



**KEEP  
GEN ED  
WEIRD**

support liberal education

**ASSOCIATION FOR GENERAL &  
LIBERAL STUDIES**

**2023 CONSTITUTE**

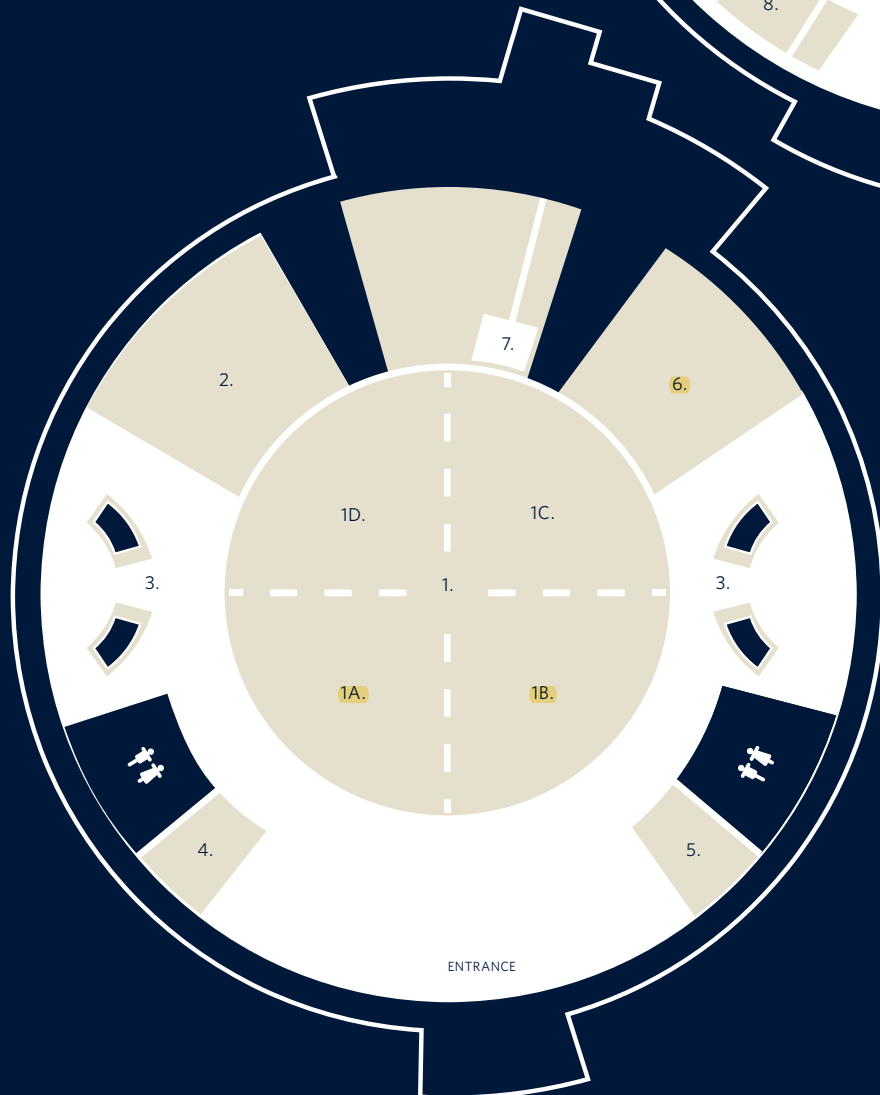
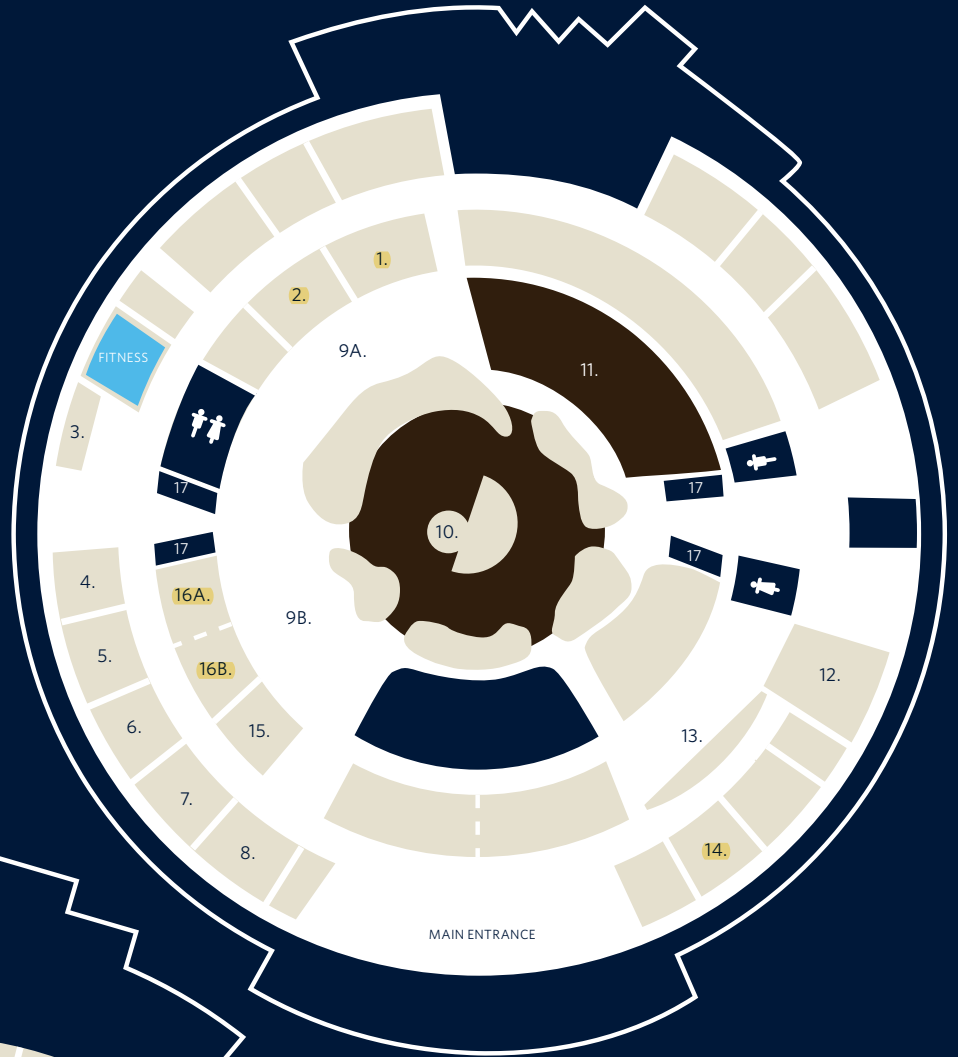
**HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**SEPTEMBER 22 & 23**

