William Paterson University

WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE 2024

Continuous Improvement

Monday, December 16th
9:15 AM-4:30 PM
Sponsored by
Academic Affairs and Student Development

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Building on four years of success with the What Works Conference, this iteration of the conference reflects the fast-changing world of students' lived experiences and how we, collectively, are adapting. Panels will consider how learning for the students and how connecting with students can improve. Sessions examine creating inclusive classrooms and pedagogy, as well as how technology, especially artificial intelligence, is changing our classroom interactions and our world.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS CONFERENCE?

This is an opportunity to gather and learn about evidence-based practices that benefit students at William Paterson and elsewhere. What outcomes are we striving for and how do we measure success?

- By putting our purpose at the center of our thinking
- Building momentum for academic improvement
- Supporting student well-being and success
- Fostering student belonging and learning
- Assessing whether we have accomplished our goals

William Paterson University
WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE
TITLES ARE HYPERLINKED TO ZOOM ROOMS.

9:15 A.M.	Opening Comments with Joshua Powers, Miki Cammarata, and Barbara Andrew
9:30 A.M.	"The Future of AI and the Library" Linda Salvesen and Dave Williams (25 minutes) "Strategies for Promoting Student Mental Health: A Debrief on Ask. Listen. Refer." Daisy Rodriguez (25 minutes) "Generative AI Literacy for Everyone" Gamin Bartle (50 minutes)
10:00 A.M.	"Using AI Tools to Promote Students' Critical Thinking" Latifa Sebti (25 minutes) "Nurturing Students: Well-being through Prosocial Education in the College Curriculum" Bela Florenthal (25 minutes)
10:30 A.M.	"Future Shock: Turning AI Disruption into Classroom Innovation" Christopher Salerno (25 minutes) "Generative AI For Business Education - Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Building Competencies" Stephen Betts, Peter Caiazzo, Rajiv Kashyap, Ashley Lee, Mehmet Turkoz (50 minutes) "Photovoice as Decolonizing Research Methodology in Aspiring Educators Program" Darlene Russell, Alba Casimiro Almonte, and Shuly Begum (50 minutes)
11:00 A.M.	"Cheng Library Workshops on AI Literacy" Gary Marks and Linda Salvesen (25 minutes)
11:30 A.M.	"Practical Approaches for Fostering Social Mobility in Teaching" Priya Nagaraj (25 minutes) "Teaching Writing in the Age of AI: A Process Reimagined" Lisa Egle (Passaic County Community College) (50 minutes) "Impact of Culturally Responsive Mentoring in S-STEM" Jyoti Champanerkar and Djanna Hill (25 minutes)
12:00 P.M.	"Using Student Feedback to Inform Library Instruction and Programming" Nancy Weiner and Tony Joachim (25 minutes) "Enhancing Teaching with AI: Practical Applications" Ming Jian (25 minutes)
12:30 P.M.	**Plenary 12:30- 1:45** "Embracing AI as Essential Learning: Preparing Students for Life Beyond College" C. Edward Watson, Vice President for Digital Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC& U)
2:00 P.M	"Empathy & AI: Crafting Smarter Prompts for Engaged ELA Classrooms" Maria Matsakis and Darlene Russell (50 minutes) "Strategies for Lowering D and F Grades or Withdrawal Rates" Heejung An (50 minutes) "Academic Integrity and Maxient in the Age of AI" Lauren Razzore Cedeno, David Fuentes, Martin Gritsch, Minerva Guttman, Djanna Hill, Jennifer Tumlin, and Mel Zeleke (50 minutes)
3:00 P.M	"From Classroom to Career: Strategies for Building Workforce-Ready Graduates" Mary Alice Barrows, Jenny Nesenjuk, Sonia Wilson, and Alma Diaz (25 minutes) "Interactive Video Quizzes: Turning Passive Watching into Active Learning" Mara Tajes, Sara Almuíña Viz, and Thomas Nemeth (50 minutes) "Lessons Learned from Traveling to Research & Professional Conferences with ASPIRE Students" Mel Zeleke and Rose Mitchell with students (50 minutes)
3:30 P.M.	"Decolonizing the (Business School) Curriculum" Ali Mir (25 minutes)
4:00 P.M	Closing Remarks with Barbara Andrew, Elizabeth Brown, David Fuentes, Sandra Hill, Eileen Lubeck, and Linda Refsland

9:15 A.M.

