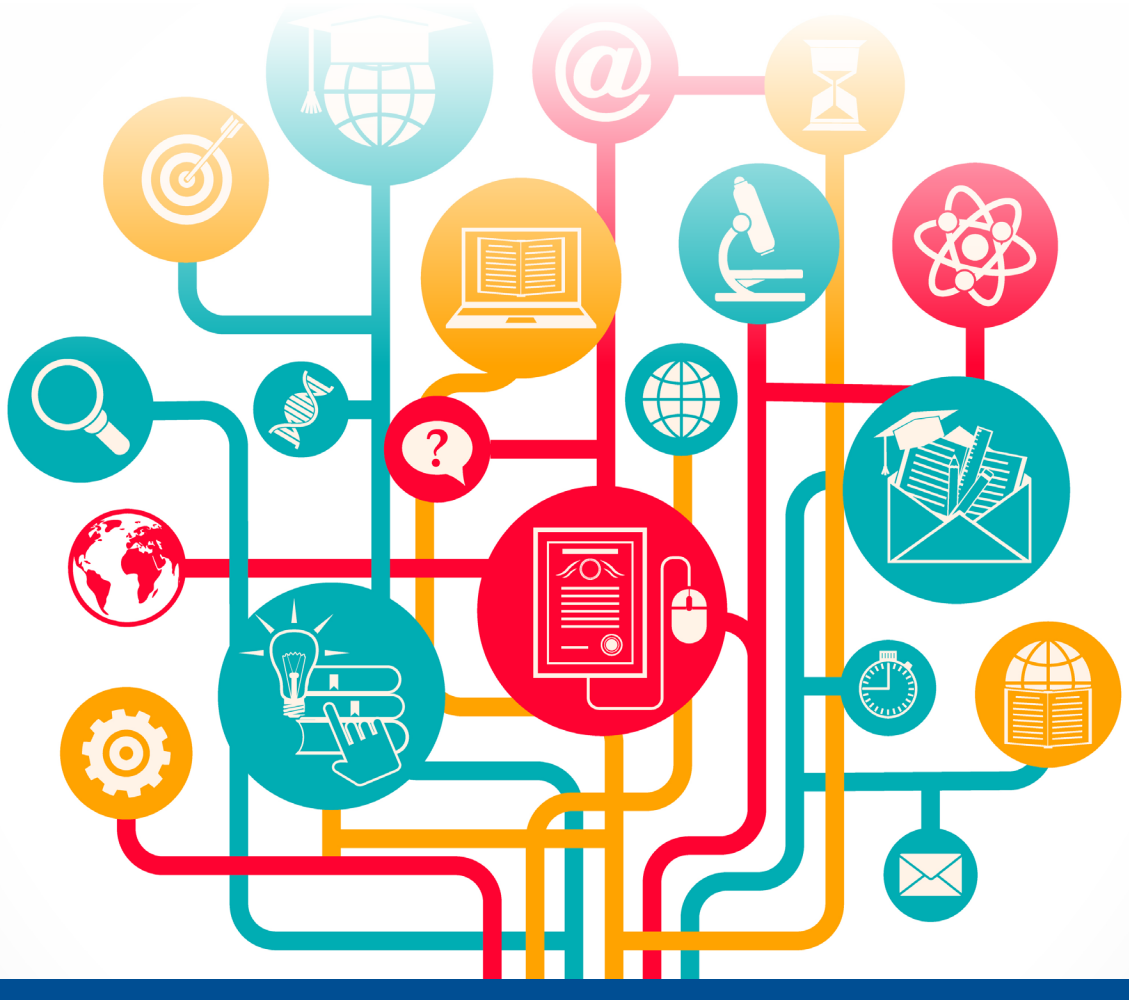
ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS

CONFERENCE

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

December 11-12, 2019 | Phoenix, AZ



Learn how to create or improve the architecture and organization of your interdisciplinary education initiative.

OVERVIEW

"The seeds of an idea for a program can come from above or from faculty, but for an interdisciplinary program to succeed, it must have broad-based support for faculty to teach and departments to be involved. It takes a committed team to create and sustain a vibrant program."

- Anne Hiskes, Speaker, Dean of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University

More and more institutions are implementing interdisciplinary education initiatives to keep up with rapidly shifting market demand and workforce expectations, as well as to attract new streams of grant support and help stretch academic resources further.

However, the delivery of interdisciplinary education programs often falters when leaders are faced with structural and organizational challenges, such as failing to:

- Support faculty through the transition
- Revise incentive and promotion structures
- Transform program development processes
- Explore new means of funding

Join us for a highly interactive, action-oriented training that will explore various structures for interdisciplinary initiatives and provide you with strategies to meaningfully engage your faculty from the outset, build outcomes-focused programs, discover funding opportunities, and more.

Through our intensive two-day agenda, you'll:

- Hear case studies from several higher ed leaders who have successfully implemented interdisciplinary initiatives on various levels
- Have ample time to receive one-on-one consulting from our expert speakers and outline next steps and set short- and long-term goals
- Plan for the sustainability and maintenance of your initiative

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This conference will be a valuable learning experience for deans, provosts, department chairs, and leaders of interdisciplinary initiatives interested in fostering a more interdisciplinary education for students. This conference will also provide insights for anyone working to reform their general education or aiming to make changes in specific colleges or departments.

