

**Jermain:** Hi my name is Jermain Pipkins and I along with Katherine Beaumont-Doss will be talking to you about the benefits of attending a NACADA Summer Institute. Currently I serve as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Los Angeles Valley College. I have a strong background in academic advising and have been a member of NACADA for over ten years. I also currently serve as the chair for the NACADA Summer Institute. I have been privileged to participate as a Summer Institute attendee and serve as a faculty member. Attending the NACADA Summer Institute allowed me the opportunity to lead efforts to impact change within academic advising. And I just want to go over a few things with you, if you are planning on attending.

If you are currently registered for an upcoming Summer Institute, there are a few things you need to know so you can come prepared. The first thing is to understand the purpose. The Institute is led by longstanding members of NACADA with a great deal of experience within Higher Education. They will serve as faculty for the week. This is not a conference where you will sit and listen. It is designed for people who are ready to work. There will be no shortage of opportunities to engage, share, learn, and collaborate throughout the week. For those that have not attended an institute before, you can expect to stay very, very busy and entertained I may add. Many months of planning go into making sure that the week is formatted to maximize your time and learning. It is very fast paced and very well-structured and at the same time has rigor embedded into the curriculum throughout the week giving you plenty of opportunities to network, be productive and make connections.

So how does it work? Throughout the week NACADA faculty members present on very important topics within academic advising ranging from assessment, first-year experience, diversity, history of advising, training and motivating advisors, research, and many other topics. And this year, I am excited to share that we will be incorporating even more topical sessions and discussion groups on relevant topics within higher education such as institution types, student needs and persistence. In addition to topical and foundation sessions, attendants are assigned to small groups where they work with faculty members in an effort to develop a comprehensive action plan to take back to their campus for implantation purposes. Now I'm going to turn it over to Katherine who will discuss about other items.

**Katherine:** Hello, my name is Katherine and I'm fortunate to serve as the Dean of Students at a two-year institution located in San Antonio, Texas. One of the amazing things I love about the Summer Institute is that individuals who attend and groups who attend have the opportunity to complete an action plan. And each day that you're at the Institute you will take a piece of that action plan and complete it with your group. That action plan is structured in a way that you take a look at what the needs are at your institution, what the timelines are to meet those needs, and what types of strategies are needed to put in place to meet those needs as well as the owners that create those steps. One of the best things about the institute is you have this dedicated time to work on your action plans and you also have NACADA faculty members, not only the ones that are assigned to your small group but faculty members that are involved with the entire institute and they will help you refine and develop and even possibly narrow your action plan so you leave the institute at the end of the week with the best possible plan of implantation as you go back to your campuses.

In 2012 my institution attended a NACADA Summer Institute and our action plan was centered around defining academic advising at our institution and creating out academic advising syllabus. We had a cross campus representative group that attended and it was really at the institute that this small group changed what advising meant for our institution. From 2012 until today we've developed an entire case

management advising model with assigned academic advisors to every single one of our students and intentional outreach touch points.

All of that started with the attendance of the Summer Institute in 2012. It's a huge benefit and it's great to have time to work with your team and campus members to develop an action plan. As you're thinking about attending, some final reminders to think about is that it is very powerful and beneficial to meet with your senior leaders or administrators before you come to the institute to not only explain the structure of the institute but also begin to think about what your action plan is going to be centered around. And that action plan is going to be specific to your institution and your institutions needs and what a lot of schools have done is they've looked at professional development plans for their advisors and faculty members, they've looked at developing definitions of academic advising, as well as academic advising syllabi. So as you work prior to coming to the Institute, work to identify what that topic is going to be. You also want to come and be prepared to be engaged throughout the entire week. You will be engaging not only with your small group but also with other groups that are in attendance and NACADA faculty members. Another fantastic benefit of the Institute is you have the time to work on your action plan but you also have time to attend sessions that are specific to what you're looking for in your action plan to help you continue to further develop it.

Finally, be prepared to stay the entire time during the entire week because you're going to need that time to complete your action plan and get ready to really network with colleagues and peers from across the united states to collectively change academic advising across out institutions and at our institutions as well. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Summer Institute.