2022 NCAN National Conference
Call for Proposals
Advancing the Right to Postsecondary Attainment

The National College Attainment Network (NCAN) is pleased to announce the opening of the call for proposals for the 2022 NCAN National Conference, "Advancing the Right to Postsecondary Attainment."

We invite you to submit a proposal highlighting your effective practices, research and outcomes, or experiences and learnings to share with your peers in the postsecondary attainment field. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, April 10, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

After two years of virtual conferences, we are planning for an in-person national conference in Atlanta, Georgia, this Sept. 12-14. We are confident that our field will come together safely this year to push forward on this long journey of recovery for postsecondary attainment. The conference attracts a range of postsecondary access and success practitioners, leaders, and advocates from around the country.

We thank this year's presenting sponsor, [Equitable](#), for their support.

Concurrent workshop sessions at the NCAN conference will be held in **two formats.**

1. **Effective Practices Workshops:** These are traditional conference sessions that are 60 minutes in length, including Q&A. A maximum of three presenters per session are permitted.

2. **Roundtable Discussions:** These are 7-minute presentations followed by a discussion period of 8 minutes. Each roundtable discussion is held three times and allows for 10-15 people per rotation. A maximum of one presenter is permitted.

This year's major topic areas cover the following 11 categories.

1. Connecting College and Career
2. Data Into Practice
3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
4. Financial Aid and Literacy
5. K-12 Practices for Postsecondary Success
6. Organizational Leadership and Capacity Building
7. Policy and Advocacy
8. Postsecondary Access and Readiness
9. Postsecondary Success
10. Student Inclusion
11. Student Mental Health and Wellness

Presenters will be notified of their proposal status between May 16 and June 3. Please make sure to check your email for important status notifications from Speakers@ncan.org.

Step 1: Enter the Author's Details
- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Pronouns:
- Email Address:
- Work Phone:
- Organization:
- Title:
- City:
- State:
- Social Media
- Biography (max. 800 characters):

Reminder: Effective Practices Workshops may have a **maximum of THREE** presenters; Roundtable sessions may have a **maximum of ONE** presenter

As the primary presenter, you are the main point of contact for this workshop. You, along with co-presenters (if applicable), are responsible for adhering to presenter-related deadlines, such as registering for the conference, submitting your presentation, and managing presenter updates. Communication about your proposal will come from Speakers@ncan.org; please save this email address to ensure the safe delivery of our messages pertaining to your submission. And you must select the acknowledgment statement: *I have read and understand the above* to continue.

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Co-Presenter Information

Presenter 2

- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Email Address:
- Organization:
- Title:

Co-Presenter Information

Presenter 3

- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Email Address:
- Organization:
- Title:

Step 2: Select Topic and Target Audience

This year's major topic areas cover the following main topics and subtopics. The fire symbol (🔥) indicates hot topics that are of high interest and relevance to NCAN.

1. Connecting College and Career: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address

- Establishing and strengthening career pathways in the COVID era 🔥
- The value of certificates vs. credentials vs. degrees 🔥
- Aligning program efforts and advising to meet labor market needs
- Career readiness, guidance, and exploration
- Partnerships and internships to help connect college and career success
- Solutions to address the digital divide

2. Data Into Practice: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.

- Data to inform practice and policy 🔥
- Using data for advising 🔥
- Data, technology, and visualization
- Measuring program and student outcomes

3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address

- Building staff capacity, knowledge, and skills around race, ethnicity, and intersectionality 🔥

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- o Developing professional staff training that promotes identity exploration and inner work 🔥
- o Cultivating inclusive work environments through asset-based leadership and practice
- o Decentralizing DEI roles and responsibilities that support organizational equity
- o Implementation of a racial equity survey tool and analysis for key decisions, policies, and practice

4. Financial Aid and Literacy: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.
- o Maximizing effectiveness and alignment of scholarship programs to meet donor and student needs 🔥
- o Policies and practices of effective need-based aid programs (state or institutional) 🔥
- o Asset building for college costs (College Savings Accounts, 529 Plans, etc.)
- o FAFSA completion
- o Financial aid advising
- o Overcoming financial trauma (financial literacy, budgeting, debt management)
- o Scholarship management
- o Using consumer information to make decisions about college and career options

5. K-12 Practices for Postsecondary Success: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address
- o Cross-sector Partnerships 🔥
- o Re-energizing college and career readiness (CCR) in the K-12 sector 🔥
- o Building a college-going culture
- o Prioritizing postsecondary readiness in the K-12 Sector
- o School counselors and college readiness

