

## Session 3: 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm

### Presenters, Bios, and Summaries

#### A. Pegasus Breakout Room A

- a. **Session Title:** Harnessing Human Touch and Targeted Strategies to Grow and Support Online Transfer Enrollment at Florida Atlantic
- b. **Presenters:**
  - i. [Jessica Acevedo, Florida Atlantic University](#)
  - ii. [Linnsey McFerguson, Florida Atlantic University](#)
  - iii. [Susan Morrow, Florida Atlantic University](#)
- c. **Session Summary:** Join us to explore how Florida Atlantic University's Online Enrollment and Student Success (OESS) team leverages a personalized, high-touch service model to drive transformative outcomes in online transfer enrollment. At the heart of Florida Atlantic's mission is a commitment to accessible, success-driven education—realized through a 15% enrollment growth fostered by a unique approach to online student engagement. This session will reveal the strategies that shape OESS's 360-degree enrollment and support framework, a model that combines inquiry-driven guidance, concierge-level enrollment assistance, and tailored coaching to nurture student persistence from the first point of contact through to graduation. Our team's approach prioritizes every student's sense of belonging and institutional connection, ensuring they feel valued and supported, no matter where they are located. Participants will gain actionable insights into cultivating a high-impact service ecosystem, one that strengthens student identity within FAU while enhancing recruitment and enrollment outcomes. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to elevate online student engagement, improve transfer student success, and contribute to the broader mission of expanding educational access and excellence in online learning.

#### B. Pegasus Breakout Room B

- a. **Session Title:** Whose Degree is it anyway? Empowering Student Independence: Navigating Helicopter Parenting in Higher Education
- b. **Presenters:**
  - i. [Mario Lara, Florida International University](#)
  - ii. [Anasa Lattibeaudaire, Florida International University](#)
  - iii. [Ricki Garcia, Florida International University](#)
  - iv. [Sheryl-Ann Mullings-Black, Florida International University](#)
- c. **Session Summary:** This presentation addresses the growing challenge of helicopter parenting, focusing on its impact on transfer students, particularly those who are first-generation and from diverse backgrounds. By examining federal laws "FERPA" and sharing best practices, we will equip advisors with strategies to foster student independence while maintaining effective communication with parents. Attendees will learn to develop supportive programs and resources that empower students. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants will gain insights, practical tips, and innovative ideas for balancing parental involvement with student autonomy. By the end, participants will:
  - Define "helicopter" parenting and its impact
  - Understand the implications of FERPA and other laws
  - Develop effective communication strategies
  - Create supportive programs to foster independence

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#### C. Pegasus Breakout Room C

- a. **Session Title:** Implementing an Academic Advocacy Program to improve Student Success
- b. **Presenters:**
  - i. [Lucas Noboa, UCF](#)
- c. **Session Summary:** The proposed conference presentation seeks to explore and share insights on establishing a robust framework for Academic Advocacy, designed to enhance student success in higher education. The framework encompasses various elements, including the coordinated care management model, the utilization of data and predictive analytics, identifying the role and functions of Academic Advocates, partnerships with stakeholders, and leveraging technology for academic support. By addressing the diverse needs of students, this framework aims to create an environment that fosters student success and improves retention and timely degree completion. Attendees at this session will learn how UCF implemented an Academic Advocacy program for undergraduate students. Attendees will learn how data analytics are used to predict and identify which students may be at-risk of not continuing at the institution. Attendees will learn how Academic Advocacy partners with various campus stakeholders to improve persistence, retention, and timely degree completion.

#### D. Garden Key Room 221

- a. **Session Title:** Special Selection: Reimagining Post-Decision Advising
- b. **Presenters:**
  - i. [Adrienne Provost, University of Florida](#)
  - ii. [Sara Mock, University of Florida](#)
  - iii. [Joe Uong, University of Florida](#)
  - iv. [Gillian Lord, University of Florida](#)
- c. **Session Summary:** Navigating the complexities of higher education majors can be challenging, particularly for transfer students who often lack exposure to the full spectrum of academic disciplines. While traditional first-time college students have the luxury of sampling courses and changing majors, many universities require major-specific transfer applications and restrict post-admission changes. As a result, a limited number of disciplines receive the lion's share of applicants. Not only does this practice strain departmental resources, but transfer students miss out on the opportunity to explore niche majors. Often considered “found majors,” these alternative fields of study may better align with students’ interests and career goals but may have been overlooked or misunderstood during the application process. Further, due to restricted resources, many promising transfer students lack critical prerequisites for their first-choice majors, resulting in application denials. The University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has developed a new initiative, Special Selection, an advising model for pre-decision applicants. Special Selection is proactive advising, an intervention that provides students with information and options for those applying to overenrolled majors. Advising topics include, but are not limited to, 1. Alternative majors and course tracks; 2. Competitive application resubmission guidance; 3. Career and workforce pathway information. By expanding students' awareness and understanding of diverse academic pathways, this advising approach mitigates the psychological impact of admission denial and empowers students to make informed decisions. Preliminary data supports this initiative’s success in increasing student academic achievement, advising engagement, and a sense of degree satisfaction.

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