



Georgia Tech
Academic Advisors
Network

Focusing on a Growth Mindset



GEORGIA TECH ACADEMIC ADVISORS NETWORK

BEST PRACTICES

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

May 22 | 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM

John Lewis Student Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

2023 BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE

Focusing on a Growth Mindset

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

May 22, 2023

8:00AM REGISTRATION OPENS / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & COFFEE

9:15AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO CONFERENCE | ATLANTIC THEATER

Adrienne Hillman, GTAAN President

9:30AM KEYNOTE | ATLANTIC THEATER

Dr. Sarah Kyte, University of Arizona

10:45AM CONCURRENT SESSION GROUP #1

11:45AM CONCURRENT SESSION GROUP #2

12:30PM LUNCH | OPEN LOUNGE AREA

1:45PM CONCURRENT SESSION GROUP #3

Affinity Groups

2:45PM CONCURRENT SESSION GROUP #4

3:30PM NETWORKING | OPEN LOUNGE AREA

4:15PM CONFERENCE CONCLUDES



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:30AM | Atlantic Theater



DR. SARAH KYTE

*Senior Research Scientist, Student Success & Retention Innovation
University of Arizona*

Sarah Kyte, PhD, is leading a responsive, action-driven, and rigorous portfolio of research and partnerships focused on supporting student success.

As a sociologist of education, her research takes a holistic view of the practices and policies that support student success with a focus on student persistence in college and within majors, effective strategies for bringing data-driven tools to practice, and equity for underserved groups.

Her team recently won the 2021 Institutional Research Leadership Award from the National Symposium for Student Retention for their paper detailing role of data-driven and student-centered research in coalition-building to revise UArizona's academic eligibility policy. Dr. Kyte earned her PhD and MA in Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in Sociology from Villanova University.

BEST PRACTICES SESSION SCHEDULE

CONCURRENT SESSIONS GROUP #1

10:45AM

PEACHTREE | NOT ANOTHER EMAIL: SHORT FORM VIDEOS AS A TOOL FOR ADVISING

Tim Brown, Antwuan Holloway, and Ishmela Lyons-Uko | Georgia Tech

Launched in 2016, TikTok is a user-content-driven app used to facilitate media sharing on different subjects that are created by these users for consumption by a wider audience. This is in the format of short-form videos – videos that do not exceed 10 minutes in length. In December 2022, TikTok exceeded 1 billion users. Its exponential growth has a large impact on the tech arena, inspiring some in the tech realm – YouTube as well as Meta and its subsidiaries – to adopt similar functionalities within their applications.

So, what can TikTok and short-form videos teach us about effective communication? How can the technologically challenged or averse advising practitioner create and utilize short-form videos to introduce information and measure engagement within their populations?

This interactive presentation will engage in the following topics:

- An overview of wellness issues as it relates to task management at work
- Survey of established communication methods and their opportunities
- Review of TikTok and short-form videos as a part of the new media revolution
- How a higher education practitioner can utilize tools they are already familiar with to generate short-form videos
- Measuring engagement after short-form videos have been created

PIEDMONT | THE CONTINGENCY PLAN: BECAUSE LIFE HAPPENS TO ADVISORS TOO

Ashlee Hill and Karen Carlos | Morehouse College

Advising is a demanding job and students expect access to us as much as possible. As we combat the hundreds of issues students face while at our institution, do we ever stop to think about what happens when life also happens to advisors? Do we abandon our duties and responsibilities or create a plan to continue to meet the needs of our students in our absence? In this presentation learn how to design a contingency plan for your advising position that focuses on self-care, time management and cross-training so that when life happens to you, your students are still serviced.

NORTHSIDE | YOU CAN SIT WITH US: A GUIDE TO ADVISING DIVERSE POPULATIONS THROUGH INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

Kayla Whitter | Agnes Scott College

This interactive session will discuss how becoming an inclusive leader allows us to support college students through the undergraduate to professional pipeline, while also touching on topics related to developing stronger relationships with colleagues. Participants will have the opportunity to consider their own identities, and ways in which they can use those identities to support others with both similar or different perspectives. Whether you work with students, administrators, faculty, or anyone in-between, this session is for you!

PIEDMONT | CHANGE YOUR WORDS, CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

Brandon Pottebaum, John Carter, and Cheyenne Jones | Georgia Tech

Transitioning to college for young people can be extremely challenging without the right mindset, especially when considering an Institution with the academic rigor such as Georgia Tech. Student-athletes may encounter a compounded effect on their transition struggles as they balance athletic obligations coupled with a full-time course load. The mounting pressure to execute in their respective sport, in addition to performing well academically can be stress inducing. Along with that stress comes a mindset fixated on settling for less than what may be achievable. However, to become Everyday Champions, student-athletes must shift from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset to tackle life after sport and produce results both on and off the field. The goal of this presentation is to share our departmental perspectives on implementing a growth mindset into our student-athlete support practices.

