2014 SPRING CONFERENCE
Co-sponsored by CO-AMP and CSU STEM Center

BROADENING PARTICIPATION THROUGH CAMPUS INNOVATION:
Methods and Implementation Strategies for STEM

coop.colostate.edu/conference.shtml

Thursday May 29 – Friday May 30
Lory Student Center (Room 228)
Fort Collins, CO

CONFERENCE GOALS

- To introduce empirically supported tools and methods to enhance, retain, and graduate underrepresented populations in STEM.

- To provide attendees with hands-on workshops related to the implementation of these methods at their institutions.
GUEST SPEAKERS

DAY 1: Peer Mentored Learning: Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) and Learning Assistant (LA) Programs

James Curry, Ph.D.
Program Director, Division of Mathematical Sciences, Applied Math
National Science Foundation
Arlington, VA
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Bio:
Dr. Curry is the Program Director for the Division of Mathematical Sciences, Applied Math, for the National Science Foundation and Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado Boulder. One of his goals is to promote the excellence of faculty and students so that they achieve high expectations in research, teaching and service. A related goal is to help students understand that being world class in the mathematical sciences enterprise is critical to the emerging international future.

Valerie Otero, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Learning Assistant Program
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO
valerie.otero@colorado.edu

Bio:
Dr. Otero is an associate professor of science education and is the director of the University of Colorado Learning Assistant Program. Her research spans from studies of science teacher knowledge to studies of how students learn various concepts in physics and the nature of science. As a first generation college student, Dr. Otero is committed to increasing access and opportunities for students of all ages to get the most out of their science education.

Laurie Langdon, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Learning Assistant Program
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO
laurie.langdon@colorado.edu

Bio:
As a Science Teaching Fellow and in her position within the CU Science Education Initiative (SEI), Dr. Langdon has had opportunities to work with faculty to develop course learning goals, assess student learning, and implement research-based instructional approaches. As part of this experience, she became involved in the University of Colorado Learning Assistant program.
Lance Shipman Young, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Chemistry
PLTL at Morehouse College
Morehouse College
Atlanta, GA
lshipman@morehouse.edu

Bio:
In his position as Associate Professor in Chemistry, Dr. Shipman Young was instrumental in implementing PLTL in general and organic chemistry at Morehouse College by taking measures to create a more student-centered learning environment.
GUEST SPEAKERS

DAY 2: Learning Communities for Community Colleges and Universities

Taé Nosaka
Coordinator, University Learning Communities and Director of Key Communities Center for Advising and Academic Achievement
Colorado State University
tae.nosaka@colostate.edu

Bio:
Ms. Nosaka is the coordinator of the CSU Learning Communities, which bring cohorts of students together with structured integration of curricular (co-enrollment in classes) and co-curricular learning in order to provide a supportive, academically-focused environment that cultivates a sense of community and empowers students to become engaged citizens on campus and in the community.

Heather Novak, Ph.D., co-author with Ms. Nosaka (unable to attend)
Statistical Analyst, Institutional Research
Colorado State University
heather.novak@colostate.edu

Bio:
Dr. Novak has 10 years of research experience at CSU. She is passionate about understanding the institutional factors influencing undergraduate student success, especially for low-income and first-generation students. As a Statistical Analyst, she enjoys working on ad hoc research projects to inform policy and curriculum.

Liya Escalera
Director, Learning Communities
Bunker Hill Community College
Boston, MA
lescaler@bhcc.mass.edu

Bio:
Ms. Escalera is the Director of the Learning Communities at Bunker Hill Community College, comprised of over 140 learning communities with over 130 faculty and staff, serving 5,500 students each year. Ms. Escalera has spearheaded BHCC’s efforts to integrate culturally inclusive curricula, and in collaboration with a faculty team, designed and launched BHCC’s Innovative Teaching and Learning Series, a comprehensive faculty professional development program. BHCC Learning Communities received the New England Board of Education’s Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement in 2012, and BHCC was the recipient of the Leah Meyer Austin Award in 2014 due to successfully increasing student retention and course completion.
DAY 2: Learning Communities for Community Colleges and Universities

**Amparo Hernandez-Folch**  
Professor, Mathematics  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Boston, MA  
ahfolch@bhcc.mass.edu  

**Bio:**  
Ms. Hernandez-Folch has served as a faculty member in the Math department at Bunker Hill Community College for over 27 years. Her mentoring of full time and adjunct faculty has been critical in the enactment of curricula reform and teaching innovation, including the design and implementation of the Math Space, a learner-centered space supporting success in math, particularly developmental mathematics. She has held various leadership positions at BHCC, state and national levels such as Achieving the Dream, the Statewide Developmental Task Force and Learning Communities.

**Ann Scarritt**  
Director, Leadership Residential Academic Program  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, CO  
an.scarritt@colorado.edu  

**Bio:**  
Ms. Scarritt is the director of CU’s Leadership Residential Academic Program (RAP), which includes the Chancellor’s Leadership Studies Program (CLSP) and the Ethnic Living and Learning Community Leadership Studies Program (ELLC). Prior to serving in this role, Ms. Scarritt was the Math Coordinator for the Student Academic Success Center.

**Robyn Sandekian**  
Managing Director, Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, CO  
sandekian@colorado.edu  

**Bio:**  
Ms. Sandekian is the Managing Director of the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities (MCECD) at the University of Colorado Boulder, where her main duties include student advising and academic program development. Ms. Sandekian played an instrumental role in the development of the Sustainable by Design Residential Academic Program.