



Summer Bridge Convening 2022 Kentucky State University

8:15 - 9:00am - Registration and Light Breakfast
J.S. Hathaway Hall 2nd Floor Commons

Opening Session
J.S. Hathaway Hall, Auditorium, Room 123

9:00 - 10:00am

Welcome
Phyllis Clark, Associate Director
Kentucky Student Success Collaborative
Amanda Ellis
Vice President, K12 Programs and Policies
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Plenary - "Summer Bridge Scaling: Sustainable and Growth Opportunities"
Nikolas Huot, *Assistant Vice President for Institutional Transformation*
Complete College America

Breakout Sessions
(Descriptions Below)

Summer Bridge Students: Carl M. Hill Student Center Ballroom, Room 410

10:10am - 12:15pm
Extended Leadership Session - William Blackford IV
Leadership Coach and Consultant

College/University Partners: J.S. Hathaway Hall

10:10am - 11:10am - Breakout Session #1 (choose one)

- Near Peers: Building Connections Within A Community of Learners (Room 120)
 - Penny Howell and Kate Marin, University of Louisville
- Driving Critical Student Success Metrics through Summer Math Bridge Programs (Room 122)
 - Carrye Wilkins and Geoff Bailey, University of Louisville
- Developing Social, Community, & Academic Belonging in a Residential Summer Bridge Program (Room 126)
 - Henry Zonio, Emily Leininger, and Evan Duszynski, Asbury University

11:20am - 12:20pm - Breakout Session #2 (choose one)

- Academic Support Strategies Within a Campus-Wide Summer Bridge Program (Room 120)
 - Heather Stuart and Christopher Jenson, Western Kentucky University
- Observations of a First Gen Advisor (Room 122)
 - Ben Littlepage, Murray State University
- The KWC STEM Summer Bridge Experience (Room 126)
 - Christina Starkey and Kayla Keller, Kentucky Wesleyan College



Afternoon Events

Carl M. Hill Student Center Ballroom, Room 410

12:30 - 1:30pm - Lunch & Summer Bridge Student Panel

Moderator - Amanda Ellis

1:30 - 2:00pm - Summer Bridge Focus Group Table Discussions

Student discussions facilitated by Briana Falduti, Education Strategy Group Associate
College/University Partner discussions facilitated by CPE staff

2:00 - 3:00pm - Closing Plenary & Recognitions

Closing Session, "Determined"
William Blackford IV

Recognitions
Amanda Ellis

Breakout Session Descriptions

Session #1 - 10:10am - 11:10am

Near Peers: Building Connections Within A Community of Learners

University of Louisville

Penny Howell, Professor and PI on the UofL CEHD C4 Summer Bridge Program

Kate Marin, Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education

This session will focus on the integral role of a Near Peer Leadership Team in the C4 Summer Bridge Program. We will discuss the various roles and responsibilities of the Near Peers and the benefits not only to faculty leaders and Bridge participants but to the Near Peers themselves. *Near Peers in our program are defined as currently enrolled sophomores, juniors and seniors*

Driving Critical Student Success Metrics through Summer Math Bridge Programs

University of Louisville

Carrye Wilkins, Associate Director

Geoff Bailey, Executive Director

Students from diverse backgrounds, low-to-modest income backgrounds, first-generation backgrounds, and females have often not achieved equitable levels of success in STEM+H courses, particularly in mathematics. The REACH learning center (University of Louisville) launched our Math Xcelerator summer bridge program in 2019 to help address these inequities as well as college readiness concerns prior to fall matriculation. Our pedagogical innovations have fostered greater opportunity to a diverse array of learners and helped remove artificial barriers that serve as gatekeepers to success. We will share our model, infrastructure, and showcase four years' worth of data that includes critical student success metrics including enhanced retention rates.

Developing Social, Community, & Academic Belonging in a Residential Summer Bridge Program

Asbury University

Dr. Henry Zonio - Director, Center for Academic Excellence

Emily Leininger - Resident Director, Dr.

Evan Duszynski - Asst. Director, Student Success

Using Lisa Nunn's research on the three types of belonging that university students describe (social, community, and academic), we intentionally created a program that capitalized on all three types of belonging. We built on each type of belonging beginning with social belonging through team building and shared experiences. We followed with community belonging by orienting students to the campus and tastes of campus life through living in a dorm, eating in the cafeteria, getting their first pieces of mail at the campus post office, and more. By the time it came to build in academic belonging through intensive credit-bearing courses and professional development workshops, the students were engaged and actively participated in the academic sessions. When Summer Bridge ended and the students transitioned to the university's welcome weekend for new students and the first days of class, the Summer Bridge students overwhelmingly stated they felt comfortable and prepared for their first semester: they had some friends to start the semester with, were familiar with campus and resources, and already had a taste of what classes might look like.