Though the content of this training will be focused on the college, department, or institution level programs, those wishing to improve interdisciplinary structure at a program level will also benefit.

BRING YOUR TEAM AND SAVE!

Save over 15% when you register three or more colleagues.

AGENDA

Day 1

Registration and Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Presenting the Case for Interdisciplinarity
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Though institutions, schools, and programs have different motivations for pursuing interdisciplinary education, most of us find ourselves needing to make the case for interdisciplinarity by sharing how it serves our institution, our faculty, and our students. In this foundational session, our faculty will address how to build and present this case to various stakeholders.

Morning Break
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Models for Interdisciplinary Education: Case Studies
10:45 – 12:00 p.m.

We will explore the structures, barriers, and advantages through case studies from our faculty.

Lunch (included in registration fee)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Working Session
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

In this session, you will assess your opportunities and barriers, evaluate existing structures, and plan for improvements.

Revising Promotion and Incentive Structures
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

After evaluating the conditions of your interdisciplinary initiative, our faculty will demonstrate how course loads can be intentionally distributed to protect faculty from burnout and how interdisciplinary work can be reflected in promotion and tenure.

Q&A
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Day 1 (CONTINUED)

Networking Reception (included in registration fee)
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

This informal reception is your chance to decompress, have some refreshments on us, and expand your network of connections. Our programs are intentionally designed for smaller groups, so this is a great time to catch-up with attendees and speakers whom you may not have connected with yet.

Day 2

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Building Problem-Based, Outcome-Focused Programs
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

As industry changes, there is pressure to restructure our programs to focus on assessable outcomes. Whether you are creating learning experiences at the course, degree, or school level, you will learn how to start with the outcome or problem, listen across disciplines to gather perspectives, and make connections that stimulate results and solutions.

Morning Break
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Preparing Faculty to Teach with an Interdisciplinary Mindset
10:45 – 12:00 p.m.

Collaborating and teaching across disciplines requires a wide-ranging skill set. Our expects will discuss how to:

- Support your faculty in developing the skills to connect and integrate across disciplines
- Prepare faculty to serve as mentors or advisors for new interdisciplinary paths
- Hire with interdisciplinarity in mind

Lunch (included in registration fee)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Day 2 (CONTINUED)

Funding
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Many interdisciplinary programs begin as cost-effective because universities utilize their own faculty who are willing to take on a new program. Over time, that is not sustainable or scalable. We'll discuss how to align institutional resources to ensure sustainability as well as other funding considerations, such as faculty development grants for program and curriculum development and interdisciplinary pedagogy.

Action Planning and Consulting
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

As we close the conference, you will gather your insights from previous sessions to decide on next steps, set short- and long-term goals, and plan for the sustainability and maintenance of your initiative. Our faculty will be available for one-on-one consulting during this time.

Final Q&A and Evaluations
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

INSTRUCTORS

Corey Cook

Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Planning, Saint Mary's College of California

Corey Cook joined Saint Mary's College of California on July 1 as the Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Planning. Prior to that, he served as the founding dean of the School of Public Service and Professor of Political Science at Boise State University. The School of Public Service was founded in 2015 to inspire and equip students to be innovative, principled and effective public service leaders, promote meaningful community engagement and civil discourse, and serve as an objective and unbiased resource for citizens and decision-makers. Cook has a PhD in Political Science from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Anne Hiskes

Former Dean of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University

With over 40 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Hiskes offers extensive expertise in developing and cultivating interdisciplinary programs, interdisciplinary teacher-scholars, and administrative structures to support interdisciplinarity. As Dean of a College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Anne oversaw the creation and development of innovative interdisciplinary majors, minors, and certificate programs as well as programs that integrate community-engaged teaching and learning. She was also responsible for recruiting and developing interdisciplinary faculty.

While at the University of Connecticut, Anne served as Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Programs and Faculty Development in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Director of a new General Education Program. As a Fellow in the American Council on Education's year-long Fellows Program, she studied best practices in the administration and organization of interdisciplinarity across a wide range of institutions.

With a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in mathematics, physics, and philosophy from Hope College, Anne has enjoyed teaching collaboratively with faculty from the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and health professions.

ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS STAFF

Whitney Egstad

Program Manager, Academic Impressions

Whitney Egstad believes the key to optimizing organizations is to cultivate and empower lifelong learners. Her mission is to do just that. For twelve years, she has designed learning experiences for diverse groups of professionals and students. As program manager, she performs market research and collaborates with subject matter experts to develop impactful professional learning programs for leaders in higher ed. In addition to directing program operations, she serves as an instructional design consultant for AI's online courses and tool kits. A pedagogue at heart, Whitney absorbs emergent research in neuroeducation, universal design, DEI, eLearning, and memory. She applies this research, as well as program data and feedback, in the development and revision of her programs.

LOCATION

December 11-12, 2019 | Phoenix, AZ

Hotel:

The Wigwam

300 East Wigwam Blvd.

Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

623.535.4918

Room rate:

$119 + tax

Room block dates:

The nights of December 10, and 11, 2019.

Room block cutoff date:

November 18, 2019.

Reserve Your Room: Please call 855-477-8239 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