TECHWOOD | SUPPORTING EXPLORING STUDENTS

Nicole Leonard, Devoni Williams, and Emmie Cass | Georgia Tech

The transition from high school to college, or even from one institution of higher learning to another, is filled with plans and opportunity. This time is also filled with choice. As students navigate the curricular requirements of their major of choice, some realize that reality does not align with their academic expectations. In such situations, students are presented with a choice that may impact the trajectory of the remainder of the academic journey. This is where exploratory advising, a reflective process that aligns students' interests, skills, goals, and passions, can bridge the gap between perception and reality.

Join Exploratory Advising at Georgia Tech as we outline the methods we use to assist with the process of supporting students through a reflective process that aligns their interests, skills, goals, and passions as they explore aspects of their academic identity. This includes providing advising services - both individual and group - & programming to students considering a change of major, seeking assistance in major or minor exploration, seeking aid in career exploration, and those referred for help identifying or considering new academic paths.

NORTHSIDE | TEACH US HOW TO LEAD AND ADVISE YOU

Vantrell Mainor | Savannah State University

Advisors can become so used to wearing different hats in our advisement sessions with students. Those hats include 'leader', 'coach', 'advising expert'; yet how often do we approach our sessions wearing the 'learner' hat? Most of the students we serve on our college campuses are Generation Z; therefore, their perspective of the world, life, and education, in many aspects differs from prior generations. This is the advisor's opportunity to become the 'student' in the advisement sessions, as we learn more about the students we serve. This session will explore the viewpoints that our students have about various subject matter, thus, sharpening and diversifying our advising approaches as well as cultivating healthy intergenerational dialogue.

PEACHTREE | IT TAKES A VILLAGE: HOW CAN WE HELP STUDENTS BE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR PURSUIT OF CO-OPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Andrea Comsa and Iteeah Pounds | Georgia Tech

The presentation's objective is to equip faculty and staff with a variety of tools to support students in their search for co-ops and internships. The participants will engage in facilitated discussion about resources available to help students identify co-op and internship opportunities and the benefits of students, advisors, and faculty engaging with their campus career center. We will also share insights into the current job market, best practices, and ways to collaborate with the career center when assisting students in their search for these experiences.

PIEDMONT | TRANSFER STUDENTS

Chris Lundy, Academic Advising Manager | School of Aerospace Engineering | Georgia Tech

TECHWOOD | ADVISING FOR EDUCATION ABROAD

Ashlee Toomey-Flinn, Director of On-Campus Internationalization | Georgia Tech

PEACHTREE | FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

Dr. Charmaine Troy, Associate Director of First-Generation Student Initiatives | Georgia Tech

NORTHSIDE | SELF CARE & WELLNESS FOR ADVISORS

Fran Baumgartner, M.Ed., LPC | Center for Mental Health Care & Resources | Georgia Tech

Shiraz Karaa, LPC, CPCS | Center for Mental Health Care & Resources | Georgia Tech

PIEDMONT | HOW TO IMPROVE ADVISING & COACHING RAPPORT AND OUTCOMES THROUGH INTERIOR DESIGN

Anna Traykova | Georgia Tech

Improve your advising outcomes by setting the stage right: learn how to design your advising space for building optimal rapport, trust and openness that lead to positive change for students. This session presents the core of the findings of my research into the effect of the physical space on the advising interaction; it entailed a qualitative phenomenographic study through semi-structured interviews with incoming freshman and transfer students and comprehensive literature review. Participants will enhance their understanding of what makes an advising space work for both.

TECHWOOD | USING DISCORD TO ENGAGE STUDENTS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY

Meg Sonstroem | Georgia Tech

With more than 150 million people using Discord actively every month, students can be found in large numbers on this new-ish social media site. The exchange program at Georgia Tech started using this as a community-building tool in the Spring of 2023 – inviting students about to go, those who are currently out, and past students to join. In this session you will have the opportunity to learn more about Discord, how to use it and set one up, and tips and tricks on how to engage your students on the platform.

PEACHTREE | GROWTH MINDSET: WHY IT MATTERS TO STUDENTS AND HOW ADVISORS CAN FOSTER GROWTH

Crystal Cooper and Aimee Dowd | University of Georgia

“I’m premed, but I don’t want to take chemistry. It’s too hard!” “I want to be a journalist, but I’m an introvert.” “I hardly had to study in high school to get an A.” Does this sound familiar? As an advisor, chances are you have encountered students who do not believe their abilities, interests, and personality can develop or change. Dr. Carol Dweck called this static view of ability a fixed mindset. Students who believe they can improve their knowledge and skills possess a growth mindset. We contend that advisors are able to help students cultivate a growth mindset in order to blossom into more creative and resilient learners.

BEST PRACTICES EVALUATIONS & FEEDBACK

SESSION EVALUATIONS

https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1K0pba82Pj60h3o

Please take a moment to evaluate the sessions that you attended today and provide feedback to presenters.

GTAAN BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE EVALUATION

https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4HuLqUlmkSAph4

How did we do? Please take this brief survey to provide feedback on your experience with GTAAN's 2023 Best Practices Conference. Your feedback will help us in planning and hosting future Best Practices events.

Help us in our efforts to reduce waste from today's event!

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR MAGNETIC NAME TAG HOLDER
BEFORE LEAVING THE CONFERENCE TODAY**

Drop it off in one of the return baskets on your way out.



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