



IOSS

Reader's Corner

Iowa Organization for Student Success Newsletter, September 2020

Fall Conference Is Upon Us



I hope this finds everyone at least trying to settle into their new “normal” in this time of the pandemic. We have all faced new challenges and new working situations as we deal with an unprecedented time in our history. We are educators,

and we know how to adjust to new situations. We know how to deal with change. That is exactly what we are doing at IOSS.

The Iowa Organization for Student Success (IOSS) is the former Iowa Developmental Education Association (IDEA). Our focus was on developmental education and assisting students, faculty and staff in that arena. With our National Organization for Student Success (NOSS) broadening the scope of the association, we as a state affiliate are doing the same. We have already changed our name and logo, so what's next...?

We are now reaching out to all areas of student success. We recognize that from the first contact, to each day in class and through their classes to graduation, all students need assistance, and we strive to be there to support them in any and all ways that we are capable of performing.

We are encouraging recruiting, registration, counseling, disabilities services, corrections, administration, testing, tutoring, TRIO, HISED, ABE, ELL and, of course, faculty and staff to come together with us to help improve the experiences we

offer our students as they pursue their dreams. If I didn't include your department, please know it was my oversight, and you are invited and encouraged to join us.

Our fall conference is scheduled for October 8th and is being offered virtually this year. Our theme is **Success Going Viral**. Registration cost is low at \$45.00; this will include two keynote speakers, an update from the Department of Education, breakout sessions, roundtables, business meeting with election of officers, a T-shirt with our new IOSS logo, and a surprise gift.

The conference will begin at 8:00 am and should conclude by 4:00 pm. All will happen via Zoom and will be recorded for later viewing by registered attendees. No travel is required, and no additional exposure to anything except fun and engaging ideas for encouraging your students to be more involved.

We still have openings on our schedule if you would like to present or share what is happening in your area, or perhaps you would like to lead a roundtable discussion on an area of interest. We all know we learn best from each other. If you are interested in presenting please go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfO6xk92s8ezO8quQNDTZzeqpLnOIgKQ7dLp_tLBiMlrMNZ3Q/viewform and submit your proposal today.

The conference will include opportunities to collaborate with colleagues across the state on ideas and challenges you are facing and overcoming. We will have a discussion of our Constitution and By-Laws on proposed changes for our new inclusive focus at the business meeting. Membership is

included with the cost of your registration, so bring your ideas and help us make our organization even better.

If you haven't registered yet, what are you waiting for? Go to <https://www.signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/135199> now to register.

Keep watching for additional information at: https://dmacc.edu/ioSS/SitePages/Fall_Preview.aspx
I look forward to meeting each of you via Zoom at the conference and with your help, we will have the best conference we have ever held.

Hope to "see" you soon,

Bea Houston
IOSS President
2019-2020

Success Going Viral Tentative Conference Schedule

- 8:45 a.m. – Welcome/Overview
- 9:00 a.m. – Keynote 1
- 10:00 a.m. – Breakout Session 1
- 11:00 a.m. – Breakout Session 2
- 12:00 p.m. – Keynote 2
- 1:00 p.m. – Breakout Session 3
- 2:00 p.m. – Breakout Session 4
- 3:00 p.m. – Department of Education
- 3:30 p.m. – Business/Election of Officers/Wrap Up

Success Going Viral Conference Preview

Keynote Presentation I

Alexandros M. Goudas: How False Narratives, Not Data, Are Driving Reforms

Many recent postsecondary reforms are based on false narratives, not data. A few common false narratives are that remediation is a barrier, stopouts increase due to remedial placement, and corequisites are proven to be effective. This presentation will discuss the underlying data and what conclusions and narratives they actually support.

Alexandros M. Goudas is an Associate Professor of English at Delta College, Michigan, and author of the website Community College Data. Alex was lead author on "Addressing Flawed Research in Developmental Education" (2012), a paper co-authored by Dr. Hunter R. Boylan in the *Journal of Developmental Education* (JDE). Because of this work, Alex was presented with the JDE Outstanding Article Award in 2014. He was elected President of the Michigan Developmental Education Consortium (MDEC, now NOSSMi) in both 2015 and 2017 and was presented with the MDEC Educator of the Year Award in 2015. Alex has been a keynote speaker at numerous National Organization for Student Success state chapter conferences and is currently completing a PhD in Educational Leadership at Central Michigan University. His mission is to help at-risk students succeed by offering thoughtful, data-based, and holistic solutions to practitioners and policymakers who deal with the complex problems of today's higher education landscape.



