



Rise to



Excellence

**Third Annual
Virtual Tutor Conference**

October 25, 2024

**Conference Program
Archive Version**

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

Presenting Institutions

Bergen Community College

College of Western Idaho

Collin College

Illinois Valley Community College

Metropolitan Community College

South Texas College

SUNY Stony Brook

SUNY Orange Community College

Tallahassee State College

SUNY University at Buffalo

Other Participating Institutions

Chemeketa Community College

Haverford Community College

Herkimer County Community College

Montgomery County Community College

Conference Organizers

Valerie Lee, College of Western Idaho

Gary Brittsan, Chemeketa Community College

Angela Dunleap, Illinois Valley Community College

Loreta Paniccia, SUNY Broome Community College

Lynell Williams, South Texas College



Opening Session

Kick off the conference in this short 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: Tutoring Scenarios and Discussion

María Barrick (she/her)

CRLA 3 Master Tutor

South Texas College Centers for Learning Excellence

Adriana Pérez (she/her)

CRLA 3 Master Tutor

The presenters will facilitate a group discussion on a variety of tutoring scenarios. Participants will share their own experiences and approaches to dealing with situations like academic dishonesty, student dependency on a tutor, and more. The group setting will empower participants to share successful tutoring strategies as well as pitfalls, enabling everyone to better address comparable scenarios in the future.

This is an encore presentation of the 2023 Exemplary Session.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Tutor role play scenarios

1B: Tutor Wisdom: Shorten the Learning Curve for New Tutors

Ramiro Castro-Rodríguez (he/him)

College of Western Idaho Tutoring Services

Join in for a sharing experience with new tutors to go beyond new hire training so you can rise to excellence. Included in this session will be discussions and pointers for successful sessions including lessons learned, avoiding pitfalls and setting up good habits. Other topics include building trust, exploring growth mindset, modeling good behaviors, preparing for tests, and talking through the use of declarative statements.

CRLA topic alignment: Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Active listening and responding; Modeling problem solving; Question asking strategies; Advanced study skills; Goal setting and planning



1C: Generative A.I. as an Educational Tool

Aria Dixon (he/they)

CRLA 2 Advanced Tutor

Tallahassee State College Learning Commons

Students often seek out A.I. software like Chat GPT to assist in constructing their papers and projects. Although this resource can effectively help organize assignments, students may be tempted to depend on ChatGPT to complete their work. It is essential for tutors to explore ethical and innovative strategies that enable students to make the most of this resource while maintaining academic integrity. Helping students develop their own work enables tutors to elevate them to excellence.

CRLA topic alignment: Professional ethics

1D: Effective Asynchronistic Tutoring Sessions

Daniel Delgado (he/him)

CRLA 2 Advanced Tutor

Metropolitan Community College Writing Studio

This session will provide a helpful foundation for asynchronous tutoring sessions to help asynchronous tutors rise to excellence. The session will focus on collaboration, accessibility, implementation, and continual promotion of asynchronous tutoring. The session will also cover how to effectively communicate with students receiving tutoring through email. Higher order of concerns and helpful ways to give feedback will be addressed.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session

Concurrent Session 2

2A: Identifying and Implementing Strategies for Students' Self-Advocacy: Pathways to Growth, Organization, and Excellence

Catalina A. Peña (she/her) **Brenda L. Munguia** (she/her)

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor

South Texas College Centers for Learning Excellence

In order to rise to excellence as a tutor or academic coach, participate in this session to learn how to identify when students need to improve



self-advocacy skills and confidence. This presentation will also include how tutors can provide strategies to promote student growth and organization. Be ready to discuss your answers to questions provided by the presenters.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Conducting a successful session; Self-advocacy

2B: Playing Your Best Self

Adelaide Grunewald (she/her)
College of Western Idaho Writing Center

No matter your field, your ability to present yourself and your ideas to others in engaging and meaningful ways is crucial to your success. However, even the most well-prepared person can buckle under performance anxiety, especially when speaking to or working with large groups. "Playing Your Best Self" aims to give you the tools to exude excellence to your cohorts in public speaking situations and provide ways to share these tools with students.

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

2C: Incorporating Mentoring in a Tutoring Space

Pema Rachel Bianucci (she/her)
SUNY Orange Community College Student Success Center

Participants will learn the key benefits for students, tutors, and mentors of incorporating mentors into a tutoring center. Participants will also be presented with an overview of one possible mentoring program, as modeled by SUNY Orange's tutor mentoring system. After this presentation, participants will brainstorm a list of subjects and questions to help them guide new tutors on the path to excellence.

CRLA topic alignment: Modeling problem solving; Goal setting and planning; Mentoring

2D: Tutoring in an Interactive Learning Environment

Ting Lu (he/him) **Sparsh Gandhi** (he/him)
Bergen Community College Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

The Cerullo Learning Assistance Center prides itself on its pursuit of excellence in providing high quality tutoring in various interactive learning



environments. For this presentation, we will focus on two distinctive learning environments: the Math and Science Walk-In Center and the Supplemental Instruction Program. We'll compare these environments and discuss their respective benefits. We will also discuss best practices of using Artificial Intelligence in tutoring and share feedback highlighting the positive impact of the center.

*CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services;
Conducting a successful session*

Keynote Presentation:

Emily Jimenez (she/her) Julisses Longoria (he/him)

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor CRLA 1 Certified Tutor

South Texas College Supplemental Instruction Program

In the world of tutoring and learning support, there is one word that regularly comes up: excellence. Whether it is finding excellence in ourselves and the work we do or helping our students chart their path to excellence, each semester we set our sights on this common goal. But how do we achieve excellence? How do we know what is the "right" path to take? Join South Texas College Supplemental Instruction Leaders **Emily Jimenez** and **Julisses Longoria** as they explore what it takes to help our students and ourselves "Rise to Excellence."

Concurrent Session 3

3A: Authenticity and Excellence: Cultivating a Sustainable Professional Life

Melody Bales (she/hers) Sheridan Palmer (he/him)

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor CRLA 2 Advanced Tutor

College of Western Idaho Writing Center

Participants will discuss personal and professional values with special attention to where those intersect with their institution's values. Sharing strategies for navigating emotional labor, introspection, workspace safety, and finding a common ground without sacrificing authenticity are prioritized themes. We will explore boundaries, community, and preventing occupational burnout while adhering to a personal standard of excellence.



We believe being able to show up for students with pride comes from focusing on the intersection of those values.

CRLA topic alignment: Role of the tutor; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Active listening and responding; Communication styles; Professional ethics; Modeling problem solving

3B: Why Students Love Our Tutoring and Writing Center

Kathy Scheibenreif (she/her) **Amie Alvarado** (she/her)

Justin Lewis (he/him) **Trisha Loger** (she/her)

Illinois Valley Community College Tutoring and Writing Center

After this session, participants will rise to their next level of excellence by discovering exceptional tutoring and writing center practices from each participant's institutions. The presenters will describe the most effective aspects of their Tutoring and Writing Center. Participants will then separate into breakout rooms to share at least two excellent practices and/or characteristics of their workplaces. Upon return to the whole group, participants will post in the chat each group's best practices.

3C: Addressing Social Determinants of Education

Elsie Wong (she/her)

Chandrema Hossein (she/her)

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor

Maisha Nabila (they/them)

SUNY Stony Brook Academic Success and Tutoring Center

This presentation addresses educational disparities students face when they enroll in higher education due to varying school resources. We propose teaching students to ask questions to build confidence, assess areas for growth, and create personalized study plans. By utilizing Socratic dialogue and the Cartesian method, we guide students to break down complex problems into manageable steps. This method empowers students to bridge gaps in knowledge and promotes academic equity and success, thus rising to excellence.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Modeling problem



solving; Question asking strategies; Advanced study skills; Goal setting and planning

3D: Strategies to Tame the History Reflection Essay Appointment

Regina Burns (she/hers)

Collin College Frisco Writing Center

History students often struggle with how to approach a reflection essay and feel overwhelmed by the request to connect the history they learned with their argument. Tutors who may not have recent or strong history backgrounds may feel uneasy with such appointments. This workshop will demonstrate that these tutors can provide capable instruction to coach their tutees on how to tame the history reflection essay.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session: Role of the tutor; Modeling problem-solving; Question-asking strategies; Goal-setting and planning

Concurrent Session 4

4A: Tutoring Chemistry Problems

Ira Huber (they/them)

University at Buffalo Tutoring and Academic Support Services

This session will cover effectively tutoring chemistry problems. We'll discuss which strategies can help students analyze and solve problems and the best ways to guide a student through a question and allow them to develop their own understanding of a topic. This will include inviting attendees to share strategies that have worked for them as tutors, so that we can all learn from each other and help our students truly rise to excellence in chemistry.

CRLA topic alignment: Conducting a successful session; Tutoring do's and don'ts; Modeling problem solving; Question asking strategies



4B: Goal Setting and Time Management: Incorporating Academic Coaching Practices into Tutoring

Daneiah Nasser (she/her) **Meredith Cruz** (she/her)

CRLA 3 Master Tutor

Maximillian Venskus (he/him)

Bergen Community College Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

Tutors' roles are not always as clearly defined as we'd like to believe. Tutors often wear many hats while assisting their students. This presentation incorporates academic coaching practices into daily tutoring sessions. We will demonstrate effective ways of assisting students with their writing assignments by creating appropriate goals and using time management techniques. By combining the principles of academic coaching with the work of tutoring, students can learn ways to persevere and rise to excellence.

CRLA topic alignment: Learning theories in academic support services; Conducting a successful session; Role of the tutor; Time management for tutors and tutees; Goal setting and planning

4C: The Ethical Implications of Google Translate in Higher Education

Jason Lowery (he/him)

CRLA 1 Certified Tutor

College of Western Idaho Tutoring Services

The rise of generative AI in academics has raised ethical concerns. Institutions have reacted by forming policy and syllabus language to address AI academic honesty and plagiarism. Although generative AI programs like ChatGPT can be used as translators, less emphasis has been placed on machine translators such as Google Translate. To rise to excellence, tutors must have the confidence to support students using or relying on translator tools in the light of their institution's policies.

CRLA topic alignment: Advanced study skills; Professional ethics

Closing Session

End your conference experience with a chance to debrief with other tutors. Hear what they took away from the day, share your own insights, and fill out our conference feedback form.