

2021 Virtual Assessment Institute Faculty



Tomarra Adams

Dr. Tomarra Adams has a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Louisville with a post-graduate certificate in Psychoanalytic Therapy from Bellarmine University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Dean for Undergraduate Education at Spalding University, and Associate Professor in the African American Studies Program and Social Work. She is involved with NACADA, Louisville Collegiate Board of Trustees, Kentucky Commission on Healthy Children, National Council of Black Studies, Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education, and Kentucky Association of Black Social Workers. She also serves as a fellow for the inaugural cohort of the Excellence in Academic Advising Program through the Garner Institute. She researches and teaches on racial identity development and retention of Black students at predominantly White institutions.



Karen Boston

In addition to presenting at numerous NACADA conferences, Karen Boston has been a faculty member for the NACADA Assessment Institutes since 2011 and was Chair of the Assessment Institute and Advisory Board from 2013-2015. In 2011, Dr. Boston was a faculty member for NACADA's Webinar, "Steps in Developing an Assessment Plan for Academic Advising" and a contributor to the NACADA Advising Administration Monograph. She is a member of NACADA's Consultant and Speaker Service and served on her University's Academic Advising Council and Advising Assessment Task Force which established an institutional wide assessment program for academic advising.



Dan Chandler

Dan Chandler is the Assistant Director of First Year Experience at Brigham Young University. As such, he is responsible for the university's peer mentoring program, program evaluation, and learning outcomes assessment. Dan earned his BA from BYU and his MS in Academic Advising from Kansas State University. He has worked with program evaluation for all of his career but it wasn't until attending the Assessment Institute in 2013 that he learned that evaluation is deepened by incorporating learning outcomes assessment. Dan has presented on the campus, state, regional, and national levels on learning outcomes assessment topics.

Beth Higgins



Beth Higgins has over 25 years of experience in academic advising. Throughout her years in the advising profession, Higgins has implemented a dual advising program, developed advising assessment plans, coordinated professional development for advisors, led the University of Maine System-wide Advising Committee, and coordinated numerous retention and persistence initiatives. Most recently Beth has been the transition lead for academic advising at her institution. Dr. Higgins has been active in NACADA at the regional and national levels. In addition to facilitating numerous conference presentations, Beth has served as a NACADA Board of Directors member, Chair of the Commission for Undecided and Exploratory Students, member of the Commission and Interest Group Steering Committee, and has been a contributor to the NACADA Journal, Clearinghouse, Academic Advising Today, and Advising Administration Monograph.

Ned Muhovich



Dr. Muhovich has been a teacher, advisor and advising administrator since 1996. He has worked at University of Colorado – Boulder, University of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Western Governors University. He has been responsible for advising undecided/exploratory, pre-law, liberal arts students, students on academic probation, transfer evaluation, advising technology, and assessment programs.

He is a past chair of the NACADA Assessment of Advising Commission, and has presented on assessment topics at NACADA regional and annual conferences. He has twice attended the Assessment Institute as a participant; this is his sixth year as a faculty member.

Rich Robbins



Rich Robbins holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology and is Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Bucknell University. He has performed over 150 professional presentations and dozens of campus consultations, authored numerous articles and book chapters on assessment and other topics regarding academic advising, and has developed academic advising programs at two separate institutions and headed advising programs at four institutions. Rich has taught in the Kansas State University graduate program in Academic Advising, is a member of the NACADA Academic Advising Consultants and Speakers Service, and has received various local, regional, and national advising awards including both the 2011 “Service to NACADA Award” and the 2013 NACADA “Virginia N. Gordon Award For Excellence in Advising.” He was co-chair of the initial 2004 NACADA Assessment Seminar and has served on the faculty for the NACADA Assessment Institute, Summer Institute, Administrators’ Institute, and Research Symposium. In 2018, he was selected as a charter cohort Excellence in Academic Advising (EAA) Fellow by NACADA and the Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education.



Isaiah Vance

Isaiah Vance began his higher education career as a faculty member in the Department of Religion at Eastern New Mexico University. As department chair, he managed program assessment and faculty advising. After relocating back to Central Texas, he was named the first Director of Advising & Retention at the newly established Texas A&M University-Central Texas. In 2018 he was hired by The Texas A&M University System to oversee academic and student support operations at The RELIS Campus in College Station, where he serves as Assistant Provost & Title IX Coordinator and leads transfer and advising initiatives for the A&M System.



Kathy Zarges

Kathy Zarges is the Assistant Dean of Advising, Student Success and Licensure in the College of Education, Health and Human Services at Kent State University. She has served on the faculty for the NACADA Assessment Institute for ten years and is the outgoing chair of the Assessment Institute Advisory Board. She is a consultant for the NACADA Consultant and Speakers Bureau and has presented at NACADA on many topics including assessment of advising, implementing a new advising model, flipped advising, and group advising. She co-authored the clearinghouse article: *Assessment of Academic Advising: A Summary of the Process* and book chapter *Assessing the Impact of Academic Advising: Current Issues and Future Trends in Academic Advising Re-examined, New Directions for Higher Education*. Kathy has her MEd from Kent State University in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs.
