



Work and Life Skills Boot Camp

Who am I? Where am I going? How will I get there?

Friday, November 13, 2020, 10am-3:30pm

On Zoom

A G E N D A

10:00-10:10 am Welcome Remarks

- **Mick Weltman, Executive Director, Associated Colleges of Illinois**
- **Dr. Jamel Santa Cruz Wright, President, Eureka College**
- **Leslie Joan Millenson, Director, Special Projects, Associated Colleges of Illinois**
- **Cindy Morales, Manager, Operations & Research, Associated Colleges of Illinois**

10:10-10:50 am Beyond Critical Thinking: Workplace Uses of Your Liberal Arts Education

How do academics and co-curricular experiences translate into workplace-competencies?

How can you use your liberal arts degree after college? This session considers how liberal arts education interacts with a satisfying career, why employers often value liberal arts graduates, and how to leverage the workplace competencies that a liberal arts education provides.

Nancy E. Arnesen, PhD, Professor of English, North Park University, teaches classes in Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature, as well as interdisciplinary writing and research courses. Among her courses are a freshman seminar on Chicago neighborhoods and a research seminar entitled "Applied Liberal Arts," on which today's workshop is based. Professor Arnesen holds a BA from Wheaton College, an MA from Northern Illinois University, and a PhD in Renaissance English Literature from Northwestern University.

10:50-11:30 am Creating Your Career Path Toolbox: The Experience You Need to Succeed in College and Beyond

How do you build a portfolio of experiences while you are in college? What group activities, leadership positions, jobs, coursework and projects might you explore in college that can be used to create a resume for entry level work?

Melissa Muth Martinez, Academic Success Coordinator at Dominican University, is campus coordinator for ACI's Peer Mentoring Program, supporting the success of more than 30 students in the program. She also assists students who need additional supports and, as a 2020-2021 Willenborg Civic Learning Faculty Fellow, she is developing a course on ethical and equitable leadership. Previously, Muth Martinez worked at Oakton Community College as a key resource for non-traditional students pursuing continuing education. She also co-led Oakton's efforts to increase awareness and support for undocumented students and to promote a more inclusive,

equity-focused culture. A lifelong learner, Latina and adoptee, Muth Martinez is passionate about relationship building and leadership development. She earned her master's degree in Higher Education Leadership and bachelor's in communications and Latin American and Latino studies at DePaul University. She is currently working on her master's of social work at Dominican.

Maria I. Gutierrez, Associate Director of Career Development and Student Success at Dominican University, is a passionate and dedicated higher education leader with more than 10 years of experience focusing on students' success and career goals. Gutierrez is committed to Dominican's goal for each of its students: to develop a four-year plan incorporating everything from career interests to academic courses, internships, volunteer opportunities and a variety of other experiences to help students succeed. She has always been very involved in and helped lead work supporting Daca-mented and undocumented students and does so currently as co-advisor of the Undocumented & Immigrant Alliance (UIA). Gutierrez earned her master's degree in educational leadership with a concentration in higher education at Northeastern Illinois University.

11:30-12:45 pm

***Creating Your Career Path Toolbox:
Tools for Career Development***

Explore the fundamentals of building a confident professional image using tools and insights from Upkey. This session will cover building a professional social image, the importance of building social capital, and the attitude to bring with you into an interview.

Emmanuel Ndifor, Head of Growth, Upkey, is a passionate entrepreneur and advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, working to afford all students equal opportunity to experience professional opportunities that further their own passions. Ndifor's extensive experience with and understanding of startup culture, venture capital and digital marketing define his life's work. As a member of Upkey's leadership team, Ndifor led the company to raise \$2 million in seed funding. Now, by helping create scalable programs and partnerships, he is driving Upkey's growth toward a critical second round of funding. A native of Cameroon (Central Africa), Ndifor earned an MBA from Concordia University Chicago. Prior to joining Upkey, he founded RIVmarketing, a digital marketing firm for small and mid-sized business, and provided marketing consulting for various universities and for scalable Ed-Tech career development tools.

