2nd Annual

SOAR!

A Conference on Regional PK-16 Student Success

#SOARUNCP
December 12, 2016
University Center Annex
Pembroke, NC
About this Conference

The S²OAR! Conference is a regional conference held each December aimed at promoting PK-16 student success. This conference creates a space for educational stakeholders and thought leaders from across the region to unite, learn, teach, share, and collaborate in an effort to advance the common goal of post-secondary access and career opportunities for all students.

This initiative emerged from ongoing conversations held between faculty members in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling (School of Education). The themes of these conversations suggested:
1. A need to collaborate across disciplines to promote opportunity and access for all students,
2. The importance of understanding the roles and responsibilities of educational leaders (e.g., administrators, school counselors)
3. Preparation and continuing education through collaborative efforts is critical, &
4. The need to create a “space” for regional thought leaders to convene.

Many of these issues are currently being addressed at the national level by organizations such as the National Consortium for School Counseling and Post-secondary Success (NCSCPS), National College Access Network, Council of National School Counseling & College Access Organizations, as well as the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. As a result of the evolving national landscape and numerous conversations related to student success held in the School of Education, with support from university leaders this opportunity and access conference became a reality.

S²OAR! is an acronym for Student Success through Opportunity and Access to Resources. We hope this conference will enhance the collaborative efforts among educational stakeholders across the region. By pooling resources, ingenuity and innovation, we are best positioned to provide PK-16 students with opportunities and access that lead to post-secondary success and strengthen our communities.

We aim for everyone to leave this conference energized and positioned to advance PK-12 and post-secondary student success across our region. Please visit the S²OAR! conference website for useful resources and stay in touch!

Sincerely,

Drs. Jeffrey M. Warren and Carol Higy
Conference Co-Chairs
2016 S²OAR! Conference Steering Committee

Dr. James Bass
Former Director, The Learning Center, Robeson Community College

Tara Bullard
Principal, Public Schools of Robeson County

Faline Locklear Dial
President, Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce

Cheryl Harris
Community Relations Specialist, Eastpointe

Dr. Carol Higy*
Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Counseling, UNCP

Cathy Hurley
Military Family Liaison, Cumberland County Schools

Dr. Connie Locklear
Director, Indian Education Resource Center

Dr. Derek Oxendine
Director, Center for Student Success, UNCP

Jessica Oxendine**
Professional School Counseling Graduate Student, UNCP

Jamie Synan
Director of Student Services, Scotland County Schools

Dr. Jeffrey Warren*
Associate Professor & Chair, Educational Leadership and Counseling, UNCP

*Co-chair
**Student Representative
2016 $SOAR!$ Conference Hosts

Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
The Literacy Commons

**Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC)**

Housed in the School of Education, the **ELC Department** serves over 240 graduate students and includes 14 full-time faculty members. The faculty members are active teacher-scholars holding leadership positions within their professional associations, presenting and publishing widely in their disciplines, and regularly providing service to the community. The department includes three master-level programs: **School Administration**, **Professional School Counseling (PSC)**, and **Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)**.

The *School Administration Graduate Program* is designed for professionals in education who seek exceptional opportunities for leadership development, professional networking, and learning the knowledge base and latest advancements in education – all in an accommodating format to meet the challenging professional and personal schedules of educators. For more information about the *School Administration Graduate Program*, contact Dr. Larry Mabe ([larry.mabe@uncp.edu](mailto:larry.mabe@uncp.edu)).

The **CMHC Graduate Program** is designed to assist graduate students in the development of competencies necessary for functioning in the role of professional counselor in a variety of settings. The **PSC Graduate Program** is designed to prepare and mentor graduate students to become committed, collaborative, and competent professional school counselors. Both programs are CACREP accredited, meeting the highest national standards for counselor preparation. For more information about the **CMHC Program**, contact Dr. Ki Chae ([kibyungchae@uncp.edu](mailto:kibyungchae@uncp.edu)). Contact Dr. Shenika Jones ([shenika.jones@uncp.edu](mailto:shenika.jones@uncp.edu)) regarding more information about the **PSC Program**.

