

MUS Corequisite Convening Facilitators | April 24-25, 2023



Arnel W. Cosey, Ph.D. | Strategy and Impact Officer, Clover

Dr. Cosey has over 30 years of experience in higher education and with non-profit organizations. In her role as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and an Executive Dean at Louisiana's largest community college she inspired her team to implement proven best practices and data-driven strategies toward the attainment of student success outcomes.

During her time in higher education, Dr. Cosey established a reputation as a champion of access and equity initiatives, successfully leveraging corporate, philanthropic, and community partnerships to increase opportunities for students and families. Her proposal to the Education

Design Lab led to acceptance as one of four institutions in the national, inaugural cohort of a 4-year study to increase the attainment of certifications for single-mom learners. She also secured a partnership with The Fab Foundation at MIT which included a one-million-dollar grant to develop Fab Lab NOLA – a member of the global network of STEM fabrication centers dedicated to inspiring innovation and invention within the student body and the community. Additional partnerships to increase student success included the GE Foundation, Chevron, and Entergy.

In her current role as the Strategy and Impact Officer for Clover, she works closely with internal and external partners to create and implement pathways to economic mobility for families. An experienced administrator, she combines innovation, collaboration, and her passion for others and community in her leadership strategy to develop impactful programs.

Dr. Cosey, a native New Orleanian, has earned her reputation as a highly respected thought partner resulting in memberships on local, state, and national boards. She has been the recipient of several professional and community awards such as the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Outstanding Staff of the Year, the Chancellor's Innovation and Excellence Award, CityBusiness Women of the Year Nominee, and CityBusiness One to Watch (education).



Lauren Fern | Assistant Professor & Math Discipline Lead, UM Student Success Coordinator for Mathematics, Missoula College

Lauren Fern is an Assistant Professor and Math Discipline lead at Missoula College. Having taught in the UM Math department as a Lecturer since 2003, she assumed her current role at Missoula College in 2021 and her role of Student Success Coordinator in Mathematics in 2019. Beyond the University of Montana, Lauren is an innovator in developing math programming at both the state and national levels to design support structures to help learners from all backgrounds succeed in college. Through her work with the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas-Austin, she assists university systems and institutions across the country in designing courses and curricula to implement equity-minded teaching and learning, for both in-person

and distance education.

In all her roles, Lauren demonstrates her passion for working with students who are not yet prepared for college mathematics, first generation college students, and those who come from underserved populations. When not in the classroom, you can find Lauren in the woods, on her bike, in the mountains, or in her gardens with her dog, Sula.



Ciera Mead Franks-Ongoy | Perkins Equity and Compliance Manager, OCHE

Ciera Mead Franks-Ongoy is the Perkins Equitable Access Coordinator and MOA Coordinator for Montana’s Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). Ciera has been with OCHE for nearly three years and has a combined experience of over seven years working on post-secondary campuses to support student success, within education non-profits to amplify community engagement, and serving in both Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. Ciera received her M.Ed. from Western Washington University and her BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington. While typically housed on OCHE’s CTE team supporting the administration of the Perkins grant, the significant overlap of equity and the role of two-year colleges has drawn Ciera happily into the corequisite space where she has been working alongside

Cristine and the MUS Corequisite Steering Committee since Fall 2021.



Dr. Leanne Frost | Executive Director of Instruction and Student Success, Great Falls College MSU

Dr. Leanne Frost is the Executive Director of Instruction & Student Success at Great Falls College Montana State University, a comprehensive two-year college in Great Falls, Montana. She has almost 20 years’ experience in higher education, both at a 4-year university and at two 2-year colleges. As a member of the campus’ Executive Council, she represents the academic divisions and directly oversees the General Studies Division. She also leads the student support efforts, including the tutoring, accommodations, testing, library, teaching and learning, veterans, Native American and

student support offices. She has implemented national best practices at the college and is focused on student success. She has also taught reading and writing courses. Dr. Frost has a Bachelor’s in Communication from Brigham Young University, a Master’s in Education and a Master’s in Reading from Montana State University Billings, and a Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from Montana State University. She completed her doctoral dissertation on the socializing influence of dual enrollment.



Dr. Jeremy Larance | Professor of English, West Liberty University

As Chair of the Department of Humanities, he played an integral role in developing the university’s corequisite composition program, both as an instructor and as an administrator. As Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation, he coordinated multiple university-wide initiatives including 15-to-Finish, meta-majors, math pathways, multiple measures for placement, open educational resources, and continued corequisite support in both composition and math. He has been a member of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission’s Corequisite Task Force since 2015 and has served as a facilitator and content expert for multiple Complete College America sponsored events.



Heidi Loshbaugh Ph.D. | Senior Research Associate, Ethnography & Evaluation Research, University of Colorado Boulder

Heidi Loshbaugh is passionate about higher education in service of the public good. She has taught, conducted research, and served as a college administrator.