OPENING COMMENTS

Joshua Powers, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Miki Cammarata, Vice President for Student Development, and Barbara Andrew, Dean of the Honors College (Moderator)

9:30 A.M.

THE FUTURE OF AI AND THE LIBRARY

Linda Salvesen and Dave Williams (25 minutes)

This session will explore the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on academic libraries, focusing on the future of AI-powered tools and their influence on library services for faculty and students. We will share insights from research on emerging AI technologies and their potential to shape library discovery and digital initiatives. Attendees will gain a forward-looking perspective on AI-driven innovations, offering new opportunities for our library to support classroom learning and student success.

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: A DEBRIEF ON "ASK. LISTEN. REFER."

Daisy Rodriguez (25 minutes)

Whether you are faculty, staff, or student leaders, it is imperative to create a culture of confidence, competence and safety when intervening in a mental health crisis. Attend this workshop to take a meaningful look at the Ask. Listen. Refer online training module and learn how it can be used to increase your, or your team's, capacity to respond during a mental health crisis. Those who have taken this 20-minute course are invited to share their thoughts about the content and applicability of the skills taught. Those new to the course can attend to preview the content and learn more about its utility.

GENERATIVE AI LITERACY FOR EVERYONE

Gamin Bartle (50 minutes)

Part of William Paterson University's AI Strategy is to provide support for Generative AI Literacy for our students, faculty, and staff. A number of faculty members have been engaged in learning about Generative AI Literacy for themselves and their students, and many staff members participated in an introductory session on Generative AI last summer. This session will include a description of our planned Generative AI Literacy programming for students, faculty, and staff and an overview of our policies in progress.

10:00 A.M.

USING AI TOOLS TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING

Latifa Sebti (25 minutes)

The goal of this presentation is to discuss how AI can be used to foster critical thinking by offering personalized scaffolding, enabling educators to support students more effectively. Drawing from my teaching experience, I will showcase how AI tools, particularly custom GPTs, can be used in classrooms to promote critical thinking, moving beyond traditional content delivery.

NURTURING STUDENTS: WELL-BEING THROUGH PROSOCIAL EDUCATION IN THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM

Bela Florenthal (25 minutes)

This session explores the integration of prosocial education—which fosters well-being, compassion, and empathy—into college curricula, with a particular focus on marketing courses. Professor Florenthal will discuss the "Spread Kindness" project, highlighting its impact on students' social behaviors, emotional well-being, and the development of empathy and belonging. This session underscores the value of teaching social and emotional skills alongside academic content to support students' holistic development.

10:30 A.M.

FUTURE SHOCK: TURNING AI DISRUPTION INTO CLASSROOM INNOVATION

Christopher Salerno (25 minutes)

As generative AI transforms education, this session reimagines AI not as a threat but as a tool for fostering deeper learning and innovative pedagogy. We will explore practical strategies for using AI to enhance the writing process, design more engaging assignments, and promote higher-order thinking aligned with Bloom's taxonomy. Through interactive discussion and examples, we will consider how AI can empower educators to create transformative and forward-thinking classroom experiences.

GENERATIVE AI FOR BUSINESS EDUCATION - BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND BUILDING COMPETENCIES

Stephen Betts, Peter Caiazzo, Rajiv Kashyap, Ashley Lee, and Mehmet Turkoz (50 minutes)

We will present our initiative to integrate Generative AI into the business curriculum to address gaps in AI competencies. By developing foundational skills, we aim to prepare students to leverage AI effectively in decision-making and problem-solving—skills increasingly essential in modern business. This session focuses on three core modules of AI integration: Prompt Engineering, Responsible Use of AI, and Interpreting and Communicating AI Outputs.

