rate:**

\$189 + tax

**Room block dates:**

The nights of November 10 and 11, 2019.

**Room block cutoff date:**

October 18, 2019.

Reserve Your Room: Please call 404.237.1234 and indicate that you are with the Academic Impressions group to receive the group rate. Please book early - rooms are limited and subject to availability.

# The Academic Impressions Experience



Intimate, workshop-style trainings with personalized attention



Trainings are practical and action oriented so you can hit the ground running



Carefully-vetted expert instructors who are also practitioners in the field



Learner-centric and designed for interaction and collaboration



Highly recommended:  
9 out of 10 participants recommend our trainings to colleagues