



4C VIRTUAL TUTOR CONFERENCE

GPS: GROWTH, PLANNING, SUCCESS
OCTOBER 24, 2025



Conference Program – Archive Version

Welcome! This document contains session abstracts and presenter information from the fourth annual Virtual Tutor Conference of the Creative Community College Collaborators.

Conference Organizers

Valerie Lee, College of Western Idaho

Lynell Williams, South Texas College

Gary Brittsan, Chemeketa Community College

Angela Dunlap, Illinois Valley Community College

Flor Araujo, Orange County Community College

Seana Chaves, Pima Community College

Participating Institutions

Bergen Community College
California Community Colleges
Chemeketa Community College
College of Western Idaho
Columbus State University
Haverford College
Illinois Valley Community College
NetTutor

Saginaw Valley State University
South Texas College
State University of New York
SUNY Orange
SUNY Westchester Community College
University of Maryland Baltimore County
University of Minnesota Morris
Washington State University



*"GPS: Growth, Planning, Success" conference logo design by
Gualberto Voidanova, Student Learning Assistant at South Texas College*



Opening Session

Start the day with a brief plenary session where you will learn about the history of the 4C and the virtual tutor conference, meet the organizers, get logistical information and updates for the day, and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Concurrent Session 1

1A: Does AI Impact Student Motivation in Tutoring?

Cameron Greer (he/him)

Blys Brinkley (she/her)

Columbus State University | Academic Center for Tutoring

This presentation analyzes how AI affects student motivation and their willingness to use tutoring. These findings will provide strategies that address ethical considerations of AI and how it can be implemented to increase student motivation. These findings will enable students to incorporate the use of AI for their academic success.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Active listening and responding; Communication styles; Professional ethics

1B: Tutors as Accountability Partners: For Students Who Need More

Rose Brittingham (she/her)

Amie Alvarado (she/her)

Illinois Valley Community College | IVCC Tutoring

In this presentation, participants will learn strategies to work with students who “need more” as accountability partners as well as the benefits that this work can provide. This presentation will include breakout rooms and group discussion to provide a session where participants are encouraged to share their own strategies and experience.

CRLA topic alignment: Time management for tutors and tutees; Advanced study skills; Goal setting and planning



1C: What to Do When You're the ONLY Tutor

Alejandro Benavides (he/him) — CRLA Level 1 Certified
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

This discussion will focus on conversations with tutors nationwide about their experiences as the only tutor for a subject. It will explore the unique challenges they've faced, strategies they've developed, and lessons they've learned. The goal is to support and empower other tutors in similar situations by sharing practical advice, fostering connection, and building a sense of community.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session

1D: Developing a Mistake-Friendly Session

Josue Aranday (he/him) — CRLA Level 2 Advanced
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

This presentation will explore the characteristics that better reflect the ideal tutor: one who motivates self-learning through peer-level guidance. We will work on phrases and premeditated reactions for when students make mistakes, and finish with a real-life scenario to practice and learn from each other's reactions.

CRLA topic alignment: Role of the tutor; Conducting a successful session

1E: Sustainable Practices in Tutoring

Theo Hanna (they/them) — CRLA Level 1 Certified
University of Maryland Baltimore County | Academic Success Center

This session highlights how cultivating community and strengthening learning practices in tutoring supports sustainability, which in turn drives growth, planning, and long-term success. We will discuss strategies and practices that can foster this environment in tutoring. We will also discuss strategies tutors can apply to develop their student's problem-solving skills and foster their independence.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Conducting a successful session; Active listening and responding; Communication styles; Modeling problem solving; Question asking strategies; Advanced study skills; Goal setting and planning



1F: From Student to Tutor and Back Again: The Recursive Power of Tutoring

Ege Kurt (he/him)

Owen Goldberg (he/him)

Angela Enriquez (she/her)

Bergen Community College | Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

This presentation explores how Bergen Community College's Cerullo Learning Assistance Center cultivates a recursive journey in which tutors remain students.. We will share how structured training, assessment, and academic support, including tutoring, SI, academic coaching, and workshops, foster continuous growth, reinforce pedagogical strategies, and empower students to embrace learning at every stage of their academic and professional journeys.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Role of the tutor; Modeling problem solving; Advanced study skills