**The Literacy Commons (LC)**

The **LC** is an arm of the Office of Engaged Outreach. A community/university partnership, the **LC** is dedicated to enriching and enhancing literacy in the UNCP service area through voluntarism, tutoring, and publication. The **LC** partners and works with local schools and community members to promote various forms of literacy in an effort to promote college and career readiness among PK-12 students across the region. To learn more about the **LC**, please contact Dr. Jeffrey Warren ([jeffrey.warren@uncp.edu](mailto:jeffrey.warren@uncp.edu)).
A special thanks to:

- UNCP Center for Student Success
- UNCP Office for Advancement
- UNCP Office of Admissions
- UNCP School of Education
- UNCP School of Graduate Studies and Research
- UNCP Pembroke Undergraduate Research & Creativity Center
- Professional School Counseling Graduate Students
- YOU!
**Map of Campus**

Please note:
- Building #20 (○) : University Center (UC)
- Building #22 (□): UC Annex
- Gray Areas: Parking Lots
# Conference at a Glance

## Registration & Check-in (8:30 am-9:00 am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Main Room</td>
<td>Check-In and On-Site Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Light breakfast provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Welcome/Opening Remarks (9:00 am-9:20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Main Room</td>
<td>Welcome— UNCP Chancellor, Dr. Robin Cummings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opening Remarks— Dr. Jeffrey M. Warren</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Break-Out Session #1 (9:30 am-10:20 am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Main Room</td>
<td>Growing Holistic Responsiveness through Culturally Strengthened Practices—The Language of Belonging</td>
<td>B. Deese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex 203 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Promoting College and Career Readiness for ALL: A Round-Table Discussion</td>
<td>S. Jones (Moderator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Lounge (1st floor)</td>
<td>Predicting Grit and Resilience using College Students’ Academic Rational Beliefs: Implications for School and College Educators</td>
<td>J. Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC 213 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Building Relationships with Students and Families</td>
<td>J. Synan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC 233 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Pathways to Professional Development</td>
<td>F. Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC 251 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Characteristics of Successful Career and College Promise Students</td>
<td>C. Edmonds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Break-Out Session #2 (10:30 am-11:20 am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Main Room</td>
<td>The New Minimum / Building Student and Teacher Success through Career and College Readiness</td>
<td>S. Breckenridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex 203 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>K-12 Student Success Share Session: An Opportunity To Share What Works</td>
<td>T. Hunt (Moderator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Lounge (1st floor)</td>
<td>What’s culture got to do with it? Promoting Educational Achievement and Success Among American Indian Children and Youth</td>
<td>S. Faircloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC 213 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Jumpstarting A Technical Career through Career &amp; College Promise</td>
<td>V. Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC 233 (2nd floor)</td>
<td>“We’re In This Together” (Fostering Relationships with Students &amp; Families)</td>
<td>M. Capps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Keynote (11:30 am-12:15 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Main Room</td>
<td>Dr. Bryan Brayboy Arizona State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Luncheon (12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| UC Annex Assembly Room | Targeted Discussions—Table Talk  
Poster Session  
Exhibitors |

### Break-Out Session #3 (1:40 pm-2:30 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| UC Lounge (1st floor) | Expanding Access and Opportunity at UNCP:  
Updates on NC Promise, 3-plus-2 Engineering  
Dual Degree and More | J. Phelps  
S. Mandjiny  
K. Granger |
| UC 213 (2nd floor) | Working with Military-Connected Students                        | C. Hurley                |
| UC 233 (2nd floor) | Participant Driven Session #1 (Topic TBD)                       |                          |
| UC 251 (2nd floor) | Participant Driven Session #2 (Topic TBD)                       |                          |
| UC Annex 203 (2nd floor) | Participant Driven Session #3 (Topic TBD)                       |                          |

### Reconvening (2:40 pm-3:00 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| UC Annex Assembly Room | Closing Remarks and Charge  
Distribution of Certificates |

### Campus Tour (3:00 pm-3:30 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Annex Assembly Room</td>
<td>Join a representative from the Office of Admissions for a leisure walk across campus to learn more about UNC Pembroke (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conference Sessions and Events