Keynote Presentation II

Dr. Emily Suh: Equity and Access across Multiple Modalities: Returning to Our Roots to Promote Student Success

In these unprecedented times, the field of developmental education has undergone a series of profound and prolonged changes. This spring, while the nation found itself thrown into disarray resulting from Covid-19 and educators at all levels scrambled



to teach students across the PK-20 pipeline, developmental educators were already well accustomed to rapid change: we have a history of positively and proactively responding to reform movements pushing for acceleration, integration, and corequisite instruction. As publishing companies and other

for-profit educational resource providers rush to offer products to fill the void left by our exit from the physical classroom, we must first turn to the scholarship and experience of our field. What these for-purchase products ignore, however, is the very heart of our work in providing comprehensive student support that extends beyond instruction. By building from the extensive knowledge of our field and our deep practical knowledge as advisors, tutors, testing center coordinators, librarians, as well as instructors, we can continue to increase equity and access for our students by reaching across our institutional silos—and across multiple modalities.

Dr. Emily Suh is an assistant professor in the Graduate Programs of Developmental Education at Texas State University. Emily taught adult ESL and Developmental Reading and Writing at Southeast Community College (Lincoln, NE) for nearly a decade and continues to coordinate Developmental Reading and teach doctoral courses in Developmental Education. She has published in journals such as the *International Journal of*

Multilingualism, the *Journal of Developmental Education*, the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, the *Basic Writing eJournal*, and *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*. Emily serves as a Research Fellow for the National Center for Developmental Education, the NOSS Cultural Diversity Chair, and Past President to INADE. She has been honored with awards from the National Center for Developmental Education, the National Association for Developmental Education, the American Association of Applied Linguistics, and the International Society for Language Studies. Her research interests include adult immigrant education, postsecondary access and success for culturally and linguistically diverse students, and the professionalization and professional identity development of Developmental Educators.

Breakout Session Topics

Presentations for the conference will be varied in nature. Here are a few of the sessions you can expect to see, and more are coming in each day.

It's Not About the Math

Joe Plane, Iowa Central Community College

For students who have struggled with math their entire educational career, it's important to frame the class differently. Joe draws on 24 years of coaching to maintain high expectations for his students while building confidence and creating positive personal relationships.

Culture from the Couch

Kara Weyand, Iowa Central Community College

Looking for virtual activities and cultural experiences for your students? Let's explore some of the amazing socially-distant options that are available in today's world! This session covers free digital and/or virtual resources for instructors who require students to engage in cultural activities: streaming performances, virtual reality museums, the Google Arts and Culture Project, and more!

Resources may also be applicable to a variety of subject areas, including science, history, writing, and foreign languages.

C-O-V-I-D: Changing Our Vision In a Day

Laura Meyers & Marcea Seible, Hawkeye Community College

This roundtable discussion will open conversation among colleagues to share successes and challenges of switching to online learning overnight.

OER: Not Only Benefits to Students but Also Benefits to Institutions

Mike Cagley, Western Iowa Tech Community College

Open educational resources (OER) can reduce the financial burdens for students, and how the benefits of OER can far outweigh the time investment cost. Mike will discuss the benefits of OER textbooks in courses, using the example of a course shell for Applied Math that he developed for Western Iowa Tech Community College.

The Civil War Was a Multi-Dimensional Oxymoron

Kate Sanders, Western Iowa Tech Community College

Kate describes a unit using the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, in which students will research the work of the woman President Lincoln credited for igniting the Civil War. Slavery was only one of the causes to be explored. The unit culmination will be compare/contrast and/or cause/effect papers.

Ensuring Student Engagement in the Virtual World

Amanda Rodenborn, Des Moines Area Community College,

Transitioning your face-to-face course to a virtual delivery system can seem overwhelming. How can you develop a rapport and interact with students who will never step foot into a physical classroom? Instead of trying to completely recreate the face-to-face classroom experience, consider how you can best take advantage of the virtual environment's opportunities and features. In this session, Amanda will share some practical tips for engaging your students in the virtual world.

Accommodations for our Pandemic Times

Bea Houston, Western Iowa Tech Community College

In this new "normal," how can we offer testing, accommodations and adequate guidance in the registration process? Western Iowa Tech Community College got creative and used Zoom and smartphone technology to accomplish these tasks. Bea will share what her college has done and open a roundtable discussion for others to share.

Basic Online Course Design

Kayleen Grage, Des Moines Area Community College

Kayleen has been helping faculty build and improve online courses for nearly two decades. In this session, she will guide you through the basics of designing an online course, starting from the course competencies and working toward assessments. She'll show you a few course evaluation tools you can use to help ensure your course meets best practices. She'll also explain how writing for the web and readability play a role in student success.

Proposed Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws: More Than Housekeeping

Transitioning from IDEA to IOSS gives our organization the opportunity to re-examine our constitution and by-laws. After reviewing both documents, the IOSS Executive Board has proposed revisions to reflect both our new name and our broadened mission.

