

South Carolina Association for Institutional Research



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SCAIR Website:

<http://www.clemson.edu/oir/SCAIR/SCAIRHome.htm>

To Register:

http://www.clemson.edu/oir/SCAIR/SCAIR_Registration_Form.pdf

Conference Agenda

MONDAY, February 28, 2011

Noon-2:00 Registration
2:00-4:30 Pre-Conference Workshops

TUESDAY, March 1, 2011

8:00-9:00 Registration and Breakfast
9:00-10:00 Welcome and Speaker
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15- 11:30 Concurrent Sessions
11:30-1:00 Lunch and Business Meeting
1:00-2:15 Concurrent Sessions
2:20-3:35 Concurrent Sessions
3:35-3:45 Break
3:45-5:00 Concurrent Sessions
5:00 Conference Concludes

Pre-Conference Workshops

Title: The Gen Ed Journey: Surviving Changing Tides
Presenters: Cathy Almquist, *Trident Technical College*,
Susan Norton, *Trident Technical College*,
Brian Mallory, *University of South Carolina Upstate*,
Sheryl Turner-Watts, *University of South Carolina Upstate*

Title: Just Enough to be Dangerous: Basic Statistics for the Non-Statistician
Presenter: Nancy Floyd, *University of South Carolina*

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Christopher Coogan



Christopher S. Coogan is Chief of Staff and Director of the Data and Decisions® Academy at the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). He has oversight for contracts and grants, IT, and serves on the senior leadership team. In this role he leads the Association’s training programs for IR officers at two-year institutions, the national training program for IPEDS reporters, grants to support research and dissertations, and other AIR membership services.

Previously, Christopher served as Associate Director of the University of Florida’s Institute of Higher Education and Assistant Editor of the *Florida Journal of Educational Administration and Practice* (FJEAP).

Pre-Conference Workshops

Monday, February 28

2:00-4:30

Just Enough to Be Dangerous: Basic Research for the Non-Statistician (1st floor Zenith Lab)

Presenter:

Nancy Floyd, Assistant Director, Institutional Assessment and Compliance, University of South Carolina

This workshop will cover basic principles of research design and statistics for Institutional Research practitioners who do not have a statistics or other research-related educational background. At the end of the workshop, participants will be better consumers and producers of data. Software will be limited to Excel. Topics to be covered will include the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics, the use and misuse of scales of measurement, effect sizes, assumptions about your data and what happens when we assume, how regression analysis can be like an abusive relationship, and what dashboards will not do for you. This workshop is not sufficient to replace a proper series of coursework in elementary research methodology and statistics; it is only meant to familiarize the attendee with basic terminology and procedures used in education and other social science research.

The Gen Ed Journey: Surviving Changing Tides (Room JK)

Presenters:

Cathy Almquist—Director, Institutional Research and Assessment—Trident Technical College
Susan Norton – Assistant Vice President of Academic Programs—Trident Technical College
Brian Mallory—Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance—USC Upstate
Sheryl Turner-Watts—Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Business Affairs—USC Upstate

The call for increased accountability has driven the move from course-specific general education student learning outcomes to broader competencies that incorporate learning from multiple disciplines aimed at helping students develop the general skills necessary to meet their educational and employment goals. Through discussion and hands-on activities, participants will learn how to foster the evolution of general education competencies and curriculum on their campuses and implement best practices in competency assessment. Attendees will also participate in a discussion of the future of general education in South Carolina, focusing on the connection between 2-year and 4-year schools.

SCAIR Concurrent Sessions

Tuesday, March 1

10:15-11:30

Community College Student Persistence Study

(Room JK)

Presenter: **Mary Beth Schwartz**, York Technical College

Student persistence, whether measured through retention, graduation, and/or transfer rates, has consistently been a key component of most calls for accountability in higher education. There is little reason to believe that it will not continue to be of significant interest to legislators, policy makers, and other relevant stakeholders. While some legitimately debate the accuracy and fairness of persistence measures, others argue that it would benefit both college researchers and practitioners to understand more fully the factors that influence student persistence. The purpose of this session is to present findings from a study that considered community college practices and their influence on student persistence at the institution level. The study included survey responses and IPEDS data for a nationally representative sample of 259 community colleges. Survey respondents were asked to report their implementation of institutional practices in five key policy areas: student orientation, academic advising, course registration, course attendance, and early alert systems. It was hypothesized that implementation of these practices would have a positive influence on student persistence. Quantitative analysis revealed that the institutions implemented the practices at relatively low rates, that larger institutions implemented some of the practices at lower rates than would be expected, and that none of the institutional practices had positive and significant influences on student persistence. The session will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on practices at their own institutions and to discuss implications for both future research and practices.

Why Pay Lots of Money for a Lemon? Go for LimeSurvey

(Room A)

Presenters: **Ginger Beady, Cheryl Fogle, Lloyd Dawe**, University of South Carolina Aiken

LimeSurvey, a free, open source, survey software application was implemented by the USCA Office of Institutional Effectiveness in June 2010 after researching many survey software packages. This session will provide an introduction to the software capabilities, requirements, and a demonstration of how to create a simple survey. LimeSurvey has proven to be an efficient and cost-saving survey tool with features such as conditional questions, ranking questions, slider questions, the ability to email survey invitations and tokens/passwords to participants, as well as the option to create anonymous or non-anonymous surveys.

