



10:30 – 11:20 Concurrent Session 1

**Unlocking Student Potential:
How Career Services Fuels Meaningful Career Exploration**
Beka Moore & Holly Allen
[Career Development Center](#)

Students often face uncertainty about career options. This session equips participants with strategies to integrate career exploration into student conversations. Participants will gain tools to help students clarify goals and take next steps.

149  250

**The Library Advantage:
Integrating Innovative Student Success Solutions**
Kathleen Schmand & Aaron Schmul
[Walker Library](#)

Experience Walker Library as a hub for student success. Explore collaborative spaces, services, and innovative technologies that foster curiosity, develop skills, and enhance learning in every field.

Belonging by Design: How Intentional Space, Data, and Operations Transformed the Student Union & KUC
Sadie Katie Larson
[Student Affairs: Student Unions](#)

Space and place shape how students experience campus. Through data, observation, and intentional planning, this session explores how rethinking environments, large and small, can spark cultural change and strengthen student success.

102  249

**The First Taste:
How Engaging Dual Enrollment Experiences can Impact Student Success**
Casey Brown & Matt Hannah
[Dual Enrollment](#)

This session will review metrics and other findings pertaining to MTSU’s Dual Enrollment Program, provide examples of cross-campus collaboration, and outline opportunities for further partnership among campus units to serve this unique population.

**Breaking Silos:
Building Intentional Partnerships Between Academic and Student Affairs**
Cassie Piggott, Tiffany Fantine, & Maigan Wipfli
[Academic Advising & Student Affairs](#)

Explore strategies for breaking down silos between academic & student affairs to strengthen student success. Participants will leave with actionable ideas for collaboration & building a stronger sense of belonging across campus.

141  105

**Supporting the whole military community:
The growth and support of Military Dependents on campus**
Rayna Vest
[Charlie & Hazel Daniels Veterans & Military Family Center](#)

In the spring of 2026, the Daniels Center conducted research to assess Military Dependent students’ needs and our current service. This presentation shares our findings and suggestions to better support our Military Dependent students across campus.

Let the Students Lead the Way!
Kathryn Blankenship, Karen Davis, & Elizabeth Smith
[Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology](#)

The presenters will provide a successful framework for student lead mentorship and professional development. They will discuss a professional development and student ambassador programs created to address these needs and provide programatic data.

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11:30 – 12:20 Concurrent Session 2

**Less Telling, More Asking:
Using Motivational Interviewing to Promote Behavior Change in Students**
Greyson Billingham & Fran Henslee
[Academic Advising](#)

Learn how Motivational Interviewing and the Transtheoretical Model of Change can be applied together to help advisors assess student readiness, improve time-limited conversations, and promote meaningful change.

149  250

Textbook Affordability: Listening & Responding to Our Students
Suzanne Mangrum & Ginelle Baskin
[Walker Library](#)

Please join us for an overview of a survey the library conducted last fall to understand our students’ perspectives on textbook affordability. The Library is using the results to inform our efforts to remove barriers to textbooks on campus.

Raising Awareness on What Disability is in 2026 & Overcoming Negative Attitudes through a Greater Understanding of Disability Etiquette & With Collaborative Efforts
Kevin States & Gerald Christian
[Disability & Access Center](#)

Enhance your academic professional toolkit with the Disability Access Center. Learn disability etiquette and models to help students overcome hidden barriers. Gain actionable strategies to navigate accommodation cases and maximize student success.

141  102

Reframing Academic Standing Concerns
Abigail Williams
[Academic Advising](#)

Institutional data and students’ self-perception don’t capture the full story of an individual’s relationship to academia. Let’s investigate the research to dismantle unempathetic stereotypes and ineffective perspectives!

**Designing Student Support Systems for Unique Transitions:
Lessons from Homeschool to College Student**
Edie Brasher & Amy Foster
[Academic Advising](#)

Explore the recruitment, admissions, and transition experiences of homeschooled students in higher education. Learn how institutions can identify support gaps and strengthen student success through intentional, cross-campus collaboration.

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Online Strategies to Communicate Effectively in Asynchronous Courses
11:30 – 11:55
Jacqueline Gilbert
[Jones College of Business](#)

This presentation discusses strategies that online instructors teaching asynchronously can use to effectively engage students. These include “out of the box” techniques, like phone calls, calendar invites, “happy hours” and zoom introductions.

Building Belonging & Career Readiness Through Student Organizations
11:55 – 12:20
Stuart Fowler
[Jones College of Business](#)

Student organizations can be a powerful career-readiness strategy. This session explores how employer engagement, leadership opportunities, and experiential learning prepare students for careers while naturally fostering belonging and connection.