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

9:00am-9:20am
Room: UC Annex Assembly Hall

Welcome—UNCP Chancellor, Dr. Robin Cummings
Opening Remarks—Dr. Jeffrey Warren

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS #1

9:30am-10:20am
Room: UC Annex Assembly Hall

Growing Holistic Responsiveness through Culturally Strengthened Practices—The Language of Belonging
B. Deese

The session will explore and delve into connecting academic and emotional domains from a developmental perspective, and how this relates to changing NC student demographics, minority students and/or lower socioeconomic students. One of the least discussed communication forms and teaching approaches in our schools, is leadership style. Research documents how significant relationships can influence learners. So that authentic relationships and modeling can be appropriately developed and leveraged, we must understand how our personal leadership style, as administrators, classroom teachers, school counselors, school social workers, and noncertified employees, influence student outcomes. This session will identify those facets, and recognize how a majority of minority students’ perspective is immersed in the collectivistic worldview. We will also review how students’ learning styles integrate worldviews in correlation to cultural norms and experiences and how this defines student achievement, successes, and challenges in the school setting. Lastly, holistic practices and responses designed for school leaders will be presented for discussion.

9:30am-10:20am
Room: UC Annex 203 (2nd floor)

Promoting College and Career Readiness for ALL
A Round-table Discussion
S. Jones

This session is designed as a round-table discussion to facilitate discussion of ways in which college and career readiness can be promoted across educational settings (PK-12). Topics may include but are not limited to creating college-going cultures, parental involvement, non-cognitive factors, financial aid, and high school to college transition.
Predicting Grit and Resilience using College Students’ Academic Rational Beliefs: Implications for School and College Educators

J. Warren

Despite numerous initiatives that aim to promote college and career readiness, students of color graduate at much lower rates than White students. Literature suggests that rational beliefs as well as a variety of non-cognitive factors can promote student success. This session examines the relationships between academic rational beliefs and grit and resilience. Implications for school and college educators are provided.

Building Relationships with Students and Families

J. Synan

How many times have you heard, "It is important to build relationships with students and families?" In this session you will be given tools to use daily with students and families to strengthen relationships. Participants will learn why building relationships is key is the success of a student.

Pathways to Professional Development

F. Powell

This presentation will introduce opportunities for undergraduate professional and career development. These proposed opportunities include academic, social, and civic responsibility possibilities using a developmental perspective inclusive of adolescence and emerging adulthood. This resource-rich presentation will also engage participants in a discussion of the role of nature-nurture in the current environment for adolescent and emerging adulthood educational and career trajectories.

Characteristics of Successful Career and College Promise Students

C. Edmonds

High school students have an opportunity to earn college credit by participating in the Career and College Promise (CCP) program. This session will focus on the traits of successful students who enroll in Robeson Community College CCP classes as well as identify resources which are designed to assist students in transitioning from the high school class to the college classroom. The session is directed to teachers and counselors who are interested in learning how to develop a support structure for CCP students.
BREAK-OUT SESSIONS #2

10:30am-11:20am Room: UC Annex Assembly Room

The New Minimum: Building Student and Teacher Success Through Career and College Readiness
S. Breckenridge
What is the New Minimum and how will it affect career and college readiness, student outcomes and support for educators? How does business define the importance of “career and college readiness” with state accountability? Why are business voices an imperative component to designing the New Minimum?

10:30am-11:20am Room: UC Annex

K-12 Student Success Share Session:
An Opportunity to Share What Works
T. Hunt
As educators, we are frequently on the go; there is often very little time to share student success stories. And “YES,” whether BIG or small, we all have these stories to share. This session provides a space for participants to share stories, learn from each other, and be reminded that your efforts make a profound difference in the lives of the students you serve.

10:30am-11:20am Room: UC Lounge

What’s culture go to do with it? Promoting educational achievement and success among American Indian children and youth
S. Faircloth
Drawing on Moll, Amanti, Neff, and Gonzalez’s (1992) seminal research on “funds of knowledge” - “the historically accumulated and culturally developed bodies of knowledge and skills” families and communities possess - this session will address ways in which Indigenous cultures, knowledges and ways of doing can and should be used to promote and sustain educational achievement and success among American Indian children and youth.