6. Organizational Leadership and Capacity Building: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address
- o Streamlining the use of current technology to improve workflows in the COVID era 🔥
- o Solutions for maintaining fundraising and sustainability in the COVID era 🔥
- o Nurturing, attracting, and retaining talent 🔥
- o Board development
- o Branding/communications
- o Program leadership
- o Self-care strategies for effective leadership and staff development
- o Strategic planning

7. Policy and Advocacy: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.
- o Centering student voice in policy advocacy (at the federal, state, or local level) 🔥
- o Embedding equity in college access- and attainment-driven policy change (at the

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federal, state, or local level) 🔥

- o Advancing policy research or issue education focused on college access and attainment
- o Building effective advocacy coalitions for policy change (at the federal, state, or local level)
- o Collaborating with the philanthropic community for policy advocacy
- o Developing proposals for college access- and attainment-driven policy change (at the federal, state, or local level)
- o Implementation of college access- and attainment-driven policy change (at the federal, state, or local level)
- o Organizing successful advocacy campaigns (at the federal, state, or local level)

8. Postsecondary Access and Readiness: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.

- o Addressing fit and match during the COVID era (I.e. academic preparation; college visits, etc.) 🔥
- o Assessing campus health resources as a part of "college fit" 🔥
- o Merging virtual and traditional advising methods in the Covid-Era and moving forward 🔥
- o Innovations for reducing summer melt
- o Test-optional admissions policies/trends
- o Early awareness for middle school students
- o Increasing family engagement and support

9. Postsecondary Success: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.

- o Merging virtual and traditional advising methods in the COVID era 🔥
- o Partnerships between community-based organizations and postsecondary institutions to ensure student success 🔥
- o Re-engaging non-enrollers and stop-outs impacted by the pandemic 🔥
- o Innovations for reducing summer melt
- o Persistence, retention, and attainment
- o The first-year student experience

10. Student Inclusion: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.

- o Adult learners
- o First-generation students
- o LGBTQIA+ youth
- o Opportunity youth
- o Students from low-income backgrounds

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- o Students of color
- o Students from rural areas
- o Students with disabilities
- o Students who are parents or caretakers
- o Undocumented and DACA students
- o Youth experiencing homelessness
- o Youth in foster care

11. Student Mental Health and Wellness: Choose up to two subtopics this presentation will address.

- o Addressing food and housing insecurities 🔥
- o Healing financial trauma (I.e., psychology of money, connecting to supports) 🔥
- o Trauma-informed advising 🔥
- o Innovative supports for students with emergency funds
- o Easing the transition to postsecondary options
- o Building communities of help

Target Audience

- • Advisers/Counselors (practitioners working directly with students)
- • Agency staff or policymakers
- • Leadership staff (executive directors, presidents, CEOs, superintendents/principals)
- • Funders
- • Higher education staff
- • Local/State College Access Network staff
- • Program staff (managers, directors, fundraisers, administrators)
- • Researchers
- • School district staff

Target Skill Level

- • New professionals: For individuals new to this content (less than 2 years of experience)
- • Mid-level professionals: For those who are familiar with this content and are looking to enhance their skills or knowledge (3-7 years of experience)
- • Senior-level professionals: For attendees with significant knowledge of this content (8+ years of experience)

Audience Engagement: Please describe the format of your presentation (e.g., lecture, panel, dialogue) and how you will interact and engage with the audience (max. 350 characters).

Step 3: Enter Your Presentation's Details

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1. **<u>Presentation Title:</u>** Please provide a title that will capture your audience's attention (max. 100 characters, including spaces) Note: Titles may be edited for length and clarity.

2. **<u>Session Description:</u>** Provide a detailed description of the content you intend to convey. How will this session enhance the ability of attendees to do their work in the field of college access and success? Proposal reviewers will make their selections based on the degree to which this description clearly articulates the value and relevance of your topic to the field (max. 1,400 characters).

3. **<u>Abstract:</u>** This abstract will be used in conference promotional materials including the conference website and virtual platform to draw conference attendees to your presentation (max. 550 characters). Note: Abstracts may be edited for length and clarity.

4. **<u>Learning Outcomes:</u>** Please list two or three specific skills or strategies participants will learn and be able to use when they leave this session (max. 300 characters, including spaces).

Thank you for submitting a proposal to present at the 2022 NCAN National Conference!

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