PHOTOVOICE AS DECOLONIZING RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN ASPIRING EDUCATORS PROGRAM

Darlene Russell, Alba Casimiro Almonte, and Shuly Begum (50 minutes)

Photovoice is a type of participatory action research whereby researchers use photographs and/or videos to illuminate their environments and experiences and convey their thoughts about them. The session will introduce this decolonizing research methodology and showcase how photovoice was used in the Aspiring Educators Program (AEP) - designed for high school students from neighboring school districts who are interested in teaching under the auspices of the College of Education. The presenters - education professor and AEP scholars - will discuss the photovoice research process and share their projects.

11:00 A.M.

CHENG LIBRARY WORKSHOPS ON AI LITERACY

Gary Marks and Linda Salvesen (25 minutes)

In this session the Cheng Library will provide an overview of our recurring workshop series "A Library Introduction to AI". This student centered workshop is a part of our LEARN Badge curriculum and provides students with an overview of AI tools, how they work, what they provide, and how they are being used. The workshop focuses on the ethical & appropriate use of AI as a part of a students academic journey and lifelong learning experience.

11:30 A.M.

PRACTICAL APPROACHES FOR FOSTERING SOCIAL MOBILITY IN TEACHING

Priya Nagaraj (25 minutes)

How can a 14-week (or 7-week) course enhance the social mobility of our students? This presentation will showcase how integrating students' lived experiences into both online and in-person classrooms can empower them. It will highlight strategies to help students find and develop their voices, and foster self-advocacy.

TEACHING WRITING IN THE AGE OF AI: A PROCESS REIMAGINED

Lisa Egle (50 minutes)

Given the widespread use of AI, teaching writing skills has become more challenging than ever. This session offers practical solutions through a three-stage framework that blends traditional writing practices with AI tools and video feedback/reflection. With a focus on preserving student voice, teaching responsible AI use and developing critical analysis skills, the approach offers participants a comprehensive method for reimagining writing education in the AI era.

IMPACT OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MENTORING IN S-STEM

Jyoti Champanerkar and Djanna Hill (25 minutes)

This presentation will provide an overview of the S-STEM NSF grant project. The overall goal of this project is to increase STEM degree completion of low-income, high- achieving undergraduates with demonstrated financial need. One of the project activities is to prepare faculty mentors in the area of culturally responsive mentoring. Our presentation will focus on our efforts in this area over the past four years.

12:00 P.M.

USING STUDENT FEEDBACK TO INFORM LIBRARY INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMMING

Nancy Weiner and Tony Joachim (25 minutes)

In this session, Cheng librarians will share how they collect, analyze, and apply student feedback to enhance services and support student success. Panelists will also review data gathered from the project outcomes tool and share results that include comparisons with peer institutions.

ENHANCING TEACHING WITH AI: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Ming Jian (25 minutes)

This practical session focuses on leveraging AI tools in teaching, with an emphasis on the resources available at WPU. We'll explore newly released AI features in Blackboard, demonstrating how to craft effective prompts to generate content-based assessments and create a course teaching assistant, assessment feedback generator, grading assistant, and more. Additionally, we will show how to integrate these practical applications effectively into pedagogical practices to develop AI-informed assignments.

12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

PLENARY: EMBRACING AI AS ESSENTIAL LEARNING : PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE BEYOND COLLEGE

C. Edward Watson, Ph.D., is the Vice President for Digital Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC& U), and the founding director of AAC&U's Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum.

Generative AI tools have had an astonishingly quick impact on the ways we learn, work, think, and create. While higher education's initial response was to develop strategies to diminish AI's influence in the classroom, it is now clear that AI competencies and literacies must be embraced as essential learning for most colleges and universities. Dr. C. Edward Watson will detail the challenges and opportunities that have emerged for higher education, especially in terms of pedagogical practice and student learning. The core focus of this keynote will be on concrete approaches and strategies higher education can adopt.

2:00 P.M.