## ENTRANCE LEVEL

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Longhorn        | 10. The Creeks Lounge     |
| 2. Wildflower      | 11. The Creeks Restaurant |
| 3. Bluebonnet      | 12. Sales & Catering      |
| 4. Wine Cup        | 13. Front Desk            |
| 5. Red Bud         | 14. Live Oak              |
| 6. Lantana         | 15. Gift Shop             |
| 7. Mountain Laurel | 16A. Violet Crown I       |
| 8. Golden Rod      | 16B. Violet Crown II      |
| 9A. Atrium I       | 17. Elevators             |
| 9B. Atrium II      |                           |



## LOWER LEVEL

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bergstrom Ballroom | 4. Blackbirds     |
| 1A. Ballroom A        | 5. Vin Fiz        |
| 1B. Ballroom B        | 6. Del Valle      |
| 1C. Ballroom C        | 7. Banquet/Audio/ |
| 1D. Ballroom D        | Visual Office     |
| 2. Chennault          |                   |
| 3. Elevators          |                   |

## KEY

- Food & Beverages
- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities

# *Keep Gen Ed Weird!*

## **Weird**

- : of strange or extraordinary character: **ODD, FANTASTIC**
- : of, relating to, or caused by witchcraft or the supernatural: **MAGICAL**

Austin, the site of the 2023 Constitute, has long embraced its reputation for being weird (*Keep Austin Weird* is the slogan adopted by the Austin Independent Business Alliance to promote small businesses in Austin, Texas). A city that appears on any top 10 list of places for innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit, Austin is a great analog for the ideals of general and liberal education.

As we continue to wrestle with the disruptions that began in 2020 and the challenging landscape of higher education, we must rely on our creativity, flexibility, and persistence. General education is the site where students encounter the content, practices, and skills that allow them to grow and that challenge them. As noted in the AAC&U's LEAP Vision statement, liberal education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- ⇒ Is a necessity for ALL students;
- ⇒ Is essential for success in a global economy and for informed citizenship, U.S. and global; and
- ⇒ Leads to intellectual, civic, personal, and professional development.

So what are you doing to 'keep gen ed weird'? What course and program revisions, teaching strategies, assessment practices, program support methods, reform techniques or DEIJ work inform general and liberal education at your institution that allow students to meet the principles of excellence in inquiry and innovation, engage big questions and complex problems, and develop the civic, intercultural and ethical competence to which we aspire?

Let's fight to *Keep Gen Ed Weird* so we can keep pushing students in their thinking and understanding so it complements, critiques, and goes beyond the major and professional preparation.

## **WHO ARE WE?**

AGLS is a national organization designed to provide general education faculty and administrators with practical knowledge and experiences for creating, revising, and running a quality program. We have helped individuals, programs and institutions with everything from communication and marketing to day-to-day administrative operations to innovations in the classroom. Our goal is to create an interactive, two-day experience devoted to matters practical that gets all participants engaging, sharing, and leaving each session with concrete 'take-aways.'

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CONSTITUTE PARTENERS



Weave™

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## FRIDAY PLENARY KEYNOTE

Joey Ramp-Adams

Empower Ability Consulting, Inc.

### *Service Dog Handlers in STEM: Overcoming Bias and Barriers*

The Americans with Disabilities Act “prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs [and] schools.” In reality, massive barriers still exist, making participation extremely difficult for people with disabilities, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Despite institutional claims of the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) in STEM, people with disabilities remain underrepresented. There is a disconnect between the cultivation of a diverse scientific population and the actions of inclusion which ultimately results in a deficit in equal and accessible opportunities.

Expanding inclusion on the institutional level starts by identifying areas of strength to build on and gaps to address. One particular gap is the inclusion of people with disabilities medically assisted by a service dog in science laboratories. Student service dog handlers frequently experience outright exclusion from the hands-on experience science laboratory courses provide. A service dog is considered a medical device by law and provides their handler the independence needed to live a better quality of life. However, the presence of the service dog will often instantly present a barrier or obstacle in STEM academics for the handler based on individual bias.

Current policies neglect to explicitly address the inclusion of the growing population of students with disabilities who rely on service dogs, specifically in accessing teaching and research laboratories. With the increase in students registering for post-secondary disability services, the science community has outgrown general policies that primarily outline steps for the exclusion of student service dog handlers. Here we will discuss barriers and areas needing improvement and then outline explicit guidelines for inclusion currently absent from existing policies.

