



Your weekly update about NISOD's great resources, informative publications, and best practices!



August, 31 2017

NISODirect

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*You are receiving this email because your college is a member of the **National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)**. NISOD is a consortium of community and technical colleges committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.*

We send our best wishes to everyone affected by Hurricane Harvey. The Texas Association of Community Colleges maintains a [web page](#) with updated information about impacted Texas Community Colleges, as well as a list of organizations providing help to people affected by the hurricane.

Learn More About the Inaugural Virtual Conference!



NISOD is excited to announce its inaugural virtual conference, consisting of eight, 50-minute sessions presented by leading experts in professional development for full- and part-time community and technical college faculty members. [Learn more here.](#)

In "**Using Icebreakers to Build Community**," **Colleen Thomas**, Faculty, Mathematics, Davidson County Community College (NC), offers strategies for creating a sense of community starting with the first day of class.

Join the Conversation!

What icebreakers have you found helpful in the classroom? Tell us in the *Innovation Abstracts* comment section or on **Facebook!**

Sign Up for Next Week's Webinar



Register now for next Thursday's webinar, "**Social Presence in Online Learning: A Critical Literacy for Effective Online Experiences**," with facilitators **Aimee L. Whiteside** and **Amy Garrett Dikkers**. This webinar addresses the importance of human connection in online learning and provides participants several easy-to-implement strategies to enhance social presence. Join us online next Thursday, September 7, at 1 p.m. CDT.

[Register Now!](#)

#NISOD2018 Call for Presentations

NISOD invites you to submit a presentation proposal for a breakout session, roundtable discussion, or a three-hour pre-conference seminar that addresses important issues facing today's community and technical colleges.

You asked and we listened! NISOD is excited to announce new tracks for its **International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence**:

- Career and Technical Education, Apprenticeships, and Internships
- College Readiness, Remediation, ESL, and First-Generation Students
- Competency-Based Education and Other Alternate Credentialing Strategies
- Contemporary and Progressive Teaching, Counseling, and Advising Strategies
- Emerging Issues and Trends at Community and Technical Colleges
- Entrepreneurship, Strategic Alliances, and Collaborations
- Evidence and Inquiry, Predictive Analytics, and Other Data Considerations
- Faculty Hiring, Development, Support, and Governance
- Guided Pathways and Other Completion and Transfer Efforts
- Improving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Libraries, Makerspaces, Fablabs, and Other Active-Learning Sites
- Using Technology to Improve Student and Organizational Outcomes



If you feel inspired to present next year, our **Call for Presentations** is open and ready for submissions. We look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Student Graphic Design and Essay Contests Open!

Beginning **September 1, 2017**, students at NISOD member colleges are invited to submit entries for



SCOTT WRIGHT STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Three winning students each will receive a \$1,000 and a trip to Austin, Texas. The faculty members, staff members, or administrators featured in the winning essays also will receive a \$1,000 and a trip to Austin, Texas. Each winning student author's college receives a complimentary 2018-2019 NISOD membership. [Learn more here.](#)



The winning student receives \$1,000, international recognition, five poster-size copies of their winning artwork, and a trip to Austin, Texas. The winning student's college receives a complimentary 2018-2019 NISOD membership. [Learn more here.](#)

Best Practices

Each week, we provide links to news stories about best practices happening at community and technical colleges:

[Great Expectations Helps Foster Children Earn Degree, Training at Community Colleges](#)

[Community College Gives Elementary Students a Glimpse of the Future](#)



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