Upkey, a Chicago-based startup that bills itself as the world's first student incubator, offers students a web-based, interactive service supporting their professional success and dramatically improving their chances of career placement after graduation. The hallmark of Upkey's success is the engaging and gamified nature of its services powered by AI, making it scalable and easy for students to create their resume, build elevator pitches, and work on their personal brand.

1:30 -2:20 pm

Panel: Becoming

How did the labels "low-income, first-generation or student of color" mark the experience of early career professionals? How did they take ownership of that identity while in college and after graduation, and how did they find their career path and achieve their goals?

Moderator

Jessica Brown, MEd, Dean of Students Services, Engagement, and Leadership & Director of Residence Life, Eureka College, provides oversight for the Residents Assistant staff, First Generation Program, Internal & External Retention Program. A first-generation college graduate, Brown also serves as Eureka's live-in crisis professional staff, Campus Coordinator for ACI's Peer Mentoring Program, and the college's Title IX Coordinator, committed to creating a more equitable and safe campus. A rising leader in both higher education and athletics, began her career at Eureka College in 2014, serving as the Head Woman's Volleyball Coach and the Senior Woman's Administrator for two seasons. An alumna of Western Michigan University, Brown was a starter for that school's Division I volleyball team. After graduation, she returned to Western Michigan University as the Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach. In addition to experience with higher education and athletics, Brown also enjoys giving back to the community, serving at the Boys and Girls Club, mentoring young Black girls, and serving at the YWCA. She is currently seeking her PhD in higher education administration at Illinois State University.

Panelists

- **Cindy Morales, Manager, Operations & Research, Associated Colleges of Illinois**, Augustana College '17, Concordia University Chicago '20
- **Emmanuel Ndifor, Head of Growth, Upkey**, MBA, Concordia University Chicago '18
- **Jorge Palacios, Financial Representative, Northwestern Mutual**, Concordia University Chicago '19
- **Le'Anthony Reasnover, Behavioral Health Technician and Patient Care Assistant**, Eureka '19
- **Denzel Woodall, Student, Cleveland Chiropractic College '21**, Augustana College '17

2:30-3:20

Building Credit

Credit is fundamental to good financial health and knowing how credit works and why can build your confidence as you plan for life during and after college.

Heatherlen Lewis-Heath, Officer, Financial Sales Consultant, PNC Bank, has been with PNC's Organizational Financial Wellness team for five of her eight years with the bank. She has worked in both the Wisconsin and Chicago markets as PNC's Corporate WorkPlace Banking Financial Sales Consultant. She enjoys working with diverse company partnerships, helping their employees achieve their financial goals. In her down time, Lewis enjoys creating new food dishes to try out on the family, road trips and gardening.

James Osowski, VP Organizational Financial Wellness, Financial Wellness Consultant, PNC Bank started his career in banking 25 years ago and has been with PNC Bank for more than nine years in various roles. Currently, as a Financial Wellness Consultant in PNC's Organizational Financial Wellness, he enjoys helping individuals reach their personal financial goals and aspirations. Osowski was a Circle of Excellence winner at PNC Bank in 2019 and a Marker All-Star in 2018 and 2019. Throughout the year, Osowski enjoys all sorts of sports, but especially 16-inch softball in Chicago.

The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC) is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States with assets of \$459 billion as of June 30, 2020. With employees in more than 40 states across the country; regional presidents in 41 markets; a retail branch network located in markets across the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Southeast; and strategic international offices in four countries outside the U.S., PNC is organized around its customers and communities for building strong relationships and is engaged in retail banking, including residential mortgage, corporate and institutional banking, and asset management, providing many of its products and services nationally.

3:20-3:30

Wrap-up

- **Leslie Millenson, Director, Special Projects, Associated Colleges of Illinois**