

## Virtual Pre-Workshop Session 2: Guiding the Applicant March 6, 2024

### Speaker Biosketches

---



**Adrienne Jones** is the Chief Admissions Officer at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). As a member of the Executive Leadership Team, she reports directly to Jay S. Feldstein, DO '81, president and chief executive officer. Her responsibilities include oversight of the admissions and enrollment processes for all programs on all three PCOM campus locations in Philadelphia, PA; Suwanee, GA, and Moultrie, GA. In her professional journey, she has worked with undergraduates at Southern Methodist University, Vanderbilt University and later Walden University. She spent many years in consultative retail sales, which provided an excellent business foundation and developed her talents in creating a meaningful consumer experience. Her healthcare experience focusing on graduate education and preparing students for careers and post-baccalaureate options was developed at The Maryland Institute of Integrative Health, the University of St. Augustine, and now PCOM.

Her collective experience in teaching, college counseling in public-private high schools, and admission and academic advising at various education levels has equipped her with a unique combination of skills for a chief admissions officer. She also credits her liberal arts education in reinventing her skills and infusing technology and innovation. Jones holds a BA degree in English and History from Southwestern University, a Master of Liberal Studies degree from Southern Methodist University, and is in dissertation stage, pursuing a PhD in Higher Education, Management and Policy, at Walden University.



**Molly Moeller, MBA, BA**, is the Senior Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Des Moines University, where she leads a dedicated team in enrolling students into medical and health science professional graduate programs. With a strong foundation in higher education and corporate administration, including roles at multiple colleges and universities, Moeller has a proven track record of driving strategic enrollment management and business development initiatives. In her current role, Moeller has chaired the Council of Osteopathic Medical Admissions Officers and has been an active member on numerous admissions-related technology advisory boards, providing valuable operational and user perspectives. Her leadership extends to local and national levels, where she has been instrumental in shaping strategies within the higher education recruitment and admissions landscape. Moeller has an MBA from Shorter College and a B.A. from Kennesaw State University.

Exploring Strategies and Outcomes  
of Admissions Processes in Health  
Professions Education: A Workshop



**Kimberly Nicely** is the Interim Dean of Student Success at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Medical Education Campus in Springfield, VA. With over thirty years of experience in higher education, Nicely has dedicated twenty-eight years to serving Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). Throughout her tenure at NOVA, she held various positions of increasing responsibility. As the current Interim Dean of Student Success, she oversees the admission process among other responsibilities. Nicely leverages extensive experience to support students' success and facilitate their journey within the college environment. NOVA currently offers 10 Health Sciences degree programs along with several nursing degree tracks. It's noteworthy that all these degree programs lead to licensure, ensuring graduates are prepared to pursue their professional goals in various healthcare fields. This comprehensive offering reflects NOVA's commitment to providing students with the education and training necessary for successful careers in the healthcare industry.



**Jen Perniciaro** serves as the Senior Director for Marketing Strategy in this inaugural role at Saint Louis University. Bringing over two decades of advertising and marketing acumen to the table, Jen is a seasoned strategist renowned for their proficiency in strategic planning. Her extensive experience encompasses crafting robust marketing strategies that align with business objectives and drive sustainable growth. With a keen eye for market trends and a track record of successful implementations, Jen excels at navigating complex landscapes to deliver impactful results for clients and organizations alike.



**Michelle Rogers** is the Program Director of Recruitment for Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO. A strategic, enrollment professional with over thirty years of experience with an emphasis on recruitment, leadership, and the student experience. The focus of her career has been helping students see their full potential to find an academic environment that not only helps them with what they become in their career but who they become as a person. Most of her career has been at Saint Louis University guided by the Jesuit mission and helping students find a mission-focused, student-centered, and research driven experience. Mentoring colleagues and students have been the driving factor of her thirty plus years in enrollment. Professional experiences include President of Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling; National Delegate for the National Association for College

Admission Counseling including a position as Chief Delegate; Mid America Catholic College Coordinator; Nike All-

## Exploring Strategies and Outcomes of Admissions Processes in Health Professions Education: A Workshop

America Basketball Camp Leadership Development Team. Michelle has been recognized for her work, including the Presidential Recognition Award for commitment to service in Illinois. Before joining SLU, she worked for Marian College and St. Louis College of Pharmacy.



**Amy Smith, PhD** is the Chief Learning Officer at StraighterLine. Amy is an academic innovator devoted to increasing access to higher education for all learners. Her career spans many of the biggest institutions in the world of online higher education. She's held senior leadership positions at University of Phoenix, Capella University, and Colorado State University (CSU) Online. In addition to leading StraighterLine's academic partnerships team, Amy heads up SL Labs, the research and design arm of the organization. In this role, she and her team focus on researching, designing, and building best-in-class product and service offerings to provide optimal value for students and clients.