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## SATURDAY PLENARY PANEL

### *Weird is Not an Option: The Challenges Community Colleges Face to Meet Expectations*

The Community College has historically been locally placed and known for affordable and accessible learning. In fact, the community college is where many students have their first exposure, and oftentimes only exposure, to general education coursework. However, community colleges have many competing stakeholders who influence the structure and competencies of their liberal studies programs leaving little to no ability to have conversations around the student experience within or philosophy surrounding the GE program or courses. For many community colleges, completion of general education courses are check boxes for students either to transfer to a four-year institution or complete AS degree requirements. Given how many four-year institutions are experiencing a renaissance of their General Education programs and courses, including community colleges as participant counterparts in the conversation is long overdue. Two year-colleges are not followers, but essential, valued contributors to general and liberal studies, which a former AGLS president calls a hallmark of the US higher education experience.

**THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM** Pre-conference workshop by reservation only

*Could This be a Silver Bullet? A Peer-to-Peer Model for Assignment Redesign*

Location: Violet Crown

Sheri Popp and Kelsey Kirland (Weave Education)

**THURSDAY 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM** Weave workshop lunch by reservation only

Location: Live Oak

**THURSDAY 1:00PM TO 3:30 PM** Pre-conference workshop by reservation only

It's Happening! A Practical Guide for Using Assessment Thinking during Gen Ed Reform Location:  
Violet Crown

Stephen Biscotte and Tisha Paredes (Weave Education)

**THURSDAY 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Welcome Reception for All Attendees hosted by Weave Education

Location: Del Valle

light hors d'oeuvres and open beer/wine bar

**FRIDAY 7:00 AM TO 5:30 PM**

Registration Check-in and Information

Location: Bergstrom A/B

**FRIDAY 7:45 AM TO 8:45 AM**

Welcome Plenary and AGLS Exemplary General Education Program Awards

Location: Bergstrom A/B

Opening Remarks: Stephen Biscotte (Virginia Tech) and Joyce Lucke (AGLS)

Award Presentation: David DiMattio (Connecticut State Community College)

**FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 10:15 AM**

*Welcome to the Neighborhood: A Primer for those New to Gen Ed Programs*

Location: Bergstrom A/B

An AGLS workshop

Facilitators: Stephen Biscotte (Virginia Tech), Mary Francis 'Mimi' Pipino (Ursuline University), and Bruce Umbaugh (Webster University)

Videos in prep for workshop

[What is Gen Ed?](#)

[Who is a Gen Ed Leader?](#)  
[How Can AGLS Support You?](#)

*Enhancing Student Critical Thinking Performance through Faculty Development and Assignment Design*

Location: Live Oak

Julia 'Cory' Lock and Christie Wilson (St. Edwards University) and Kate McConnell (AAC&U)

*History Lab: Four Instructors, One Course—Fostering Experiential Learning Across the Disciplines*

Location: Violet Crown

David Hicks, Todd Ogle, Paul Quigley, and Thomas Tucker, (Virginia Tech)

*Using an Equity Framework to Promote DEIB Inclusive Classrooms*

Location: Wildflower

Kate Scarpena, Mary Laska, and Jessica Love (Purdue Global)

[Partner Session] *Embracing Weirdness: Constructive Dialogue in Gen Ed*

Location: Longhorn

Jake Fay (Constructive Dialogue Institute)

*A Collaborative Approach to the Weird, Wacky and Wonderful World of Gen Ed*

Location: Del Valle

[135-minute workshop]

Facilitators: David Stewart, Salvatore D'Amato, Chrisine Demicie, Kacie Liwosz, Clara Voorhees (D'Youville University)

**FRIDAY 10:30 AM TO 11:45 AM**

*Recognizing our Exemplary Award Recipients and the AGLS Program Guide*

Location: Live Oak

An AGLS Featured Session

Facilitator: David DiMattio (Connecticut State Community College)

Panelists: Dan Fecher (Clemson University), John Ophus (University of Northern Iowa), and Stephen Biscotte (Virginia Tech)

*Embracing the Old to Create Anew: Yavapai's Unconventional Approach to General Education Assessment*

Location: Violet Crown

Sarah Southwick and Karen Palmer (Yavapai College)

*Supporting Faculty and Students as AI is Utilized in Our Classrooms*

Location: Wildflower

Tyra Hall-Pogar and Mary Laska (Purdue Global)

*Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching Academy: A General Education and Teaching Excellence Center Collaboration*

Location: Longhorn

Laura Poms, E. Shelley Reid, and Rachel Yoho (George Mason University)

## **FRIDAY 12:00 PM TO 1:30 PM**

Attendee Lunch and AGLS Jerry G. Gaff Award Presentation

Location: Bergstrom A/B

Margaret 'Meg' Mulrooney (James Madison University)

*Service Dog Handlers in STEM: Overcoming Bias and Barriers*

Location: Bergstrom A/B

Introduction: Christopher 'Kit' Murphy (The College of New Jersey)

Joey Ramp-Adams (Empower Ability Consulting, LLC)

## **FRIDAY 1:45 PM TO 3:00 PM**

*Not Just Another Assessment Day: Creating Meaningful Assessment While Meeting HLC Requirements*

Location: Live Oak

Faith Kurtyka and Guy McHendry (Creighton University)

*Gen Ed Topics Round Robin*

Location: Violet Crown

Facilitator: Jodene DeKorte (Purdue Global)

*Inclusive Pedagogy: Creating Faculty Instructional Videos* with Megan Sullivan (Boston University)

*The Teaching is Our Scholarship: Publishing and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) in the General Education Program* with Wynn Yarbrough (The University of the District of Columbia)

*Cultural Diversity Across the Curriculum: The Cultural Diversity Flag at UT Austin* with Brooke Rich (University of Texas at Austin)

[Partner Session] *Driving Retention Through Authentic Peer Connections*

Location: Wildflower

Lisa Slattery Walker (Mentor Collective)

*The Collaboration Initiative: Students and Faculty Partner on Assessment*

Location: Longhorn

Rebecca Comfort and Adam Tamashasky (American University)

*Gen Ed Minors at Virginia Tech: Five Years of Successes and Lessons Learned*

Location: Del Valle

Stephen Biscotte, Aaron Brantley, Hanna Shinault Deuyour, and Susan Sumner (Virginia Tech)

## **FRIDAY 3:15 PM TO 4:30 PM**

*Q&A on Incorporating Accessibility for Service Animals in Lab Settings* with Joey Ramp-Adams and Sampson

Location: Bergstrom A/B

[Partner Session] *Assessing Gen Ed Courses and Using the Data without having an Existential Crisis*

Location: Live Oak

Kelsey Kirland (Weave Education)

*Assessment Topics Round Robin I*

Location: Violet Crown



Facilitator: Wynn Yarbrough (The University of the District of Columbia)  
*Can ChatGPT Improve the Quality of Student Essays?* with John Regan (Boston University)  
*Homegrown Assessment Tools-Platforms and Protocols* with Kevin Hermberg (Dominican University New York)  
*Assessing Sociocultural Learning Objectives in General Education* with Kethera Moore and Claire Lyons (James Madison University)

*The WEIRD Approach to General Education Revision to Change Campus Culture (WEIRD= The worthwhile, experiential, interdisciplinary, reflective difference)*

Location: Wildflower

Staci Stone, Lori Hensley, and Tim Lindblom (Jacksonville State University)

*A Focus on Interdisciplinary Course Design: The Purdue Global Sustainability Program in the School of General Education*

Location: Longhorn

Jennifer Harrison, Amy Smith, and Stuart Collins (Purdue Global)

*Beyond Disaggregated Data: A Programmatic Approach to Improving DEIJ in General Education*

Location: Del Valle

Katy Hanggi (Virginia Commonwealth University)

#### **FRIDAY 4:45 PM TO 6:00 PM**

*General Education Redesign: The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Semester and How to Recover*

Location: Live Oak

Susan Myers-Shirk and Christina Cobb (Middle Tennessee State University)

*Get on the Bus! Shifting Mindsets on General Education Assessment: Strategies to Meaningfully Involve Faculty in Building and Implementing an Assessment Plan*

