

# MICHIGAN CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

An Initiative of the Michigan Community College Association



**Michigan Guided Pathways Institute + MSSN Meeting**  
**“Serving Underprepared Learners in a Guided Pathways Context”**  
**April 22, 2016**  
**Friday Speaker Biographies**

**Peter Adams, Professor Emeritus, Community College of Baltimore County**

After a 36 year of teaching at the Community College of Baltimore County, Peter Adams retired in 2014. Over the years, his responsibilities at CCBC included coordinating the writing program, chairing the college's committee on general education, and chairing the English Department. While at CCBC, Peter developed the concept of mainstreaming basic writers into first-year composition and, later, the model for redesign of basic writing now known as the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP). For the past five years Peter has travelled extensively around the country presenting on ALP to individual schools and to state-wide gatherings, and he has conducted faculty development workshops for schools that have decided to adapt the ALP model. As of fall of 2015 more than 200 schools are offering sections of ALP, and 7 states have made large scale adoptions. Peter has argued that the current structure of developmental education in America has resulted in the most marginalized students being taught by the most marginalized faculty in the most underfunded institutions.

**Patricia Armstrong, Dean of English, Humanities, Arts, and Languages, Nashville State Community College**

Patricia worked in faculty development at two different universities before creating and directing the pre-major academic advising center at Vanderbilt University. Her first experience with learning support has been at Nashville State.

**Susan Barbitta, Director of the Student Success Learning Institute and the Multiple Measures Research Study, Guilford Technical Community College**

Susan worked as a system analyst for AT&T Bell Labs before joining GTCC in 2000. She was a math faculty member at Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) for 11 years. Susan co-led the team that redesigned GTCC's developmental math sequence and created the Emporium lab, was a member of the state DEI redesign team. Susan spearheaded the Supplemental Instruction program for Developmental Math at GTCC, was a co-author of the DEI grant, initiated the Specialized SOAR for Developmental students, and worked on numerous Achieving the Dream initiatives. Susan assumed her current role in 2013. She promotes the work of Guided Pathways to NC's community colleges and assists other states in creating a Student Success Learning Institute. Susan also works with colleges involved in a research study surrounding placement via multiple measures.

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## **Angela Marsh-Peek, Director of Advising and Retention, Lake Michigan College**

Angela has worked in an advising capacity for the past 14 years in the community college setting. Angela has held various advising roles; Special Populations Advisor, CTE Advisor, At-Risk Advisor and Lead Advisor. Previous to working in secondary education, Angela was employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer /Foster Care Specialist with Berrien County Court. She earned her master's degree from Kansas State University in Academic Advising, with an Administrative emphasis.

## **Randall Melton, Chief Technology Officer, MCCA & Chief Information Technology Officer, Lake Michigan College**

Randall is responsible for managing and delivering Information Technology Services for Lake Michigan College and has been on loan to the MCCA as their CTO for two years. He led the development efforts for Michigan Colleges Online and for the upcoming digital guided pathway solution. He co-led the Michigan Community College's association P-20 taskforce that supported Michigan's P20 initiative and led the development of an open sourced data transformation solution based on PESC for supporting Michigan's longitudinal data system. Randall has over three decades of work experience in Information Technology that include healthcare, financial wellness and Higher Ed. Randall earned a master's of business administration from Rollins College, a bachelor's of Science degree in computer science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a two year degree from a community college. He is an advocate for open source solutions in Higher Ed.

## **Sarah Roberts, Dean of Math and Natural Sciences, Nashville State Community College**

Sarah spent ten years in the classroom teaching biology at a liberal arts institution before moving into community college administration. She became involved in learning support education in 2014.

## **Nathan Venske, Assistant Dean of Student Services, Jackson College**

Nathan is responsible for the coordination of all academic advising functions. He serves as the chair of Jackson College's Retention Steering Committee and provides supervision to the Center for Student Success and TRiO program. Nathan has previously held advising positions at Oakland University, Nova Southeastern University and Indiana University. He has also coordinated academic advising services at Western Michigan University's, School of Communication. Nathan's work in student success and retention has been recognized as Best of Region and Best of Conference by the National Academic Advising Association and the Indiana Advising Network.