

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Board on Science Education

**Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education,
October 2024 Meeting**

Participant Biographies

Presentation on Student-Ready Colleges



TIA BROWN MCNAIR is a Partner at Sova, a company that facilitates transformative change through actionable strategies and practical implementation support. She also serves as a Senior Consultant with AAC&U, where she was the Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive Director for the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers. In her senior leadership position at AAC&U, she oversaw both funded projects and AAC&U's continuing programs on equity, inclusive excellence, high-impact practices (HIPs), student success, and campus climate, and directed AAC&U's Summer Institutes on HIPs and Student Success, and TRHT Campus Centers. She is the co-author of *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk: Expanding Practitioner Knowledge for Racial Justice in Higher Education* (January 2020) and *Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success* (July 2016 and August 2022 Second edition). In May 2023, McNair received an honorary degree from Franklin Pierce University for her national work to dismantle a false belief in a hierarchy of human value and for her efforts to advance racial equity to support the success of all students. NASPA, the association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, named McNair the 2024 recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award.



DEA FOLLMER (Moderator, Roundtable Member) is Professor of Psychology, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Gault Teaching Scholar at the University of Kansas. She also directs the Bay View Alliance (BVA), a consortium of research universities that are studying strategies to promote widespread adoption of evidence-based pedagogy in higher education. Her research focuses on memory and cognitive development and on strategies for advancing transformed teaching and learning, informed by cognitive and developmental science. She is principal investigator of TRESTLE, an NSF-supported BVA collaboration exploring department-embedded expertise and community building as mechanisms for transforming STEM teaching and learning. She also co-leads TEval, another NSF-funded collaboration that aims to transform the evaluation of teaching in higher education. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Dartmouth College and a doctorate in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



CHRISTINA YAO (Moderator, Roundtable Member) is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Program Coordinator of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Master's program at the University of South Carolina. She is a qualitative researcher who has published extensively on undergraduate and graduate student engagement and learning in higher education. She operationalizes her research focus through three connected topical areas: international student mobility, scholar-practitioner preparation, and transnational education. Dr. Yao is involved in several professional organizations, including Vice Chair for the Council for International Higher Education (CIHE) for the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and prior involvement with the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). She earned her Ph.D. in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education from Michigan State University.

Panel Discussion: Using and Disseminating the Modules



CARRIE DIAZ EATON is an Associate Professor of Digital and Computational Studies at Bates College, where their work focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to complex systems, including computational modeling and the role of equity in science education. They are deeply committed to decolonizing education and research, advocating for more inclusive, accessible, and equitable practices in STEM. Dr. Diaz Eaton's research explores the intersection of mathematics, computation, and social justice, often addressing how structural inequities manifest in educational systems. They are a leading voice in national conversations on open education, ethics in computational science, and collaborative practices that bridge traditional academic boundaries. In addition to their academic role, Dr. Diaz Eaton serves as the Executive Director of the Institute for a Racially-just, Inclusive, and Open STEM Education (RIOS), where they lead initiatives aimed at transforming STEM education by fostering inclusivity, equity, and open science practices. They are also a co-founder of QUBES (Quantitative Undergraduate Biology Education and Synthesis), a platform supporting educators in teaching quantitative biology through open, inclusive resources. Dr. Diaz Eaton's work has earned recognition for its impact on both education and public policy, and they remain actively engaged in mentorship, curriculum design, and advocacy. Their passion for fostering equitable learning environments is reflected in their teaching, research, and leadership, where they continuously seek to empower students and colleagues alike.



CHARLENE DUKES is President Emerita of Prince George's Community College in Maryland. She also served as interim presidency at Montgomery College in Maryland. Dr. Dukes is past chair of the American Association of Community Colleges, a founding faculty member of the Leadership Institute of the National Council on Student Development, and past convener for the Presidents Roundtable for African American CEOs in Community Colleges. She chaired the Maryland Community College Council of Presidents and served on the Prince George's County Board of Education and the Maryland State Board of Education, where she was president for the last three years of her gubernatorial appointment. Dr. Dukes is a Trustee at Excelsior University and a member of the Board of Visitors for the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Education at Howard University. She is the co-principal investigator for the Community College Presidents' Initiative in STEM (CCPI-STEM), an NSF ATE grant and founder and principal of The Dukes Group, LLC. She received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.



ELIZABETH (BETH) HAWTHORNE has over 30 years of experience in undergraduate STEM education at community colleges. Dr. Hawthorne is currently a Professor and Director of Cybersecurity Programs at Northeastern University's Arlington, VA campus. Previously, Dr. Hawthorne was faculty and founding Program Director of Cybersecurity at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. Prior to Rider and after 26 years, Dr. Hawthorne retired as a Senior Professor Emerita of Computer Science and Cybersecurity from Union County College (UCC) in Cranford, NJ. While at UCC, she served as PI of the NSF Cyber Service! Interdisciplinary & Experiential Education for Cyber Forensics Technicians project. She currently serves as PI of the NSF Fortifying Cybersecurity and Computing Education through ATE grants project and as a Co-PI of the NSF Community College Presidents' Initiative in STEM Education (CCPI-STEM) project, in which she

serves as the moderator of a webcast series at the intersection of NSF ATE and STEM education.



JULIA MICHAELS is Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships for the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU) at Colorado State University. In this role, she helps UERU grow its base of support and work with other higher education stakeholders to advance equity and excellence in undergraduate education. Julia has nearly two decades of professional experience in higher education. Prior to joining UERU, Julia worked for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), leading multiple projects that engaged university networks including APLU's Powered by Publics initiative and Urban Universities for HEALTH collaborative. Other past roles include leading an undergraduate student internship program at the University of Texas at Austin and supporting international programs at Oregon State University. Julia holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Oregon State University and a B.A. in political science from St. Olaf College.



DALE WINKLER (Moderator, Roundtable Member) was named vice president of school improvement at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in April 2018. He joined SREB in 2015 as special assistant to the senior vice president of the organization's school improvement team, where he brings more than 19 years of experience working on issues related to leadership and policy in college and career readiness. At SREB he oversees the implementation of school improvement frameworks and facilitates work related to education and workforce alignment. Prior to SREB, he was a high school teacher, principal, and associate commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. He also holds a doctorate in education leadership from the University of Kentucky.