Location: Violet Crown

Virginia Wray Totaro (Virginia Commonwealth University)

[Partner Session] *Fifteen Years and Still Going Strong: The Happy Marriage of ePortfolios and Boston University's College of General Studies*

Location: Wildflower

John Regan (Digication)

*Promoting Faculty Ownership Over General Education Revision and Assessment: Reflections on a Democratic Process*

Location: Del Valle

Summer Clark and Christine Collins (Lesley University)

#### **SATURDAY 7:15 AM TO 5:00 PM**

Registration Check-in and Information

Location: Bergstrom A/B

## **SATURDAY 8:00 AM TO 9:15 AM**

*Speaking Their Language: A Workforce Development Argument for a Robust General Education Curriculum*

Location: Live Oak

Kenny Purcell and Bartell Berg (University of Southern Indiana)

*DEIJ Topics Round Robin I*

Location: Violet Crown

Facilitator: Victor Piercey (Ferris State University)

*Low-Hanging Fruit for Equity and Belonging: Three Good Ideas to Start the Discussion* with Bruce Umbaugh (Webster University)

*Importance of Qualitative Research in DEIB* with Kate Scarpena, Mary Laska, and Jessica Love (Purdue Global)

*Centering Inclusion and Equity in General Education* with Marymegan Daly and Melissa Beers (Ohio State University)

*Building a Communication Toolbox: Effectively Messaging Gen Ed to Students, Advisors, Faculty, and Administrators*

Location: Wildflower

Jenni Gallagher, Will Rizzo, and Najla Mouchrek (Virginia Tech)

*Successful Gen Ed Curriculum Revision: One Institution's Process and Strategies*

Location: Longhorn

Kevin Hermberg (Dominican University New York)

*Inventing Core Structures Workshop*

Location: Del Valle

[135-minute workshop]

Ellen Crowell and Debra Lohe (Saint Louis University)

## **SATURDAY 9:30 AM TO 10:45 AM**

*Nurturing Access, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice: A Discussion on General Education Reform and Assessment*

Location: Live Oak

Beth Ross (Emmanuel College)

*DEIJ Round Robin II*

Location: Violet Crown

Facilitator: Kevin Hermberg (Dominican University New York)

*Reforming a General Education Program by Centering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice* with J.R. 'Jones' Estes (Portland University)

*The Role of Administrators in the Creation of Curriculum that is Inclusive* with Tyra Hall-Pogar (Purdue Global)

*Meeting the Challenges of Technology and AI: Course Revision and Future Literacies at Purdue Global*

Location: Wildflower

Jennifer Harrison, Kate Scarpena, and Stuart Collins (Purdue Global)

*When Big – Even Really Big – Isn't Weird, It's Better*

Location: Longhorn

Greg Tew (Virginia Tech)

## **SATURDAY 11:00 AM TO 12:15 PM**

*Putting the Liberal Arts to Work: The Human Dimensions of Organizations*

Location: Live Oak

Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, Amy Nathan Wright, Tracy Wuster (University of Texas at Austin)

*Assessment Round Robin II*

Location: Violet Crown

Facilitator: Susan Myers-Shirk (Middle Tennessee State University)

*Ways to Engage and Invigorate Rubric Design* with Elissa Graff (Kentucky College of Art+Design)

*The Weird and Wonderful Work of DME/Oral Fluency Assessment* with Beth Kramer and Karen Guendel (Boston University)

*So Much Data, Not Enough Reflection* with Bartell Berg (University of Southern Indiana)

*Writing Racial Autobiographies: Developing Awareness and Meaning around Global Identity*

Location: Wildflower

Michael Coleman (Virginia Tech)

*Weird GenEd: Re-designing GenEd Courses to Ensure Students Gain Essential Skills*

Location: Longhorn

Facilitator: Christopher 'Kit' Murphy (The College of New Jersey)