1:00-2:15

Preparing for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

(Room A)

Presenter: **Martha Moriarty**, University of South Carolina Beaufort

This concurrent session focuses on preparing for a successful reaffirmation of accreditation review. This session will give a general overview of the process of organizing, writing, and submitting the Compliance Certificate and the QEP. The presenter will briefly focus on (1) the compliance certificate and the development of the QEP, (2) what the QEP Lead Evaluator will be looking for during the On-Site Visit and (3) lessons learned and helpful tips and strategies with the participants.

Attendees will be actively engaged in this session via (1) devoted question/answer time at the end of the session, and (2) the formation of an engaged community through an online forum where presenters and attendees continue sharing tips and helpful strategies after the conference.

Preventing Panic in Administration/Enrollment Predictions for Everyone

(Room JK)

Presenter: **Dub Green**, Trident Technical College

Trident Technical College (TTC) began doing enrollment predictions in Spring 2008 and has continued every semester since. After a couple of semesters figuring out the models, they have been able to predict the enrollment within a reasonable margin, 1% or so, consistently for the last 5 semester using Minitab and some easy multiple regression techniques built into Minitab. This session will provide the techniques used, demonstrating that you don't have to be a professional statistician to do this with confidence, just some common sense. By sharing enrollment predictions on the college's intranet and creating a daily enrollment chart tracking registration for the upcoming semester, every department at TTC can see where they are and where they should be for the day and take appropriate action if necessary. For example, marketing can ramp up ads, recruiters can plan more career days at high schools, etc. if enrollments are too low. This has saved the institutional research office the weekly phone calls from administrators requesting this information. Everyone sees the goal and reacts accordingly.

The Grass is always Greener....

OIR Banner Implementation – Similarities and Differences at Two Neighboring Institutions (Room JK)

Panel Presentation: **Lisa Pace**, Citadel and **Michelle Smith**, College of Charleston

Both The Citadel and the College of Charleston began Banner implementations upwards of two years ago with most modules in Banner now considered to be “live.” While Banner is seen as a transaction system meant to replace legacy operations and business processes, the effect downstream to data extraction and reporting are exponential. In all cases, our root IR processes have been rebuilt from scratch. Even so, the desired end results at census remain the same – create CHEMIS and other census files in the required CHE formats. The IR offices at our institutions played similar roles – ranging from advising functional areas on business process redesign to ensuring our CHEMIS and IPEDS reporting needs are still met, to supporting campus-wide data standards and data integrity reporting. There were also some key differences in the implementation of an Operational Data Store, centralized reporting tools using Cognos and Excel, and new roles acquired by IR due to the Banner implementation. This panel will discuss key topics related to similarities and differences in their Banner implementations, key lessons learned and must-haves for IR offices implementing Banner (including staff!), and briefly discuss state-wide initiatives and cooperatives where Banner knowledge and skills can be shared.

A Balanced Scorecard Approach to Strategic Planning

(Room A)

Presenters: **Lloyd Dawe, Cheryl Fogle, Ginger Beady**, University of South Carolina Aiken

Despite significant cut-backs in government appropriations, the call for greater transparency and accountability has never been louder. Institutions must not only make do with less, they must continue to effect and document improvements. To realize greater efficiencies and effectiveness, it is essential that institutions align the activities of their departments and employees with strategic goals and objectives. This session will review the steps that USC Aiken took to implement a true Balanced Scorecard approach to strategic planning. The presentation will highlight the unique Balanced Scorecard Model developed at USC Aiken, and the approach USC Aiken took to ensure alignment of its performance improvement systems.

To Buy or to Build? A Low Budget Answer to the Faculty Credentials Question (Room A)
Presenters: **Cheryl Fogle, Lloyd Dawe, Ginger Beady**, University of South Carolina Aiken

FACDAT, the USC Aiken Faculty Data Interface is a comprehensive multi-semester datamart that serves three primary purposes: to provide information on Faculty Credentials for accreditation purposes, to provide operational support documentation for the Academic Affairs and Human Resources Offices, and to provide credit hour production and faculty load information. This session will discuss how the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness arrived at the decision to build this tool rather than buy something off the shelf to meet various reporting and operational needs. The analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation phases of this project will be reviewed, and will include project ups and downs, technical specifications, and the importance of user feedback.

Modified Net Price Calculator (Room JK)
Presenter: **S. Wickes Westcott III**, Clemson

The National Center for Education Statistics has provided a net price calculator template that may be used by all institutions to meet requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. This template limits possible configurations and may not provide the best estimates for some institutions. This presentation will describe the changes made in the NCES calculator for our institution and a plan for sharing this calculator with other institutions. Anyone who is not satisfied with the current options and those who have experience in web programming and would like to contribute to a collaborative effort are encouraged to attend.

What is SCAIR?

SCAIR, the South Carolina Association for Institutional Research, is the professional society for those across the state who are interested in assessment, planning, and research for higher education. All institutions are represented, public and private, two-year and four-year.

The SCAIR 2011 conference provides the opportunity to network and share knowledge related to the changing needs of data professionals. The conference planning committee made every effort to solicit workshops and presentations to address our multiple interests. In the ever challenging economic times, we have stressed the need to focus on trying to accomplishing our mission with fewer resources. SCAIR is dedicated to innovation, integrity, and information accessibility. We welcome participation from all those interested in improving higher education in South Carolina.

SCAIR Executive Committee and Conference Planning Committee

President:	Jodi Herrin, USC Beaufort
Past President:	Nancy Floyd, USC
Secretary:	Cathy Almquist, Trident Technical College
Treasurer:	Cheryl Fogle, USC Aiken
Members-at-Large:	Sam Bingham, USC Upstate Martha Moriarty, USC Beaufort Nancy James, Clemson Daryl Iverson, Anderson University