

Invited Speakers

Monday, June 19, 9:00–10:00 am

Means, Bias, and Trends: What We All Bring to the Conversation

Erika M. Farfan (Director of Institutional Research, Office of Institutional Research, Kenyon College)



Erika is the Director of the Office of Institutional Research at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Erika came to Kenyon in 2011 to start the College's first Office of Institutional Research which now has key roles in academic assessment, research and surveys, and metric tracking in addition to the traditional data reporting. She also established an IR Intern program which now employs five current Kenyon students and has five alums (four of which have gone into data analysis). The intern program has allowed the productivity of the office to grow exponentially and created new opportunities for the Office to take on work in administrative assessment, faculty grant support, and BI and data warehousing collaboration with IT. Erika spends her "free" IR time keeping up with the ever growing world of data visualization programming and best practice in graphical presentation. She also serves on the AIR Forum Strategy Committee and has consulted with other colleges on their campus climate research agendas.

Monday, June 19, 2:45–3:45 pm

Scrutiny of Higher Education: Are the Right Questions Being Asked?

Scott Jaschik (Editor and Co-founder, Inside Higher Ed)



Scott Jaschik is editor and one of the three founders of *Inside Higher Ed*. With Doug Lederman, he leads the editorial operations of Inside Higher Ed, overseeing news content, opinion pieces, career advice, blogs, and other features. Scott is a leading voice on higher education issues, quoted regularly in publications nationwide, and publishing articles on colleges in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, and elsewhere. He has been a judge or screener for the National Magazine Awards, the Online Journalism Awards, the Folio Editorial Excellence Awards, and the Education Writers Association Awards. Scott served as a mentor in the community college fellowship program of the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media, of Teachers College, Columbia University. He is a member of the board of the Education Writers Association. From 1999-2003, Scott was editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Tuesday, June 20, 11:00am–12:00 pm

Practice for Life: Making Decisions in College

Lee Cuba (Professor of Sociology, Wellesley College)



Lee Cuba is professor of sociology at Wellesley College, where he has taught since 1981. His research is concerned with the acquisition and meaning of place identities, with particular interests in how migrants come to feel at home in new places and the role of geographic relocation in the transition to new statuses. From 2005 to 2014, Cuba served as a co-PI of the New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning (NECASL), a research group involving seven liberal arts colleges whose work informed *Practice for Life; Making Decisions in College* (Harvard, 2016). Cuba's research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Spencer Foundation, and he is the recipient of the Pinanski Prize for Excellence in Teaching and the Apgar Prize for Teaching Excellence. Cuba has also held a variety of administration positions at Wellesley: chair of the sociology department, associate director of the Writing Program, associate dean of the college, and dean of the college.

Nancy Jennings (Associate Professor Emerita, Bowdoin College)



Nancy Jennings is Associate Professor of Education Emerita at Bowdoin College. While at Bowdoin, Professor Jennings was Senior Faculty Fellow of the Joseph McKeen Center for the Common Good, chair of the Education Department, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2004-2008. Her research interests include student learning in higher education and state-level reform in elementary and secondary education. Among other publications, Professor Jennings is the author of *Interpreting Policy in Real Classrooms: Case studies of State Reform and Teacher Practice* (Teachers College Press, 1996) and, with Lee Cuba, Suzanne Lovett and Joseph Swingle, *Practice for Life: Making Decisions in College* (Harvard University Press, 2016). She received a B.A. degree in classical languages and literature from Macalester College and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in curriculum and educational policy.

Suzanne Lovett (Associate Professor of Psychology, Bowdoin College)



Suzanne Lovett is a developmental psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. Her research interests are twofold. Her developmental research concerns children's folk theories of biology, psychology, and biopsychology. Her higher education research developed out of her involvement with the New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning (NECASL) and concerns assessing academic, social, and personal engagement in college, especially students' conceptualization of their experiences and the decision-making process as *Practice for Life*. Because of her involvement with NECASL, Lovett served as the Faculty Liaison for Advising at Bowdoin for a number of years—working with the First-Year Dean of Students to overhaul the premajor advising program (e.g., improve faculty training). They also implemented a new advising program, BASE (Bowdoin Advising in Support of Academic Excellence), which provides intensive faculty advising to first-year students who may have a more challenging transition to college.

Tuesday, June 20, 3:30–4:30 pm

Institutional Effectiveness, Student Success, Data-Informed Decision-Making Culture: Ask Not What Your Institution Can Do, Ask What You Can Do?

Mary Ann Coughlin (Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Springfield College)



Mary Ann Coughlin serves as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Across her tenure at Springfield College, Mary Ann has served in a variety of positions; serving as a faculty member, President of the Faculty Senate, and her current administrative position in Academic Affairs. Coughlin served as a Professor of Research and Statistics at Springfield, prior to moving into administration. Coughlin supervises academic support services and provides leadership for program review, outcomes assessment, faculty development, student success initiatives, and institutional research. She is a Past President of the Association for Institution Research (AIR) and Northeast Association for Institutional Research and was awarded the NEAIR Distinguished Service Award and the AIR Outstanding Service Award. Coughlin also serves as a consultant to the Association for Institutional Research and is a curriculum developer and lead workshop presenter for Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).