Breakout Session Descriptions

Session #2 - 11:20am - 12:20pm

Academic Support Strategies Within a Campus-Wide Summer Bridge Program

Western Kentucky University

Heather Stuart, Assistant Director, Retention Programs

Christopher Jensen, AVP for Student Success

This session will focus on ways to prepare and engage undergraduate students academically in a campus-wide summer bridge program designed for incoming first-year students representing a range of different majors. Specific topics include faculty recruitment and training, course selection and design, academic success sessions, and additional support strategies. By the end of the session, participants will have the opportunity to consider different academic options and how they might align with their own institutional context. Discussions and resources will be included. Link to the Summer Scholars Program website: wku.edu/summerscholars

Observations of a First Gen Advisor

Murray State University

Ben Littlepage, Professor

Murray State University led a summer bridge program for two consecutive years. First-time, first-generation freshmen were selected for the program. Participants were able to access campus resources earlier than the general student population and attend a pre-college seminar. Students also met with a designated advisor each month of the fall semester to discuss their acclimation and assimilation to college. The advisor introduced a new theme, questions, and resources at each monthly, one-on-one advising session. The advisor took notes, coded the notes, and induced specific observations helpful to administrative personnel that supports students' needs. The advisor also identified recommendations for administrators and faculty that better support the needs of first-generation students.

The presenter, who is also the aforementioned advisor, will begin the session with introductions and share why he is qualified to speak about the topic. Next, the presenter will educate the audience about Murray State's Starting Gate summer bridge program. Attendees will be divided into small groups and asked to respond to questions related to their experience. Attendees will remain in these groups for the remainder of the concurrent session. The presenter will next share how one-on-one intrusive advising was framed for the Starting Gate students. Next, the presenter will share thematic observations from the monthly advising sessions (e.g. August, September). Lastly, the presenter will share recommendations derived from the advising observations. Recommendations are categorized for administrators and faculty.

The KWC STEM Summer Bridge Experience

Kentucky Wesleyan College

Christina Starkey, PhD, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Kayla Keller, PhD, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Associate Division Chair of Natural Science and Mathematics

This past year KWC had an attendance rate of 80% in our Summer Bridge program, and as we head into the spring 2023 semester, we have a 100% retention rate of the students who attended the Summer Bridge program. Attendees will gain an understanding of the importance of balancing academic programs and extracurricular activities as a means for a successful program. Additionally, you will gain an understanding of the challenges and success KWC experienced with this program, and learn new ideas and concepts to implement into their own programs.

Let's get SOCIAL: [#KYSummerBridge](#) [#KYHigherEdMatters](#) [@CPENews](#)



About Our Speakers



NIKOLAS HUOT, M.A.

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION
Complete College America

I am a first-generation, lower-income, international, ABD student who changed majors more often than I care to remember. Fortunate to have a mother who encouraged me without pressure to find a field that truly inspired me, to enroll in courses that still counted towards my interdisciplinary degree, and to have found my passion before my meager financial options ran out. I am working to change higher education to help all those who may not have the family support, comprehensive degree plans, financial resources, and/or overall guidance to complete a degree.

Changing trajectory (once again) from faculty-track to administration, I was fortunate to be in a position to affect positive changes in the lives of students by implementing and scaling strategies that supported success and equitable outcomes. Working at CCA allows me the opportunity to meet similarly-minded individuals who want to show the true potential of higher education on the lives of students and their communities.

In my free time, I watch too many British TV shows, root for my Montréal Canadiens, and endlessly ponder about what to make for dinner.

Prior to joining Complete College America as a Strategy Director, Nikolas worked as the Associate Director for First-Year and Transition Programs with the Office of Student Success at Georgia State University. In this role, he coordinated, assessed, and scaled all success and retention initiatives for incoming first-year students at the bachelor's and associate's degrees, including learning communities, meta-majors, structured schedules, summer bridge, peer mentors, and first-year seminar. In addition to his work in student success, Nikolas spent over five years as a college scheduler where he maintained the academic schedules and master curriculum of a number of departments. To this day, he remains closely involved with all aspects of student registration and course scheduling at the college level.

At CCA, to close institutional performance gaps, Nikolas works on developing and implementing strategies to align choice and purpose with every student's goals, as well as to restructure systems to facilitate progression to completion. Nikolas has co-lead Purpose First pilot project and development of strategies across five states, worked on a number of publications on purpose, and created processes and resources to develop academic and career maps. He works primarily with states in the Southeast region.



WILLIAM BLACKFORD, IV

Leadership Coach and Consultant

William believes in every person's ability to achieve life changing results. Organizations' bottom lines are positively impacted when their people are fulfilled, aligned, and unleashed to produce. As a coach, he cultivates and nourishes the hearts and minds of those he works with through honesty, respectful and direct challenge, and a relentless belief in the person.

Since 2000, William has worked with thousands of leaders, educators, and students in group coaching, training, keynotes, and 1-1 engagements helping them become trusted leaders that are deeply aligned to their core values as "Community Impactors." As a former

Division 1 athlete, William is not afraid to go big, work hard, and reach high, and he is uniquely gifted to challenge his audiences to do the same. He is an award-winning FranklinCovey Leadership Coach and Consultant.

William is fully engaged in living out his mission—"to live a life full of adventure and to invite others to do the same"—with his spouse of 27 years and their four amazing children. His interests include bow hunting, fishing, sports, poetry, and reading. He is an avid football fan and a former student athlete for the University of Louisville, where he was a standout player with All-Conference and All-American (honorable mention) honors.

Special thanks to our friends at [Kentucky State University](#) for hosting today's event and to [Joette Fields, CPE](#), for above and beyond administrative support.