Concurrent Session 2

2A: Success Takes Practice: Empowering Students Through Academic Coaching

Daneiah Nasser (she/her) — CRLA Level 3 Master

Nabiha Alom (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified

Minami Gonzalez (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified

Bergen Community College | Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

Academic coaching tailors resources and strategies to individual student needs, helping them develop essential persistence skills! Coaches guide students toward goals, empowering students to envision success for themselves. This presentation will explore the transformative power of coaching approaches and discuss the role coaches play as both partners and compasses on students' academic journeys.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Role of the tutor; Time management for tutors and tutees; Communication styles; Modeling problem solving; Question asking strategies; Goal setting and planning



2B: Non-Verbal Communication in Tutoring: Do's and Don'ts

Cristian Hernandez (he/him) — CRLA Level 1 Certified
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

In this session, we will be covering the "Do's and Don'ts" of non-verbal Communication in tutoring sessions. Participants will learn the different forms of nonverbal communication and how they can use this form of communication as a tool during tutoring sessions. Each form of communication will be accompanied with descriptions of "Do's and Don'ts"; as well as interactive discussion components throughout the presentation.

CRLA topic alignment: Tutoring do's and don'ts; Conducting a successful session; Communication styles

2C: Fueling Student Motivation for Long-term Success

Emily Jimenez (she/her) — CRLA Level 2 Advanced
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

Want to help students stay motivated for the long haul? This session looks at what motivation really means, what makes it fade, and how to fight procrastination. You'll get simple tools and ideas to build a positive learning space where students feel supported and ready to succeed now and in the future.

CRLA topic alignment: Time management for tutors and tutees; Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Goal setting and planning

2D: Tech Tools for Tutoring Sessions

Vanessa Garza (she/her) — CRLA Level 3 Master
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

Want to make your tutoring sessions more dynamic and collaborative? This session introduces innovative technology tools like Padlet, Quizlet Live, and Gimkit to boost engagement, encourage participation, and simplify session flow. You'll explore hands-on strategies that blend creativity, gamification, and effective planning so you can walk away with tech-driven approaches that foster collaboration and deepen student learning.

CRLA topic alignment: Identifying and Using Resources



2E: Rooted in Tradition, Growing Toward Success: Peer Educators Supporting Indigenous Students

Hannah Robertson (she/her)
University of Minnesota Morris | Student Success Center

Using interactive activities and presenter-gathered data, this session will explore strategies and tools to use when working with indigenous students in higher education. The presenter is a native student and will share anecdotal and research-based approaches to best assist this population. Come learn more about indigenous students and how to use your role as a tutor to support these students.

CRLA topic alignment: Special populations

Keynote Presentation:



Maximillian Venskus
(he/him)



Sparsh Gandhi
(he/him)
CRLA Level 1
Certified

Bergen Community College | Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

Max and Sparsh explore the themes of growth, planning, and success, highlighting how these concepts manifest within the Cerullo Learning Assistance Center at Bergen Community College. The presentation illustrates how these elements are reflected at the Center through the experiences of students, the contributions of tutors, and the development of the Center itself. The speakers also emphasize the interconnected nature of growth, planning, and success, presenting them as components of a continuous, positive cycle.



Concurrent Session 3

3A: Approachable Tutoring at Chemeketa Community College

Catey Anderson (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified
Yosi Mesbah (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified
Chemeketa Community College | Chemeketa Tutoring Center

Discover how embedded tutoring transforms both student learning and tutor development. We'll explore Chemeketa's tutoring center structure, coaching strategies, and resource connections, while highlighting how embedded work strengthens collaboration with instructors. Participants will discuss differences across disciplines, share experiences, and brainstorm new approaches. Come ready for lively conversation and practical takeaways you can apply right away!

CRLA topic alignment: Role of the tutor; Communication styles; Modeling problem solving; Goal setting and planning

3B: Know Your Students: The Importance of Building Rapport

Jonathan Kay (he/him) — CRLA Level 2 Advanced
College of Western Idaho | Tutor Services

Building rapport with students can give powerful insights into how they learn and why they are pursuing their chosen field. It can also help build trust that allows students to feel confident in sharing mistakes or misunderstandings. This session will be a discussion on the importance of knowing your students and the benefits of fostering camaraderie in a tutoring environment.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Active listening and responding; Communication styles; Professional ethics; Goal setting and planning

3C: From Crisis to Clarity: Planning for Emotional Regulation in Student Sessions

Brenda Munguia (she/her)
Karla Ruiz (she/her)
South Texas College | Centers for Learning Excellence

Tutors, SI Leaders, and Academic Coaches are changemakers in students' academic and emotional journeys. This dynamic session introduces Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) coaching strategies that empower learning support staff to turn moments of stress into opportunities for growth by recognizing emotional cues, validating experiences, and co-creating academic plans.