EMPATHY & AI: CRAFTING SMARTER PROMPTS FOR ENGAGED ELA CLASSROOMS

Maria Matsakis and Darlene Russell (50 minutes)

This interactive session will focus on fostering empathy and mastering effective AI prompting in the English Language Arts classroom. Participants will begin by exploring generative AI from a student's perspective through a brief role-playing activity, gaining insight into why students rely on these tools and developing a deeper understanding of their experiences. Participants will depart the session with a set of AI-prompting strategies to integrate into lesson planning, alongside opportunities for reflection and assessment.

STRATEGIES FOR LOWERING D AND F GRADES OR WITHDRAWAL RATES

Heejung An, Bela Florenthal, Maximilian Rohrer, Robert Greco, Megan Searles, and Sue Gerber (50 minutes)

Hear from a panel of University faculty, from all colleges, with rates of course grades of D, F or withdrawals below 20% in challenging 1000 and 2000 level courses. The panel will briefly review the assessment data from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 and then provide insight into successful teaching techniques and strategies that lead to these low rates.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND MAXIENT IN THE AGE OF AI

Lauren Razzore Cedeno, David Fuentes, Martin Gritsch, Minerva Guttman, Djanna Hill, Jennifer Tumlin, and Mel Zeleke (50 minutes)

As generative AI increases in use and prevalence in classrooms at WP, it has potential to impact academic integrity, particularly students' use of internet sources in completing course work. In this session, the Associate Deans and the Director of Student Conduct will discuss policy changes to the Academic Integrity Policy at WP and the new reporting system, Maxient. We will also discuss strategies and instructional practices that can be used to foster a productive teaching and learning ecology in the age of AI. Participants will leave with more insights about Academic Integrity at WP.

3:00 P.M.

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING WORKFORCE-READY GRADUATES

Mary Alice Barrows, Jenny Nesenjuk, Sonia Wilson, and Alma Diaz (25 minutes)

Discover actionable strategies to integrate career readiness into everyday student interactions and foster a career-focused campus culture. This session highlights how partnering with the Career Development Center can provide the resources, expertise, and collaboration needed to equip students with essential career competencies and experiential learning opportunities.

INTERACTIVE VIDEO QUIZZES: TURNING PASSIVE WATCHING INTO ACTIVE LEARNING

Mara Tajes, Sara Almuíña Viz, and Thomas Nemeth (50 minutes)

How can we transform our asynchronous video materials from passive content into dynamic learning experiences for our students? In this session, Dr. María Tajes and Prof. Sara Almuíña Viz will demonstrate how they have achieved this by using YuJa's "quizzes" feature to boost student engagement, track viewing rates, and embed questions in videos. Then, Thomas Nemeth will discuss planned enhancements and seek audience feedback on its broader use.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM TRAVELING TO RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES WITH ASPIRE STUDENTS

Mel Zeleke, Rose Mitchell, COSH faculty, and ASPIRE Students (50 minutes)

William Paterson University was awarded a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM and Articulation Title III Program to support the Access to STEM Pathways through Integrated Research and Engagement (ASPIRE). One of ASPIRE's key goals is to offer eligible students the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on research projects and present their findings at professional conferences. In this panel discussion, faculty members from the College of Science and Health (COSH) who accompanied ASPIRE students to professional conferences or traveled with them to conduct research fieldwork will share their experiences. The goal is to inspire similar opportunities for all William Paterson University students. ASPIRE students who participated in these activities will also join the panel and discuss how attending conferences or conducting research fieldwork has contributed to their educational, personal and professional goals and growth.

3:30 P.M.

DECOLONIZING THE (BUSINESS SCHOOL) CURRICULUM

Ali Mir (25 minutes)

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, universities worldwide have increasingly engaged in discussions on decolonizing curricula. This presentation will examine how these conversations have taken shape within business schools, reflecting on the outcomes of my own efforts to integrate decolonial approaches into my teaching. I will also offer actionable suggestions for advancing this process and address structural barriers that may impede its broader implementation.

