7th Annual Building Connections Conference
May 27, 2015

8:00am    Check-in & Continental Breakfast
Russell House University Union, Ballroom

8:30am    Opening Session and Keynote Address by Dr. Brad Garner
Russell House University Union, Ballroom

10:00am  Break

10:15am  Concurrent Sessions I
See the following pages for session abstracts and locations

11:15am  Break

11:30am  Concurrent Sessions II
See the following pages for session abstracts and locations

12:30pm  Lunch, Award Presentation, and Plenary Address by Dr. David Miller
Russell House University Union, Ballroom

2:00pm    Break

2:15pm    Concurrent Sessions III
See the following pages for session abstracts and locations

3:15pm    Town Hall Closing Session
Russell House University Union, Ballroom

4:00pm    Conference Closes
Principles of Inclusive Classrooms (Room 203)
Tricia Kennedy, University 101 Programs
Kayla Lisenby, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
University 101 is designed to be a welcoming space for all students and to enhance their learning and connection to USC. Instructors should be responsive to students’ needs and backgrounds. During this session, participants will learn about principles of inclusive classrooms and strategies to ensure all voices are heard.

How to Create Meaningful Assignments (Room 205)
Jay Pou, Office of Undergraduate Research
Tom Syfert, Health and Safety Programs
This session will help instructors learn create meaningful assignments for their students. Overall tips for what makes a meaningful assignment will be presented and specifics will be given for each of these common course elements: reflective writing, beyond-the-classroom experiences, formal presentations, reading assignments, and campus partner presentations.

CREATE-ing Employability Begins in UNIV 101 (Room 303)
Vicki Hamby, Career Center
Mark Anthony, Career Center
Kevin Clarke, University 101 Programs
University 101 can play a key part in helping students CREATE the conditions which will successfully launch them into careers after college. This session will introduce a new framework for employability and detail how University 101 instructors can incorporate employability into the course through meaningful lesson plans, activities, and assignments.

Creating Meaningful Assignments (Room 315)
Brad Garner, Center for Learning and Innovation, Indiana Wesleyan University
Assignments should provide evidence that your students are accomplishing the identified learning outcomes for your course. It is entirely possible to create assignments that are fun, engaging, AND that provide a way for students to demonstrate their learning. This session will be a show-and-tell demonstration of various tools and strategies that can accomplish all of these requirements.

Thank you to our donors!

Door prizes will be awarded at closing session

Blue Marlin
Bonefish Grill
Café Strudel
Campus Wellness
Cellar
Drip
Fresh Market
Gervais & Vine
Grapes & Gallery
Il Giorgione
Motor Supply
Mr. Friendly's
Pasta Fresca
Pawley's Front Porch
Oak Table
Solstice
Scoopy Doo
Sweet Cream Company
The Nickelodeon Theatre
Thirsty Fellow
Tombo Grille
Uncle Maddio’s Pizza Joint
Using Technologies in Creative Ways *(Room 315)*
Paul Allen, *Dartmoor School of Business*
This session will take a look at cutting edge as well as familiar technologies that can be used in University 101 classrooms for communicating, presenting, polling, blogging, and more. Participants will leave this session with practical knowledge of what is available and how technology can add value to your class.

Talking to First-Year Students about Financing their Education *(Room 322)*
Catherine Greene, *University 101 Programs*
Joey Derrick, *Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships*
As the cost of college increases, it is imperative that students think creatively about financing their education and understand how their choices impact their financial wellbeing. This session will provide an overview of the student debt picture and highlight lesson plans and resources instructors can use to engage their students in a discussion about financing their education.

Opening Session Keynote Address: Making the Classroom an Interactive Learning Space

The classroom should be a safe and participatory environment where faculty and students engage with one another and learn together. This session will focus on basic planning principles that prepare the way for this type of engagement, and a collection of quick and easy tools/strategies that you can use to make your classroom an interactive learning space.

**Dr. Brad Garner** is the Director of Faculty Enrichment in the Center for Learning and Innovation at Indiana Wesleyan University. In this role, he is actively involved in directing and teaching the first-year seminar and leading faculty enrichment efforts across the university. Prior to working in higher education, Garner focused on program and faculty development in K-12 public school settings, where he worked as a classroom teacher, school psychologist, and administrator.

The Competitive Edge: Becoming a Front Runner in Alternative Lesson Planning *(Room 203)*
Anne-Marie Hantman, *University Housing*
Steve Curtright, *Fraternity and Sorority Life*
Trying to engage your class in a unique way? Two University 101 instructors will discuss lessons learned from class competitions, share examples of how to incorporate them into your syllabus, and explain areas of growth for the future. Whether you are a first time professor or a seasoned veteran with University 101, you will leave this session ready to bring your A-game.