Attendees will also learn self-regulation techniques and more!

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Active listening and responding; Modeling problem solving; Communication styles

3D: Navigating Tutoring Success: Organizing Sessions with Purpose and Problem-Solving Skills

Alberto Herrera (he/his)

Nina Zylberberg (she/her)

SUNY Orange | Center for Student Success

Make your tutoring sessions more impactful! This interactive workshop will show you how to organize sessions effectively, apply problem-solving strategies, and keep students engaged. With Kahoot, peer sharing, and practical tools, you'll gain new techniques to support learning, build student confidence, and strengthen your role as a tutor.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Time management for tutors and tutees; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Communication styles; Question asking strategies; Goal setting and planning

3E: Meet Them Where They're At: Best Practices for Working with Neurodivergent Students

Claire Lancaster (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified

Max Thibault (she/her) — CRLA Level 1 Certified

Dylan James (he/his) — CRLA Level 1 Certified

SUNY Westchester Community College | Academic Support Center

Effective tutoring involves developing a set of best practices that suit a wide range of students. This session highlights and explains attitudinal shifts that boost students' confidence and practical strategies that establish safe, productive environments for everyone. Learn how neurodivergence informs students' needs and how tutors can adapt their procedures to best support them. You will leave with specific techniques that empower students in their strengths and promote their success.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Communication styles



Concurrent Session 4

4A: Checking Student Understanding Effectively using Graphics Organizers

Jason Lowery — CRLA Level 2 Advanced
College of Western Idaho | CWI Learning Commons

While assessing student understanding is commonly a core component of teaching, tutors can adopt this process by integrating graphics organizers throughout their sessions. These tools provide opportunities to gauge understanding using multiple learning modalities. During this presentation, participants will create and customize graphics organizers. Each attendee will contribute their unique discipline expertise, fostering a collaborative learning process.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Use of graphic organizers

4B: Establishing Boundaries as a Peer Educator

Sam Cosma (he/him)
Haverford College | Office of Academic Resources

In this session, we'll explore how to balance trust and respect as a peer tutor while setting clear boundaries that help students grow independently. You'll learn strategies for identifying when students test boundaries, how to handle those moments, and how to shift your role from giving answers to fostering effective study habits for long-term success

CRLA topic alignment: Establishing Boundaries

4C: Leveling Up Student Success: The Power of Embedded Tutoring

Maggie Lesko (she/her)
Saginaw Valley State University | Tutoring

Discover the impact of embedded tutoring and learn how to lead effective group tutoring sessions. I will also share my experiences, strategies, and supporting data, plus tips for expanding tutoring programs. Participate in a fun, interactive Blooket game to review key concepts, spark discussion, and leave with practical ideas to apply at your own school.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor



4D: Assuming Access: Understanding Barriers to Student Support

Larissa Allen (she/her)
Washington State University | Academic Success and Career Center
(ASCC) Tutoring Center

Break down the barriers to tutoring! With fewer than 30% of students utilizing tutoring, Assuming Access: Understanding Barrier to Student Support examines common misconceptions, resource accessibility, and strategies for effective intervention. The GPS model equips tutors with practical tools to expand outreach and make academic support more accessible to all students.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Modeling problem solving; Goal setting and planning

4E: From Screen to Success: Creating Meaningful Connections in Online Tutoring

Cory Beyer (moderator) (he/him)
Sarah Shoemaker (she/her)
Ashley Bedassie (she/her)
Judy Runyon (she/her) - CRLA Level 1 Certified,
California Community Colleges, State University of New York, NetTutor,
Porterville College STAR-CA, STAR-NY

Online tutoring opens doors to students across distance, yet creating trust and confidence virtually requires new approaches. Tutors from STAR-CA, STAR-NY, and NetTutor will discuss techniques for making online sessions engaging and personal. This interactive panel invites participants to reflect, share, and gain strategies for turning technology-mediated tutoring into a space where students feel supported and empowered.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Active listening and responding; Communication styles; Question asking strategies; Goal setting and planning

Closing Session

Join our conference sponsor, Penji, for raffles and a quick look at their platform. We'll also share details about next year's conference.

