2022 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.

**Melinda J. Anderson**
Melinda J. Anderson has served as the Executive Director of NACADA and held a professorship in the Kansas State University College of Education since June 2021. As Executive Director, Anderson is responsible for directing all of the Association’s initiatives including its strategic efforts, professional development initiatives for members, member engagement and growth targets, and defining its research agenda. Additionally, she teaches in K-State’s Leadership in the Academic Advising doctoral program. Anderson serves on the faculty of the NACADA Summer Institute, Academic Advising Administrators’ Institute, and Assessment of Advising Institute. A NACADA member since 2009, Anderson served in senior-level leadership and has led institution-wide efforts for student success, academic advising, retention, persistence, and enrollment management.

**Karen Boston**
Karen Boston is the Senior Assistant Dean for Student Success and Chief Student Officer at the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. As Senior Assistant Dean, Dr. Boston is responsible for creating and leading a comprehensive approach to the student experience with a focus on student engagement, retention, career readiness, and success, including degree completion and career outcomes. She is directly responsible for providing leadership and strategy for Walton Career Services, Business Communication Lab, Student Success Office, Community College Articulation Agreements and Partnerships, Online Programs, and International Curricular and Global Engagement Initiatives.

**Angela Bowlus**
Angela Bowlus currently serves at the Director of Advising in the College of Management at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. She has served as a higher education professional in academic advising for more than 20 years, serving at both public and private institutions. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Her research is focused on the role of narrative theory in the reinstatement from suspension process. A displaced Californian, she survives Minnesota winters planning escapes to warmer climates with her husband and two teenage daughters.
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.

Heather Doyle
Heather holds a BA in Psychology from University of Prince Edward Island and MEd in Counselling Psychology from Memorial University. She serves as Director of Assessment and Special Projects at Dalhousie University, where she supports on the development and implementation of assessment initiatives in the Division of Student Affairs, and oversees student engagement, leadership and health promotion. She is a sessional lecturer at Florida Atlantic University and University of Manitoba and has presented and published in Canada, the United States and Africa in the areas of academic advising, Appreciative Advising, social justice in advising, advising assessment and student success.

Mary Carmel Etienne
Mary Carmel Etienne is the Assistant Dean and Director of Advising in the School of Arts and Sciences at La Salle University. Her career in higher education spans over thirteen years, the last seven of which she has focused on helping to improve student success and persistence through her leadership in advising. Mary has been a member of NACADA since 2014 and was a member of the Emerging Leaders Program from 2018 – 2020.

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.
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 RELLIS 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.