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A Letter from the President July 2019

What Is New

McCabe Conference

NOSS offered its 4th annual McCabe Conference in Amarillo on June 28, 2019. It

was a resounding success with over 100 people attending. Nikki Edgecombe, our advocate, and friend was our keynote speaker. She motivated us, made us laugh, and made us feel like we are all in *this* together. Edythe Carter and her team did an outstanding job. These sessions were great, and the food even better! I would also like to give a big thank you to Dr. Tamara Clunis, V.P. of Academic Affairs, for hosting the conference.

Look for information on the 5th Annual McCabe Conference!!!

New Resources

Dr. Emily Suh, Texas State, and Dr. Darin Jensen, Des Moines Community College, conducted a national survey of developmental educators asking what specific books, articles, or other pieces of research/scholarship have been particularly useful or influential for informing your professional practices as a developmental educator. The survey was part of a larger study on developmental educators' professional engagement and resiliency.

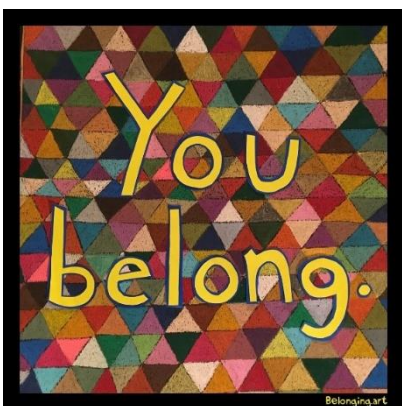
We are happy to announce that NOSS members have been given access to this list. Take a look!

<https://thenoss.org/NOSS-Resources>

Partnership with O*NET

NOSS is partnering with the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) on the updated definition of the Tutoring occupation. The O*NET program, sponsored by the United States Department of Labor, is gathering occupational information for a national database that is being used by millions of employers, workers, educators, and students across the country. This database provides information about the skills, abilities, activities, and work context for about 900 occupations nationwide. Keep an eye out for further information.

President's Thoughts: Persistence, Retention, and Belonging



The National Center for Education Statistics conducted a longitudinal study on the persistence of college students who enrolled in college for the first time during the 2011–2012 academic year. After following the students six years, they found

- 32% of students at any institution were no longer enrolled and had not received a certificate or degree.
- 46% of students at 2-year institutions were no longer enrolled nor had received a certificate or degree.
- 22% of students at 4-year institutions were no longer enrolled nor had received a certificate or degree.

Because completion is a priority for institutions, it got me thinking about a student's sense of belonging. Why is this important? Because in many cases, we are the ones on the front-line, helping students believe they belong in college.

Nikki Edgecombe and Susan Bickerstaff, from the Community College Research Center (CCRC), have stated “any institution that aspires to increase completion must attend to the full spectrum of psychosocial needs of students that are correlated with academic performance right alongside the more traditional improvements to teaching and learning” (Edgecomb & Bickerstaff, 2018).

A sense of belonging is the feeling that you “belong.” It is the human emotional need to be an accepted part of the group. As educators, we are charged with helping students feel as if they belong at our institutions. We do that through our classroom techniques, by our one-on-one conversations with students, by helping students navigate the college environment, and by showing empathy, understanding, and caring for our students. We each have our unique style and

personal way in which we connect with students, and it is this uniqueness that makes us great at what we do.

I challenge each of you to share with one person what you do to help students feel and believe they belong in your college. I also challenge you to ask one colleague to share with you how they help students feel like they belong.

Chen, X., Elliott, B., Kinney, S.K., Cooney, D., Pretlow, J., Bryan, M., Wu, J., Ramirez, N.A., & Campbell, T. (2019). *Persistence, retention, and attainment of 2011-2012 first-time beginning postsecondary students as of spring 2017*. NCES 2019-401. U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019401.pdf>.
Edgecombe, N., & Bickerstaff, S. (2018). *Addressing academic underpreparedness in service of college completion*. *Texas Education Review*, 6(1), 75-83. Doi:10.15781/T27941B74

Meet our NEW First Time Attendee

Jody Greniger

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I graduated from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND in 1996 with a BS in Elementary Education and both a math and science minor. It was that same

year in which I joined campus life on the campus of Ridgewater, Hutchinson, MN. Twenty-three years later, I am still much involved with Adult Ed and the campus life!

Fun fact: I have eaten black jelly beans my whole life and don't like them, but since my Grandma did, I ate them with her and now only to smile and remember her!

NOSS Registration

Moving forward also means that we are changing things about the conference, and I am happy to announce that **NOSS Registration is OPEN for Nashville!!!**

44th Annual Conference of the National Organization for Student Success March 4-7, 2020 – Nashville, Tennessee

Early Registration opened April 1, 2019.

Regular Registration opens November 16, 2019

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