8th Annual Building Connections Conference
Russell House University Union, University of South Carolina-Columbia
May 25, 2016

8:00   Check-in & Continental Breakfast
8:30   Opening Session & Keynote Address by Dr. Christine Harrington
10:00  Break
10:15  Concurrent Sessions I
11:15  Break
11:30  Concurrent Sessions II
12:30  Lunch, remarks from USC Provost, Joan Gabel and presentation of the M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101
2:00   Break
2:15   Concurrent Sessions III
3:15   Town Hall Closing Session, door prizes (Ballroom)
4:00   Conference Adjourns
The Process of Becoming a Critical Thinker: The Faculty Role

Critical thinking skills are essential in college and beyond, yet finding strategic ways to teach these skills can be a challenge. In this opening session, discover a framework for understanding how critical thinking skills develop and how you, as the instructor, can play an important role in this process. Using theory and research to guide the conversation, we'll focus on practical strategies you can use to assist students in becoming critical thinkers.

Dr. Christine Harrington is a professor of psychology and student success at Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ. She is also the director of the Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching and the coordinator for the student success course on her campus. She is the author of Student Success in College: Doing What Works! (2nd edition), a research-based text for the first-year seminar course, and a contributing author of Foundations for Critical Thinking, published by The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Dr. Harrington is the recipient of the 2016 McGraw Hill Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars Award and the 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award at Middlesex County College. She frequently presents at professional development conferences and has been invited to speak at colleges and universities across the nation.

Concurrent Sessions I 10:15am-11:15am

Teaching Together: Collaborating for Student Learning (Room 203)
Presenters: Dan Colascione, Leena Holt, and Tricia Kennedy
This session will provide tools to maximize the impact your Peer/Graduate Leader has on your University 101 course and deepen the co-teaching relationship. You will learn how to engage your Peer/Graduate Leader through intentional weekly meetings and will leave this session with specific strategies related to shared facilitation, mutual expectations, and meaningful feedback.

The Art and Science of Facilitating Class Discussions (Room 205)
Presenters: Dan Friedman and Alisa Liggett
Are you concerned about having a class that doesn't talk? Maybe a class that doesn't stop talking? Meaningful class discussions are an important aspect of engaging pedagogies, the top predictor of overall course effectiveness in University 101. However, facilitating discussions so that students stay engaged and learn can be challenging. Join us to discover strategies and methods that address the art and science of leading class discussions.

Transitions as a Teaching Tool (Room 303)
Presenter: Dottie Weigel
Students’ perceptions of the relevance of course readings is a primary indicator of a successful University 101 experience for students. Students who consider Transitions to be a valuable resource also report that the text was utilized in their course. This session will offer practical ideas on how to use this new and improved resource to enhance course content.
Exploring the Tenets of the Carolinian Creed *(Room 305)*  
**Presenters: Maegan Gudridge and Erin Kitchell**  
The Carolinian Creed is at the heart of what it means to be a Carolinian, but it is underused and sometimes even misunderstood. In this session, you will gain a clear understanding of what the Creed is and how the tenets can be applied to a variety of topics, learn to use the Creed in your class throughout the semester, discover lesson plans and activities that have been successful in the classroom, and discuss potential challenges to talking about the Creed in University 101.

The Power of Mindset: Fostering Success *(Room 315)*  
**Presenter: Christine Harrington**  
During this interactive workshop, you will discover research-based strategies to foster academic resilience in your students. Dweck's work in the area of attribution theory will serve as a backdrop for our conversations on promoting a positive and productive mindset. We'll focus on the importance of mindset in terms of successful outcomes and the opportunities instructors have to positively influence student mindset.

**Concurrent Sessions II 11:30am-12:30pm**

Helping Students Clarify Values and Identity *(Room 203)*  
**Presenters: Moryah Jackson and Tricia Kennedy**  
University 101 is a space where students work to clarify who they are and how that shapes their interactions with others. During this session, we will discuss principles, realities, and challenges of engaging students in conversations around values and identity. We will also provide examples of how to engage students with this content throughout the semester and strategies to ensure an inclusive conversation.

CREATE-ing Employability Begins in University 101 *(Room 205)*  
**Presenters: Vicki Hamby and Chris Lewandowski**  
University 101 is integral in helping students CREATE the conditions which will set them on the pathway toward successfully launching their careers. Join us as we discuss career decision making and learn how to incorporate employability into your course through meaningful lesson plans, activities, and assignments.