Panelists: Jodene DeKorte (Purdue Global), Victor Piercey (Ferris State University), and Bruce Umbaugh (Webster University)

*Sustain, Retain, and Attain: A New Look at Persistence and Retention in General Education Courses*

Location: Del Valle

Jan Watson, Stephanie Thompson, Irina Negrea (Purdue Global)

## **SATURDAY 12:30 PM TO 2:15PM**

Attendee Lunch and AGLS National Leadership Award Presentation

Location: Bergstrom A/B

Presenter: Stephen Biscotte (Virginia Tech)

*Weird is Not an Option: The Challenges Community Colleges Face to Meet Expectations*

Location: Bergstrom A/B

Facilitator: Sarah Southwick (Yavapai College)

Panelists: David DiMattio (Connecticut State Community College), Elissa Graf (Kentucky College of Art+Design), Micol Hutchinson (Virginia Community College System), and Jolie Lewis (James Madison University)

**SATURDAY 2:30 PM TO 3:45 PM**

*Tracing the Historical Evolution of General Education Assessment to Gauge its Real Value*

Location: Live Oak

Sarah Southwick (Yavapai College) and David DiMattio (Connecticut State Community College)

*Mega-Inclusivity: Implementing DEI Best Practice in the Very Large General Education Class*

Location: Violet Crown

Claire Lyons (James Madison University)

*Implementing DEIJA in Gen Ed: A Conversation with Three Virginia Universities on Varied Structures, Challenges, and Continuing Efforts*

Location: Wildflower

Laura Poms (George Mason University), Stephen Biscotte (Virginia Tech), Margaret 'Meg' Mulrooney (James Madison University), and Bethany Usher (Radford University)

*Improving Student Motivation: Using Data to Evaluate Student Engagement and to Create an Equitable Motivational Climate*

Location: Longhorn

Brett Jones and Jennifer Gallagher (Virginia Tech)

*General Education as a Catalyst for Intra-Institutional Collaboration*

Location: Del Valle

Marymegan Daly, Melissa Beers, Sarah Holt, Alan Kalish, and Amy Treboni (Ohio State University)

**SATURDAY 4:00 PM TO 5:15 PM**

*The Doctor is In: A Frank Discussion on Curriculum Revision*

Location: Live Oak

Bridget Trogden (American University) and McKenzie Huber (Oregon State University)

*Imposter Syndrome: Shifting the Prognosis by Sharing Our Stories*

Location: Violet Crown

Vanessa Myers and Julie Torres-Roman (Purdue Global)

*Where the [bleep] are your numbers? Faculty-Driven Assessment and the Quest for Authenticity*

Location: Wildflower

Brad Knight and Martyn Oliver (American University)

*How Should We Introduce Our Students to General Education?*

Location: Longhorn

Christopher 'Kit' Murphy, Lindsay Barndt, Ellen Farr, David Conner, Shannon Conklin and LaMont Rouse (The College of New Jersey), and Drew Hopkins (University of Pennsylvania)

**SATURDAY 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

AGLS Council Meeting

Del Valle

## 2022-2023 COUNCIL

**President** **Stephen Biscotte (Education)**  
Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education Virginia Tech

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Karim Dharamsi (Philosophy) Vice Provost, Academics  
Mount Royal University (Canada)

Kevin Hermberg (Philosophy) Chair, General Education Curriculum  
Dominican University New York

### **Editor of the AGLS Guide to Assessment and Program Review**

David DiMattio (Science) Academic Dean of Science & Mathematics  
Connecticut State Community Colleges

### **Task Project Members**

Susan Myers-Shirk (History) Director of General Education  
Middle Tennessee State University

Bridget Trogden (Engineering & Science Education) Dean of Undergraduate Education and Academic  
Student Services  
American University

**SAVE THE DATE**  
October 4 & 5, 2024  
Portland Oregon  
Sheraton Portland Airport



Joyce Lucke, Executive Director

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