10:30am-11:20am Room: UC 213

Jumpstarting A Technical Career through Career & College Promise
V. Nelson
In today’s global economy success requires a diploma, a certificate, or a college degree. Through Career and College Promise (CCP) high school students across the state have the opportunity to work toward a credential before graduating from high school. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways for juniors and seniors leads to a certificate or diploma aligned with a high school Career Cluster and can lead to viable employment in a technical field.
10:30am-11:20am  
"We’re In This Together" (Fostering Relationships with Students & Families)  
M. Capps  
Before you can move a student, move a class, and/or move a school to higher levels, you have to work from the “ground up” and build a relationship with each stakeholder. Learn effective ways to reach out to children, parents, and community leaders and build a “We’re In This Together” culture in your building.

10:30am-11:20am  
**Becoming Brave: Understanding the Requirements, Application Process, and Background of Brave Nation**  
A. Pryer  
By the end of this presentation, you will have acquired all that you will need to know about UNC Pembroke and how to become Brave! While learning how to Become Brave, we will discuss admissions requirements, what the campus of UNC Pembroke is like, and how you can help your students (or yourself!) become one step closer to Becoming Brave!

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

11:30am-12:15pm  
**Dr. Bryan Brayboy**  
Dr. Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy (Lumbee) is Borderlands Professor of Indigenous Education and Justice in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. At ASU, he is Director of the Center for Indian Education and co-editor of the Journal of American Indian Education. He also has affiliations with the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, American Indian Studies, and the Department of English. From 2007-2012, he was Visiting President’s Professor of Indigenous Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In the last 15 years, he and his team have created programs in Alaska, Arizona, and Utah that have prepared over 125 Indigenous teachers, most of whom are still teaching in Indian Country. His research focuses on the experiences of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty in institutions of higher education, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and Indigenous Research Methodologies.

**LUNCHEON**

12:30pm-1:30pm  
**Targeted Discussions-Table Talk**  
**Poster Session and Exhibits**
BREAK-OUT SESSIONS #3

1:40pm-2:30pm  Room: UC Lounge

Expanding Access and Opportunity at UNCP: Updates on
NC Promise, 3-plus-2 Engineering Dual Degree and More
J. Phelps, S. Mandjiny, K. Granger

Great things are happening across campus and beyond at UNCP. This sessions
provides an overview of the many ways in which UNCP is “Changing Lives
through Education.” Time will be allowed for questions and answers.

1:40pm-2:30pm  Room: UC 213

Working with Military-Connected Students
C. Hurley

North Carolina is one of the largest Military-connected states that includes all services as
well as the reserves. There are over 48,000 Military-connected children in North
Carolina. Every county in North Carolina has military-connected students. This session
will provide you information on specific laws that directly affect how public schools
work with these children, as well as free resources available.

1:40pm-2:30pm  Room: UC 233

Participant Driven Session #1

Topic: ______________________________ (TBD)
This session offers a space for conference participants to convene to hold targeted
discussions (to be determined during the luncheon) related to career and college
readiness, college access, and PK-16 student success.

1:40pm- 2:30pm  Room: UC 251

Participant Driven Session #2

Topic: ______________________________ (TBD)
This session offers a space for conference participants to convene to hold targeted
discussions (to be determined during the luncheon) related to career and college
readiness, college access, and PK-16 student success.

1:40pm-2:30pm  Room: UC Annex

Participant Driven Session #3

Topic: ______________________________ (TBD)
This session offers a space for conference participants to convene to hold targeted
discussions (to be determined during the luncheon) related to career and college
readiness, college access, and PK-16 student success.
RECONVENING

2:40pm-3:00pm                                      Room: UC Annex
                                                    Assembly Hall

Closing Remarks and Charge
Distribution of Certificates

CAMPUS TOUR (OPTIONAL)

3:00pm-3:30pm                                      Room: UC Annex
                                                    Assembly Hall

Whether your first visit to campus or a returning alumnus, consider joining us for a leisurely tour across campus to learn more about UNCP and how we are “changing lives through education.”
**About Our Presenters**