As the Dean for Math and Science at Community College of Denver (CCD), she wrote and received a \$3.5M US Dept. of Education award to improve STEM teaching and transfer in Hispanic Serving Institutions. Her leadership in implementing math corequisite instruction led the B & M Gates Foundation to fund an ROI analysis of the reform.

She consults with states and institutions seeking to improve student success in college, in particular working with Complete College America (CCA). At University of Colorado Boulder, Heidi is a co-principal investigator on an NSF INCLUDES award, an NSF EHR Core Research award, and a Sloan Foundation award. She is also the project lead in transforming teaching evaluation practices in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Whether in the classroom, developing a program, writing a grant, or launching an initiative, Heidi’s primary focus is how higher education can better serve students. A fourth-generation Coloradoan and educator, she lives in Denver with her husband, two college-aged children, and two rescue dogs.



Eric Meredith | Business Intelligence Manager, OCHE

Eric is a Montana native that graduated from the University of Montana –Western with a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education with a major in mathematics and minor in Health Education. Also, from the University of Montana – Western Eric acquired a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science. After teaching high school math and coaching for 3 years Eric attended Montana State University and earned a master’s degree in Statistics. He was then employed at the Montana Office of Public Instruction (K-12 State Education Agency) as a Research Data Analyst for about 8 years. Eric is now a Business Intelligence

Manager for the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and has been there since 2018. During his spare time, he spends as much time as possible enjoying the outdoors in various ways with his three kids.



Crystine Miller | Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, OCHE

Crystine Miller is the Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. She leads Montana University System efforts in identifying system-level student affairs and success priorities, driving strategic retention and completion strategies, and leading system efforts on equitable college attainment. Among other projects, she leads the MUS Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Task Force, developmental education reform, and Montana 10, the Montana University System’s signature student success initiative. She received her BA in English from Carroll College and her MA in English from the University of Oregon.



Margaret Montgomery-Richard | Principal of DMM & Associates

Margaret Montgomery-Richard, Ph.D. educator, community leader, and business owner, served as Chancellor of Louisiana Technical College (LTC), one college with 40 campuses, during Katrina. Dr. Montgomery-Richard is a PEP coach for Complete College America and a principal with DMM and Associates, LLC, a woman-owned, Louisiana-based firm specializing in creating high-performance organizations through human capital strategies. Before she was appointed Chancellor, Dr. Montgomery-Richard served as Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Services of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), Provost of Delgado Community College City Park Campus, Dean of Workforce Development and Education, Assistant to two college Presidents and an adjunct faculty member. During this post-Katrina era, she utilizes her expertise to help organizations assess their organizational, cultural, management, and leadership challenges to develop strategic solutions to rebuild their core business and workforce needs.

Dr. Montgomery-Richard holds a B.A. in Marketing from Southeastern Louisiana University, a Master of Public Administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of New Orleans. She has a Management and Leadership in Education certificate from Harvard Graduate School.



Dr. Brandon Protas | Assistant Vice President for Alliance Engagement, Complete College America

Brandon Protas, Ed.D. serves as the Assistant Vice President for Alliance Engagement with Complete College America (CCA). He leads management of the CCA Alliance Teams as well as acceleration of CCA student success strategies. Brandon contributes to policy and advocacy of college completion and equity-focused efforts while leading regional and national projects to implement and scale strategies across states, systems, and institutions. This includes the design, coordination, and facilitation of trainings, workshops, and technical assistance. Additionally, he promotes the work of CCA through content creation and dissemination of national publications. Brandon oversees the Momentum pillar of strategies which includes Credit for Competency, Multiple Measures, Corequisite Support, Dual Enrollment, and 15 to Finish / Stay on Track. Brandon is passionate about education as a public good to improve society and to transform individual lives. Brandon holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, a Master of Social Work from Arizona State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.



Connie Richardson | Independent Consultant

Connie Richardson is an independent consultant recently retired from the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin. At the Dana Center, she served as Manager of Mathematics Course Services for the Higher Education Team, overseeing the development and continuous improvement of math pathways courses. She also supported development of professional learning for a variety of education stakeholders related to math pathways and corequisite implementation. Before joining the Dana Center, Connie taught mathematics at the high school, community college, and university levels and led initiatives to provide professional learning services to K–12 pre-service and in-service teachers. Her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Mathematics Education, was earned at the University of North Texas.



Laura M. Schueller, Ph.D. | Northwest Strategy Director, Complete College America

For the last year, Dr. Schueller has served as the Northwest Strategy Director at Complete College America (CCA) and is focused on structural strategies.

Dr. Schueller received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Pennsylvania State University and her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky.

Before coming to CCA, in addition to her more than 30 years of classroom experience including her 15 years as a tenured faculty member, Dr. Schueller focused on the development, implementation and iteration of projects on equitable placement practices, precollege math reform, curriculum alignment, mathematics corequisites, and doing transformational work within the Guided Pathways framework with community colleges in Washington at both the college and state level.