Adopted in October 1993, the IDEA Constitution has never been amended. Kudos to the founding members for their careful work! In addition to making the obvious organizational name changes to the constitution, the Board recommends broadening our purpose statement (Article II) to encompass student success initiatives rather than focusing only on developmental education and learning assistance programs. Another proposed revision (Article IV) identifies two classes of membership, individual and institutional, to acknowledge the institutional membership option that has been offered for several years.

A few changes to the IDEA By-Laws, last amended in 2004, have also been proposed to provide more flexibility. Institutional affiliation of appointed members to the Executive Board would no longer be specified, and the annual conference could be scheduled any time in the fall rather than only in October.

All IOSS members should already have received copies of the original documents and proposed changes by email. Virtual conference attendees will vote on these amendments at the annual business meeting on October 8.

Sue Wickham
Newsletter Editor
Mercy College of Health Sciences

IOSS Scholarship Awarded

Iowa Organization for Student Success (IOSS), formerly Iowa Developmental Education Association (IDEA), is pleased to present Roger Vilorio with the 2019 \$500 Educational Scholarship. Roger was a student of Iowa Valley Community College District at Marshalltown. Vickie Unferth, Coordinator of International Students and Programs, says she was most impressed with Roger's positive attitude and his hard work to improve his English and do well in all of his classes.

Roger is transferring to Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, AR. There he plans to continue his studies to meet his goals. He says his study of the English language has built his confidence and helped him to feel like he can do college-level academic work without the help of a translator. He has also learned to enjoy the U.S. culture and compare it to his own culture from Venezuela.

Bea Houston



Dr. Tracey D. Moore, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Arkansas Baptist College presenting the scholarship certificate and check to Roger Vil

New Name, New Logo. And the Winner Is . . .

The IOSS Executive Board is excited to launch our new logo for our new name. We had a contest for community college students to design our new logo. We had more than twenty submissions and narrowed down the submissions to a top five earlier this spring for a membership vote. The winner was Karlee Ihde, Photography and Digital Arts Major at Iowa Central Community College from West Union, Iowa. Karlee tackled the project with these design strategies: simple, clean design; include a symbol for education, possible O or I; use red/blue or simple colors; and use acronym or full name. She described her process this way: "I had multiple mock-ups of designs, constantly adding and deleting and copying what I liked into a new design. Sometimes becoming drained, so I stopped and returned to designing a few hours later or the next day. Eventually, I came up with this design and another one that included a pencil. I did submit both because I could not decide between the two."



Rochelle Green, Karlee's Photography Instructor, describes Karlee with these words: "Throughout the year, Karlee was an active participant in our discussions, projects, and critiques, and she always supported her peers. Her caring nature and personality allow her to work well with others in a team setting as she always respects others' opinions even when they differ from her own. Karlee volunteered many hours with non-profit organizations in our community, which is two hours

away from the community she was raised in. I am certain that Karlee is going to continue to do a

multitude of creative things in her future. She is talented, caring, intuitive, dedicated, and focused in her pursuits. Karlee is truly a stand-out individual who will impress everyone she meets."

Jennifer Dutcher, Karlee's Graphic Design Instructor, continues with glowing praise: "Karlee was an absolute pleasure to have in class. Karlee's dedication to her education is evident, and her love of learning is contagious. I first met Karlee in my Graphic Design course where she instantly made a lasting impression. Karlee's remarkable sense of creativity and vision, coupled with her attention to detail in the area of craftsmanship is a rare find. If someone were to ask me, in ten years from now, if I see a student truly making a difference in the professional world, I would say Karlee. This young woman is going to make an impression on all who are lucky enough to work with her. Karlee possesses a true passion for learning and is a remarkable asset to the Iowa Central learning community."

Karlee plans to stay close to home after graduation and expand her photography business. We wish Karlee all the best as she continues her degree and explores her passions: photography, helping others, and baking, driven by her philosophy: "Keep looking & keep brainstorming & keep creating. Always look forward."

Jennifer Condon
IOSS Past President
Iowa Central Community College

Join the IOSS Conversation

- Have you recently attended a conference of another professional organization? Summarize a session relevant to our membership for the *Reader's Corner*.
- Has your institution revamped its placement policies, developmental studies offerings, or academic support program? Provide a quick update.
- Have you located a great academic resource for student or faculty use? Share the wealth.
- Have you transitioned to a new position or received special recognition for your professional accomplishments? Let us celebrate with you!

To submit articles or information for future editions of the *Reader's Corner*, please send to:

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IOSS Website:

Check the IOSS website for 2020 conference updates, student scholarship information, Executive Board contact information, and member resources.

www.dmacc.edu/ioass

The NOSS website:

<https://thenoss.org/>

IOSS Facebook:

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