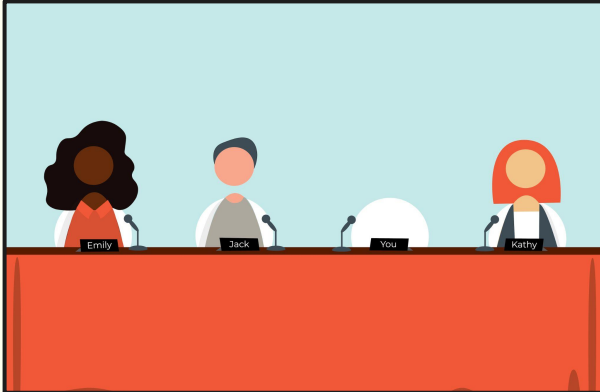


CSF-Breakout  
Session 3-Hall 1

Reimagining Higher  
Education in Pittsburgh  
While Keeping Our  
Promise: Access,  
Affordability, and Equity in  
the Changing Landscape

# Overview

2



**Meet the Presenters**

**Q&A**

**Things to Take with You**



# Drucella Garcia

Associate Director of Admission Local  
Recruitment and Strategy

## **Organization**

Carnegie Mellon University

## **Email**

[drucellg@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:drucellg@andrew.cmu.edu)



# Alicia Oglesby

Associate Director of College Counseling

## **Organization**

Winchester Thurston School

## **Email**

[oglesbya@winchesterthurston.org](mailto:oglesbya@winchesterthurston.org)



# Carrie Woodard

Director Student Support Services-School Counselors

## **Organization**

Pittsburgh Public Schools

## **Email**

[cwoodard1@pghschools.org](mailto:cwoodard1@pghschools.org)

# Amy Yearwood

Director of College and Career Success



## **Organization**

The Pittsburgh Promise

## **Email**

[amy@pittsburghpromise.org](mailto:amy@pittsburghpromise.org)

# Looking at the Higher Education Landscape

It's rapidly evolving, and leaders across the sectors are grappling with critical questions:

Who can attend college?

How can they afford it?

How can institutions better serve the diverse students enrolling today?



## Access and Affordability

Scholarships, aid, and other resources



## Application Process

Changes in supplements, test scores, admissibility




## Recruitment Strategies

College prep, resource development, inclusive practices, support services



## Partnerships

Institutions, CBOs, educators, policymakers, advocates



## Opportunities for Collaboration

For PPS communities, school counselors, educators, and colleges

# Educational Landscape

**What emerging trends and best practices are taking shape in higher ed?**

**What opportunities exist in Pittsburgh? How do we promote them to students and advise them?**

**How are institutions addressing the rising cost of tuition and overall COA? What does affordability look like?**





# The Student Experience

**How do you support student health and well being?**

**How should we continue to invest in our students to help them best prepare for college?**

**How does this impact student retention and graduation rates, especially for marginalized groups from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds?**

Preferred  llege Partners

# “Diverse” Recruitment Strategies

10

**What challenges do marginalized groups face and how do we work to address them?**

**Does DEIB still have meaning? What does that look like for you in your workplace?**

**Can you provide an example of an inclusive practice?**



# Inclusive Leadership and Awareness

11

**What strategies do you have to create an inclusive workplace culture that prioritizes DEIB work as it concerns student preparedness and readiness for college?**

**How can we develop a strategic plan that effectively addresses the changing higher ed landscape?**



# Goals for the Future

1.

Be inclusive in today's political and academic climate as our ethical duties allow.

What does this look like in your district?

2.

Be an advocate for your students and fellow colleagues.

How can you show your support in your community?

3.

Be informed about changes, the impact, and professional development opportunities.

How can you find helpful information?

4.

Identify issues that affect academic performance and caseload management.

What can you control?

5.

Help students identify skills for academic success, communication, and resource utilization.

What can you promote?



# Additional Points

13

Hold Space for Mental Well-Being

Your Role is Critical and Always Evolving

Educators and Counselors are Using ChatGPT

Forbes ADVISOR

## Best Cities For College Students And Graduates 2024

*To help you make the most informed decision, Forbes Advisor ranked the best cities for college students and graduates based on each location's rental market, unemployment rates, recreational opportunities and proximity to colleges and universities.*

- 1 **NEW ORLEANS**, *Louisiana*
- 2 **PITTSBURGH**, *Pennsylvania*
- 3 **BUFFALO**, *New York*
- 4 **NASHVILLE**, *Tennessee*
- 5 **MILWAUKEE**, *Wisconsin*

EDUCATION 



# How Can You Help?

## **Encourage Active Participation**

Continue to show up to sessions, show your initiative, and develop action plans.

## **Think Ahead to the Future**

Adapt to the needs of your students and yourself. Stay current on best practices and approaches to navigate mental health and student well-being, academic success, and development.

## **Challenge Your Perspective**

Make it a mission to learn more about the schools in your area. Keep updated on new programs, meet with college reps, and participate in Act 48 professional development opportunities.

## **Meet with Representatives**

There's a lot changing in the admission process as a direct result of what we learn from the high schools. Be open to meeting with reps outside of the normal fall visits and college fairs.



School Counseling:  
HELPING  
STUDENTS  
**THRIVE**

FEB. 3-7  
2025

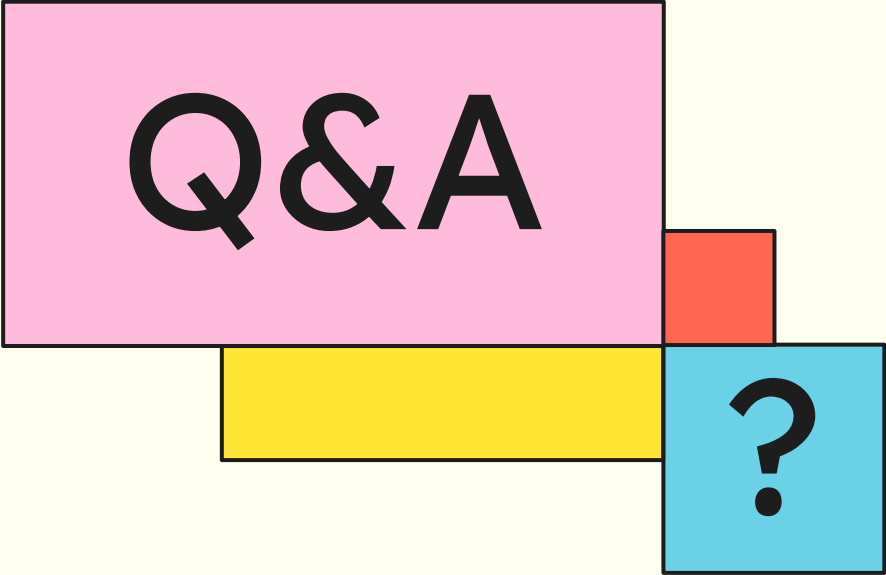
Happy National School Counseling Week



**PACAC**

Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling









**THANK YOU!**