**Breckenridge, S.**  
Sue was appointed Executive Director for the NC Business Committee for Education in 2013. Sue is responsible for designing, incubating and launching one of the most successful teacher-support projects in North Carolina, *Teachers@Work*. Sue has more than 35 years of corporate experience as a senior staff member of Time Warner Cable’s Carolinas Region and in the healthcare arena with large hospital systems in Ohio.  
Email: sue.breckenridge@nc.gov

**Capps, M.**  
This is Dr. Capps’ 3rd year as the principal of Aberdeen Primary School (Title 1 School with 85% of the population on Free or Reduced Lunch). She is a former middle and high school teacher for Cumberland County Schools and Curriculum Specialist for Moore County Schools.  
Email: mcapps@ncmcs.org

**Deese, B.**  
Dr. Brenda Dial Deese is an educational and professional counseling consultant. A range of interests and research are catalysts in her life work and learning, including Indigenous leadership, developmental life-span contexts, worldview, healing spirit wounds and psychological well-being. She works in research and grants capacities and is an adjunct professor at UNC-Pembroke in Educational Leadership and Counseling.  
Email: brenda.deese@uncp.edu

**Edmonds, C.**  
Crystal Edmonds is the Program Director of the English Department at Robeson Community College. She teaches both developmental and curriculum courses. She also coordinates the college’s Transfer Center and serves as its C-STEP advisor. She has been employed at the college for 16 years.  
Email: cedmonds@robeson.edu

**Faircloth, S.**  
Dr. Susan C. Faircloth (Coharie), Professor, Educational Leadership, UNC Wilmington. Dr. Faircloth’s research focuses on the education of Indigenous children and youth. She is the former director of the American Indian Leadership Program at Penn State.  
Email: faircloths@unew.edu

**Granger, K.**  
Karen Granger is a lecturer in the Department of Elementary Education and chair of Teacher Education at UNC Pembroke. She also serves as a the coordinator of the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program.  
Email: karen.granger@uncp.edu
**Hunt, T.**
Timothy Hunt is a Readmissions Coordinator at the UNCP Center for Student Success. Mr. Hunt is a former school counselor and college counselor. Email: timothy.hunt@uncp.edu

**Hurley, C.**
Cathy Hurley is the Military & Family Youth Liaison for Cumberland County Schools (CCS). Cathy taught elementary school in four states, moved nineteen times and her two children both attended ten different schools. Email: cathyhurley@ccs.k12.nc.us

**Jones, S.**
Dr. Shenika Jones is an assistant professor of school counselor education and the director of the Professional School Counseling program at UNCP. Email: shenika.jones@uncp.edu

**Mandjiny, S.**
Dr. Siva Mandjiny is professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics at UNCP. Email: siva.mandjiny@uncp.edu

**Nelson, V.**
Valerie Nelson serves in the role of Career Development Coordinator (CDC) at Mary E. Phillips High School in Raleigh. As a CDC, Ms. Nelson works collaboratively with other stakeholders to ensure the delivery of career development services for students. Email: vnelson@wcpss.net

**Phelps, J.**
Jodi Phelps is the Executive Director of University Communications and Marketing at UNCP. Email: jodi.phelps@uncp.edu

**Powell, F.**
Dr. Powell has held administrative positions in both educational and clinical settings. She has been an Assistant Director of Upward Bound and Director of the Maya Angelou National Institute for the Improvement of Child and Family Education. Dr. Powell has an active research agenda in education disparities and health disparities. Email: frankie.powell@uncp.edu

**Pryer, A.**
Ashley Pryer received her Bachelor’s degree from UNCP in May 2011 and also started working with Undergraduate Admissions that same month. She is two semesters away from receiving her masters in professional school counseling from UNCP. Email: ashley.pryer@uncp.edu
Synan, J.
Jamie Synan serves as the Director of Student Support Services for Scotland County Schools. Mrs. Synan works closely with students and families and trains her district on Family and Community Engagement and the impacts of poverty on families. Mrs. Synan has served multiple roles in the school setting as a tutor, teacher, assistant principal and principal.
Email: jsynan@scotland.k12.nc.us

Warren, J.
Dr. Jeffrey M. Warren is an associate professor of school counselor education and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at UNCP.
Email: jeffrey.warren@uncp.edu
Changing Lives Through Education

#SOARUNCP