4:00 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS

Barbara Andrew, Elizabeth Brown, David Fuentes, Sandra Hill, Eileen Lubeck, and Linda Refsland

Conference Planning Committee

Barbara Andrew

Elizabeth Brown

David Fuentes

Sandra Hill

Eileen Lubeck

Linda Refsland

With assistance from

Kourtney Scipio (Honors College GA)

Michael Spino (College of Education GA)

Sean Vaughan (Center for Teaching Excellence GA)

And technical support from

Pete Cannarozzi

William Paterson University
WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE

ZOOM SUPPORT DETAILS
All conference sessions are on Zoom

Zoom Room A 9:15- 12:30	Opening Comments with Joshua Powers, Miki Cammarata, and Barbara Andrew "Strategies for Promoting Student Mental Health: A Debrief on Ask. Listen. Refer." Daisy Rodriguez "Nurturing Students: Wellbeing through Prosocial Education in the College Curriculum" Bela Florenthal "Generative AI For Business Education - Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Building Competencies" Stephen Betts, Peter Caiazzo, Rajiv Kashyap, Ashley Lee, Mehmet Turkoz "Using Student Feedback to Inform Library Instruction and Programming" Nancy Weiner and Tony Joachim "Impact of Culturally Responsive Mentoring in S-STEM" Jyoti Champanerkar and Djanna Hill	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/93197505603?pwd=55iNt1Ltbqd8s7zFM0SDUkFnAaLaLU.1
Zoom Room B 9:30- 12:30	"The Future of AI and the Library" Linda Salvesen and Dave Williams "Using AI Tools to Promote Students' Critical Thinking" Latifa Sebti "Future Shock: Turning AI Disruption into Classroom Innovation" Christopher Salerno "Cheng Library Workshops on AI Literacy" Gary Marks and Linda Salvesen "Practical Approaches for Fostering Social Mobility in Teaching" Priya Nagaraj "Enhancing Teaching with AI: Practical Applications" Ming Jian	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/92205674158
Zoom Room C 9:30- 12:30	"Generative AI Literacy for Everyone" Gamin Bartle "Photovoice as Decolonizing Research Methodology in Aspiring Educators Program" Darlene Russell, Alba Casimiro Almonte, and Shuly Begum "Teaching Writing in the Age of AI: A Process Reimagined" Lisa Egle (Passaic County Community College)	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/96823555104
Zoom Room D: Plenary 12:30- 2:00	Plenary: "Embracing AI as Essential Learning: Preparing Students for Life Beyond College" C. Edward Watson, Vice President for Digital Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC& U)	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/99365683098?pwd=vZ2NnN6lPmOxg3GJ25ip3TahxbHvDO.1
Zoom Room E 2:00- 4:15	"Strategies for Lowering D and F Grades or Withdrawal Rates" Heejung An "From Classroom to Career: Strategies for Building Workforce-Ready Graduates" Mary Alice Barrows, Jenny Nesenjuk, Sonia Wilson, and Alma Diaz "Decolonizing the (Business School) Curriculum" Ali Mir Closing Remarks with Barbara Andrew, Elizabeth Brown, David Fuentes, Sandra Hill, Eileen Lubeck, and Linda Refsland	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/94451046143?pwd=bxOkGiKqtIk8QgkVO5KCaCVhpkOmb2.1
Zoom Room F 2:00- 4:15	"Empathy & AI: Crafting Smarter Prompts for Engaged ELA Classrooms" Maria Matsakis and Darlene Russell "Interactive Video Quizzes: Turning Passive Watching into Active Learning" Mara Tajes, Sara Almuíña Viz, and Thomas Nemeth	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/97013104555?pwd=plyPuch1aNCkC9D0fn9jlouKmme6yl.1
Zoom Room G 2:00- 4:15	"Academic Integrity and Maxient in the Age of AI" Lauren Razzore Cedeno, David Fuentes, Martin Gritsch, Minerva Guttman, Djanna Hill, Jennifer Tumlin, and Mel Zeleke "Lessons Learned from Traveling to Research & Professional Conferences with ASPIRE Students" Mel Zeleke and Rose Mitchell with students	https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/98947909252