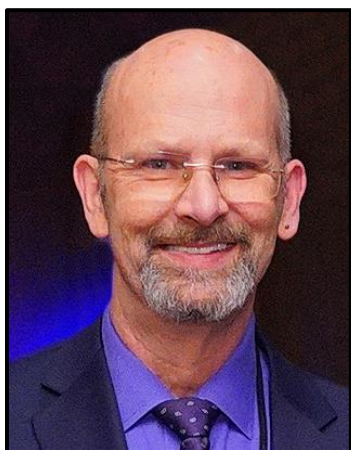
Before joining StraighterLine, Amy served as the associate provost of CSU Online, where she was responsible for significantly increasing access and educational opportunity to students by offering graduate and undergraduate degrees and certificate programs online. Prior to CSU Online, Amy was dean of the School of Education for Capella University, where she was responsible for innovation and optimization of 38 graduate education programs, including master's and doctoral degree programs in P-12 education and leadership, adult education, corporate education, higher-education leadership, and instructional design and online learning.

Dr. Smith earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership: Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Denver, an M.Ed. in Public Administration and Supervision from National-Louis University, an M.A. in Secondary Education/English Education from the University of Akron, and a B.A. in English from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



**Elizabeth (Liz) Szpilka, LMSW** is the Director of Outreach, Enrollment and Professional Advisement at Adelphi University's School of Social Work. In her role she provides leadership for recruitment, enrollment management, graduate admissions, academic and professional advisement for all program locations. Prior to joining Adelphi University in 2014, Elizabeth had a 20+ year career working in child welfare and non-profit organizations. Elizabeth earned her BSW from Marymount College and her MSW from Adelphi University. Elizabeth has served on the Board of the National Deans and Directors of Social Work Admissions (NDDSWA) since 2018, first as the secretary for two terms and currently as co-president.

Exploring Strategies and Outcomes  
of Admissions Processes in Health  
Professions Education: A Workshop



**Tony Wynne** serves as the Executive Director of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) in Central Illinois. Before joining NAAHP, Tony was a Patron member of the association for twelve years while working as the Director of Admissions and Recruitment Affairs at the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in Washington, D.C. In this role, he also managed the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS).

With a passion for expanding access to higher education and leveraging technology to enhance the experiences of both students and pre-health advisors, Tony is committed to providing NAAHP members with cutting-edge resources and tools to help their students make well-informed decisions about their medical career paths. Additionally, he actively raises awareness among the general public about pre-health advisors' crucial role in the admissions process.

---

## Applicant/Learner Panel



**Emily Hathcock** is a graduate of Wofford College with a B.S. in pre-medicine studies. After not finding a successful program match for medical school in her first application cycle, Emily followed her passion for health policy and is now an MPH student at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Emily is in the process of determining the next steps of her career journey following the completion of her MPH to combine her interest in policy and oncology.



**Chetana Movva** is a dual Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine candidate and currently a sophomore at Nova Southeastern University pursuing a degree in neuroscience and biology with minors in honors transdisciplinary studies, pre-health, and research. She is currently engaged in oncology and neurodegenerative disease research with the hope to continue to incorporate research in her future career plans.

Exploring Strategies and Outcomes  
of Admissions Processes in Health  
Professions Education: A Workshop



**Tom Punnen** is a junior and Trustee Harvey Scholar at Rice University majoring in neuroscience. Here, he has expanded his experience and interest in public health and research through his work on the Translational Humanities for Public Health project. Tom is planning to complete a gap year for a research internship to further his knowledge in the area prior to applying for graduate programs.



**Rachael Thumma** is Sophomore at the University of Notre Dame majoring in neuroscience with aspirations to become a physician. She is currently evaluating programs that align with her values of service and is in the application process for early decision programs. Rachael is currently working as a patient care representative in the Emergency Room, assisting on research project to improve access to maternal care and prenatal care for new mothers, and providing virtual tutoring for orphans India after establishing the connection during an experiential learning opportunity in the country.



**Mielad Ziaee** is a junior and Tier One Scholar at the University of Houston. A first-generation student, Mielad is passionate about combining research and advocacy to promote the healthcare of under-resourced communities. He is a member of the UH System Board of Regents this year, and he is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) All of Us Research Scholar and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) John R. Lewis Scholar. He hopes to pursue a gap year to prepare for an MD/PhD, focusing on experiences that support his future professional goals at the intersection of medicine, public policy, and technology.