Building Community Beyond Ice Breakers *(Room 303)*  
**Presenters: Ashley Elliott and Meredith Jaggard**  
First-year students can find it challenging to navigate this new chapter of their lives when entering college for the first time. Building community in your class helps engage students and better assist them in connecting with their classmates, instructors, and their new home at the university. This session will outline the importance of engaging pedagogies both in and out of the classroom and provide examples of how to build your community throughout the semester.

Navigating Academic Policies and Processes *(Room 305)*  
**Presenters: Jane Bouknight and Dallin George Young**  
This session will provide an understanding of the new model for first-year academic advising at Carolina, relevant academic policies, and key academic resources. Join us as we discuss information and activities that you can use in the classroom to educate and help students take responsibility for their academic experience at USC.
The Power of Planning: Creating Effective Lessons *(Room 315)*
**Presenters: Frank McClary and James Winfield**
Alexander Graham Bell once said, “Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.” As we engage students in meaningful learning, the one thing that remains constant is that we must have a plan in place before entering the classroom setting. Join us as we discuss strategies to consider when building lesson plans for your University 101 class.

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**Lunchtime Session: Remarks from Provost Joan Gabel and Presentation of the M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101**

**Provost Joan Gabel** began her role at USC in July 2015. Prior to that, she served as dean of the University of Missouri’s Trulaske College of Business for five years. While at Missouri, Provost Gabel was named a “shining star” by *The Wall Street Journal* and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Bunche, Kemper, and Holmes-Cardozo Awards for Excellence in Research.

**The M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101** recognizes one University 101 instructor annually who demonstrates exemplary teaching, achievement of course outcomes, and who has made a positive impact on students’ lives.

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**Concurrent Sessions III 2:15pm-3:15pm**

**Integrating the First-Year Common Read into Your Course (Room 203)**
**Presenters: Dottie Weigel and James Winfield**
As University 101 instructors, we can ensure students find significance in the first-year common read, *The Measure of Our Success*, by incorporating meaningful assignments, discussions, and activities into the curriculum. During this session, we will discuss ways to effectively integrate this year’s First-Year Reading Experience book into your class.

**Fostering Academic Strategies and Skills (Room 205)**
**Presenters: Dan Friedman and Claire Robinson**
USC students are coming in brighter and more prepared every year. However, many do not devote the appropriate strategies to managing their academic workload. Join us for this session to learn more about the changes to the academic strategies learning outcome and effective methods to teach the related topics. Specific activities and lesson plans will be demonstrated and shared, including ways to tailor these topics to the specific needs of your students.

**Ideas for Weaving Wellbeing into your Course Design (Room 303)**
**Presenters: Amber Fallucca and Marguerite O’Brien**
Wellness can appear to be a one-dimensional concept to explore in one, or just a couple of days. Au contraire! In this presentation you will learn and experience interactive methods of implementing wellness topics across the span of the curriculum and in combination with other related lessons and “teachable moments.” Instructors will walk away reenergized to facilitate wellness topics for the first-year seminar.
**Business Section Meeting (Room 305)**  
**Presenter: Nancy Buchan**  
This session is designed for instructors teaching Business specific sections of University 101. During this session, we will discuss common expectations and strategies for working with this special population and section type.

**The Power of Mindset: Fostering Success (Room 315)**  
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**Thank you to our donors!**

Door prizes will be awarded at the Town Hall Closing Session

- 5th Avenue Deli
- Bonefish Grill
- Campus Wellness
- Carmike Wynnsong
- Carolina Outdoor Adventures
- Clinton Sease Farm
- Columbia Fireflies
- Columbia Museum of Art
- Easter Antiques
- Frankie’s Fun Park
- Gamecock Athletics
- Get Your Gear On
- Historic Columbia
- Hot Shots Archery Games
- Hunter Gatherer
- Il Giorgione
- Inn at USC
- Motor Supply Co.
- Mr. Friendly’s
- Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom
- Pasta Fresca
- Poet Laureate of the City of Columbia
- Ristorante Divino
- Sweet Cream Company
- The 1425 Inn
- The Mad Platter
- Thirsty Fellow
- Tombo Grille
- Uncle Maddio’s Pizza Joint
- University Bookstore at the Russell House
- USC Symphony

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