Engaging Students through Service *(Room 205)*
Theresa Harrison, *Capstone Scholars Program*
Jimmie Gahagan, *Office of Student Engagement*
Dottie Weigel, *University 101 Programs*
The decline of civically-minded students on college campuses is troubling, but the potential to address these issues with first-year students is promising. Community service can help break down barriers and clarify students’ values. In this session, participants will explore ways to prepare students for responsible lives in a diverse, interconnected, and changing world!

Supporting Beyond-the-Classroom Experiences *(Room 303)*
Elise Porter, *University 101 Programs*
Katie Hambrick, *Office of Parent Programs*
Engaging with your students beyond the classroom is a great way to build community, support the course learning outcomes, and engage with the USC and Columbia communities. This session will highlight a variety of examples and strategies for engaging with your students outside the classroom, including utilizing Dinner Dialogues and the University 101 Beyond-the-Classroom Funds. Participants will walk away with ideas and best practices for building community beyond the classroom.

Towards a More Meaningful First Year *(Room 305)*
Nick Vaught, *USC Connect*
Steve Barth, *Student Success Center, Office of the Provost*
Often, students are concerned with surviving their first term. However, through University 101, we have the opportunity to guide students through meaningful reflection to help create self-efficacy. The purpose of this session is to provide resources to support students as they construct meaning of their first year.
Using Technologies in Creative Ways (Room 315)
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Lunchtime Plenary Address:
Eight Simple Rules for Good Teaching
These Eight Simple Rules come out of the presenter’s experience mentoring graduate student teachers. The rules speak more to ethos than technique. This talk is about the underlying set of attitudes and assumptions we should carry with us into the classroom every time we teach

Dr. David Lee Miller is a Carolina Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Center for Digital Humanities. He has taught at the University of Alabama, University of Kentucky; and since 2004, at the University of South Carolina. At the University of South Carolina, he served as co-chair of the Task Force on General Education, which designed the recently-implemented Carolina Core Curriculum.

From Exploration to Registration: Tools for Academic Advisement (Room 203)
Sandra Smith, Student Success Center
Steve Barth, Student Success Center, Office of the Provost
"How do I sign up for classes?" is a common question first-year students ask. Join this interactive discussion on what every student should understand about choosing a major, constructing a four-year academic plan, preparing for advisement, and registering for classes. Participants will leave this session with ready-to-use activities for the classroom.

In Their Own Words: Maximizing Peer and Graduate Leaders in the Classroom (Room 205)
Tricia Kennedy, University 101 Programs
Katie Jerald, University 101 Programs
Quentin McCollum, University 101 Programs
Sawyer Tedder, University 101 Programs
Peer and Graduate Leaders are an important component of the UNIV 101 experience. Instructors must be intentional in incorporating Peer and Graduate Leaders to enhance the classroom environment and deepen student learning. In this session, University 101 Peer Leaders will share examples of how to best utilize Peer Leaders as teaching partners.

Transitions as a Teaching Tool (Room 303)
Dottie Weigel, University 101 Programs
Students’ perceptions of the relevance of course readings is a primary indicator of a successful UNIV 101 experience for students. Students who see Transitions as a valuable resource also report that the text was utilized in their course. This session will offer practical ideas for instructors on how to use this important resource to enhance course content.

Making UNIV 101 a Meaningful Learning Experience (Room 305)
Catherine Greene, University 101 Programs
Lauren Brown, College of Education
David DeWell, Capstone Scholars Program
Erica Elbery, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management
Meaningful learning experiences are the result of intentional course design that integrates the UNIV 101 learning outcomes throughout the syllabus, lesson plans, assignments, and course readings. Participants will walk away from this session with an understanding of integrative course design and best practices for creating a meaningful learning experience in UNIV 101.
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Making Effective Referrals (Room 305)
Maegan Gudridge, Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
Jane Bouknight, Student Success Center
Eric Grabski, Law Enforcement and Safety
Maureen Grewe, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
Toby Lovell, Counseling and Psychiatry
Sterling Watson, Counseling and Psychiatry
USC offers a wide range of resources to help support students' academic and personal well-being. But sometimes, it can be difficult to figure out how and where to refer students. In this session, an expert panel will help participants identify some of the key services and resources available to support students' academic success, safety, and mental health; identify signs that indicate a students' needs or could benefit from being referred to these services; and understand how to effectively make a referral.

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