



CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Rising Tides: Benefits of Work-Life Practices Across Higher Education

Deadline for submission: January 18, 2017

About the theme

This year's conference theme is centered on inclusive practices in higher education that support us throughout our lives. At a time when campuses are concerned about budget cuts, technological advancements, job outsourcing, work intensification, and returns on investment, we need to focus on the benefit of strong policies and practices to guide our work and enhance our lives.

This theme is appropriate for the 23rd Annual CUWFA Conference as we consider opportunities for collaboration, service, and sustainable change. The focus of this conference is practices that reach beyond barriers to support the needs of the entire campus community. This conference will provide attendees with information that encourages creativity for solving problems, determination for meeting goals, and persistence in providing strategies for care of self, family, and professional work.

This conference will showcase work-life professionals' strengths in sharing knowledge, strategies, experiences, and innovations, alongside excellent work-life researchers and thought leaders who will continue to invigorate and sustain us through ideas for the future.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

The following streams are designed to help stimulate creative thinking about ways to bridge the gap between inspiration and practice. They are written to provide ideas and to invite you to submit a proposal, rather than to exclude or narrow the scope of this conference.

Expanding Employee Wellbeing

A broader definition of wellbeing defines our work as it addresses individual, interpersonal, community, and organizational factors that influence health and success for employees, employers and universities. Proposals that address these and other related topics are sought: supportive organizational cultures/climates of wellbeing; effective communication; health and wellness initiatives; supportive work-life resources; flexible work options; sustainability practices; financial security; mindful approaches; and the business case for employee wellbeing initiatives.

Considering a Campus-Wide Approach

There is an upward trend toward campus-wide initiatives that move beyond traditional employee-based initiatives. This provides opportunities for universities to expand their reach and recognition for holistic approaches that work for everyone. Proposals are sought on topics

including, but not limited to: initiatives that provide students with opportunities to learn about work-life through courses, internships, and workshops; collaboration on campus and in the community; funding (how to find and secure grants, how to leverage funds and combine budgets); campus- and/or system-wide initiatives; mentoring programs; engaging retirees; flexibility initiatives; leadership development; expanding policies and programs (paid family leave, childcare, lactation, dual career, eldercare, retirement); inclusion and diversity opportunities; connecting with millennials; safety responses; and working on decentralized campuses.

Establishing an Effective Work-Life Culture

As the landscape of higher education continues to evolve to accommodate changing student and employee demographics, technological advancements, and societal demands, it is critical that institutions continue to invest in changes that support their entire campuses. This stream could be addressed through proposals that focus on these and other related topics: how to change university culture; developing effective strategic plans; engaging leadership; recognizing burnout; supporting future leaders; and expanding/redefining work-life options.

Successful presentations will address innovative developments, best practices, and the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to enable work-life professionals to integrate their programs into higher education to help lead and grow organizations that are vital, dynamic and responsive.

Collaborations across institutions are highly encouraged and vendors are required to submit joint proposals with a CUWFA member organization. Work-life practitioners, researchers, human resource professionals, women's commissions, faculty, staff and students are welcome to submit proposals. **Sessions will be held Wednesday, May 10 through Friday, May 12, 2017.**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 18, 2017

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: February 2017

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION REVIEW AND SELECTION

- Clarity and coherence of submission
- Relevance and usefulness to the intended audience, e.g.:
 - Specific practical sessions (e.g., problem-solving, implementation, etc.)
 - Research-based/data-driven sessions
- Presentation approach and level of participant engagement in the session
- Contribution to scholarship and research and/or new innovative practice(s) in the work-life arena
- Relevance to the conference theme and a specific stream as outlined in this Call for Proposals
- Overall quality of proposal
- Extent to which proposal captures emerging trends in research and practice

- Extent to which process, project, or innovation can be replicated or modified by other post-secondary institutions

Please note: We expect to select up to eighteen outstanding sessions for the three-day conference. A workshop proposal may satisfy conference criteria, but it may not be selected due to the limited number of scheduled workshops. Presentations must be educational and not a platform for product or service promotion.

Conference proposals will consist of six parts:

- A short session title,
- A sentence indicating the stream with which your proposal is aligned,
- The amount of time (60-75-90 minutes) needed for you to deliver your workshop/seminar,
- A brief session description suitable for the conference program (150 words maximum),
- A longer abstract that includes session goals (350 words maximum), and
- Presenter bios (150 words per person maximum).

Your proposal should be clear and concise. Reviewers will look favorably upon proposals that:

1. Offer theories, research findings, practical models, and/or strategies that reflect one of the conference theme/subthemes and have proven effective,
2. Are innovative and interactive, and
3. Identify the intended audience and goals for the session (including what attendees will gain from going to the session).

Submit your Conference Proposal by email to vancourm1@southernct.edu. You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received.

Not sure about submitting a proposal?

If you would like to discuss ideas or questions about proposals, topics, collaborations, or the submission timeline, please contact Michele Vancour (vancourm1@southernct.edu). Michele will be happy to discuss your questions.

Condition of Acceptance

The CUWFA 2017 Conference Committee will require electronic copies of workshops and seminar presentations via an attachment to email ***no later than Friday, March 18, 2017***. Email your presentations to Michele Vancour (vancourm1@southernct.edu). All presentations will be available to participants on-line. By submitting a Conference Proposal presenters are agreeing to this condition.

Session Formats

There are three session formats from which to choose: (1) workshop*, (2) seminar*, and (3) 25-minute* roundtable discussion (*repeated twice during 60 minute World Café session).

* This year we are offering proposers the opportunity to select the amount of time preferred for either a workshop or seminar. It is expected that 15 minutes will be included in the total time to allow participants ample opportunities for questions and discussion. *As possible, preferred times will be honored for accepted proposals as long as they can be accommodated in the schedule.*

Please select the format that will best facilitate participants' understanding and potential use of your work. One way to effectively engage participants across the different formats is to have them explore ways to apply your information and resources to their own institutional settings.

Please note that the Conference Program Committee may need to renegotiate your session format/time frame as the final conference program is finalized.

Workshop (60-75-90 minutes)

Workshops provide participants an opportunity to engage the facilitators and each other in learning about the session topic and applying it to their unique situations. It is suggested that workshops should begin with a brief framing of an issue, theory, model, or process and include data, benchmarks and challenges, practical examples, and evidence that you and the participants can then use to examine and discuss the topic. If you are sharing a campus-based project, provide an opportunity for workshop participants to apply the concepts to their situations. For example, if your work takes place at a research university, please facilitate discussion among participants as to how community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and comprehensive institutions might adapt your work to account for institutional differences. If your work is better suited to a particular type of institution, please make that clear.

Seminar (60-75-90 minutes)

These sessions should allow time to provide research findings or overview of a model, time minutes to discuss practical applications, and time minutes for participant discussion/questions. Research information or models of institutional reform or assessment can stimulate creative problem-solving discussions. Data, findings, and application should be presented in ways that are accessible to participants and allow them to engage in a discussion about the implications of your findings. Models might be presented visually as well as verbally and include strategies for implementation.

Roundtable Discussion/World Café Format (25 minutes; roundtables of 8-10 participants; no audio-visual)

Roundtables are focused around a topic with facilitated discussions among colleagues. They provide a valuable forum to network and reflect upon important topics in an informal setting. Roundtable discussions may range from a new area or initiative related to a conference theme to sharing best practices for replication.