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1:30 – 2:20 **Concurrent Session 3**

A Collaborative Approach to Student Success Through Micro-Credentials
Ayla Calvert & Elisha Lawrence
[Career Development Center](#)

The Career Leadership Badge Program helps students translate academic and extracurricular experiences into skills for career-readiness through experiential learning and reflection, supporting workforce preparedness and student success.

**"I haven't heard about that!"
Using Curriculum to Stay Ahead of Program Changes**
Paula Callahan & Mitzi Brandon
[Provost Office](#)

As primary users of Modern Campus Curriculum at MTSU, our presenters have learned that many stakeholders are unaware that they have access to the system. Learn how to view and track Curriculum proposals to provide feedback and stay informed.

TN Direct Admissions 101
Kristen Janson & Steven Byrd
[Admissions](#)

Tennessee's Direct Admissions initiative simplifies college access by offering eligible students admission before they apply. Discover how institutions can leverage the program to strengthen recruitment, reduce barriers, and support enrollment.

**Building Pathways to Excellence:
Honors Admission Strategies for Buchanan Fellows at MTSU**
Emilee Buckmeyer
[Honors College](#)

This presentation explores the Buchanan Fellowship application process and how it supports admissions, recruitment, and student success. Attendees will learn how campus-wide collaboration helps attract, enroll, and retain high-achieving students.

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The Belonging Blueprint: Co-Creating Student Success Strategies
Shelby Akers
[Academic Advising](#)

Explore the Integrative Framework for Belonging through research, reflection, and discussion. Participants will examine four dimensions of belonging and leave with practical, actionable strategies to foster connection, engagement, and student success.

105  149

Spreadsheet Sorcery: Streamlining Data Management with Excel
Bonnie McCarty
[Academic Advising](#)

Unleash your inner spreadsheet sorcerer! Learn Excel tricks to pull data, create drop-down menus, use formulas, and generate quick stats. Save time, streamline your workflow, and support student success with wizard-inspired tools.

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Supporting International Student to Succeed
Rima Abdallah
[English Department](#)

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Supporting Students Who Are Grieving & Helping Them Continue to Succeed
Sandra Jones
[MTSU Counseling](#)

Nearly 60 percent of college students experience the death a loved one in the first year of college. Grieving students may face concentration difficulties, mental health challenges, and increased dropout rates. Participants will gain research-based strategies to support grieving students.

2:30 – 3:20 **Concurrent Session 4**

The Senior-Year Pivot: Advising Conversations That Make the Difference
Darla Mallory & McKenna Young
[Academic Advising](#)

Learn how authentic storytelling and intentional self-disclosure can help students navigate uncertainty and build resilience. Participants will explore narrative-based strategies and leave with a practical, adaptable reflective activity.

Library as Life Lab: Interdisciplinary Student Success in Special Collections
Susan Martin, Susan Hanson, Sarah Pierce, & Jessie Weatherly
[Walker Library](#)

From toxicology research to rare books, Special Collections helps students build real-world skills. Learn how interdisciplinary projects, student employment, and internships transform academic support into career preparation.

Understanding the Proposed DHS F-1 & J-1 Regulations for Faculty & Advisors
Cynthia Habara
[International Affairs](#)

This session will provide an overview of the DHS proposed F-1 & J-1 regulations, compare them with current processes, and present practical strategies for supporting international student success through collaboration with faculty and advisors.

**The Power of Self-Disclosure & Authentic Storytelling:
Helping Students Build Resilience**
Victoria Sexton & Beka Moore
[Career Development Center](#)

This session explores how advisors can use senior-year conversations to bridge academic & career readiness, helping students identify next steps, articulate qualifications, navigate opportunities, and prepare confidently for the next step.

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Advisors & Faculty - A Winning Team for Curriculum Building
Nancy Stubblefield
[Academic Advising](#)

Support transfer and dual enrollment students, improve graduation pathways, and help students complete degrees efficiently while strengthening academic programs.

141  249

The Impact of Campus Recreation on Student Academic Performance
Tess Swastek & Josh Stone
[Student Affairs: Recreation Center](#)

Campus Rec offers opportunities focused on fitness, socialization, and learning. Learn about Campus Rec, student user data (GPA, retention, etc.) and high-impact practices used for programs and student employee training.

105  250

**The Impact of Student-Led Mentorship
in Programs & Student Organizations at MTSU**
Don Srisuriyo, Danielle Rochelle, & Michai Mosby
[Student Engagement/Student Affairs](#)

Three panelists with mentorship experience across academic and student affairs will share their perspectives, values, strategies, and stories. Audience will be requested to participate in reflective writing and conversation.

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TELL
US
YOUR
THOUGHTS!

