

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 2

- 2:00pm-5:30pm **Conference Registration/Check In**
Levis Faculty Center 1st floor lobby

Campus Tours Available
- 5:30-5:50pm **Conference Opening & Welcome**
Levis Faculty Center 2nd floor
- 6:00pm-7:00pm Expressions: *Setting the tone*
Reflection: *Opening up the space*
- 7:30-10:00pm **Dinner Reception**
Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center
Sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College

Saturday, October 3

- 8:00am-2:00pm **Conference Registration**
Levis Faculty Center 1st floor lobby
- 8:30-9:30am **Breakfast**
Levis Faculty Center 3rd floor
- 8:45am **Opening Remarks**
Joseph Johnson, Western Michigan University
NBGSA North Central Regional Representative
- University Welcome**
Nameka Bates
Director, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center
NBGSA Immediate Past President
- State of the Organization Address**
Ivory Berry, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
NBGSA VP for Conference Affairs
- Reflection: *Opening up the Space*
- 10:00- 3:00pm **Graduate School Information Session**
- 10:00- 10:45am **Breakout Session I**
Graduate School 101
Dr. Lynford Goddard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Claiming Identities: Negotiations and Coping Mechanisms
Tiy Goddard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Real Talk: Road to Surviving Graduate School
Dr. Reynaldo Anderson, Harris Stowe State University
- 11:00-12:00pm **Poster Session & Graduate School Information Session**

12:15-1:15pm

Lunch

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Tamekia Wilkins, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign

Keynote Speaker Address- **Dr. James Anderson**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Department of Educational Policy Studies

1:30-2:15pm

Breakout Session II

Real Talk: Road to Surviving Graduate School

Dr. Reynaldo Anderson, Harris-Stowe State University

The Key to Writing: Publications, Manuscripts, and Grants

Dr. Dawn Williams, Howard University

Community Partnerships

Dr. Dave Stovall, University of Illinois at Chicago

2:30-3:15pm

Breakout Session III

Finding your Authentic Center: Spirituality and the Academic Journey

Dr. Mark Giles, Miami University

Graduate School 101

April Warren-Grice, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Claiming Identities: Negotiations and Coping Mechanisms

Shira Truitt, JD, Harris-Stowe State University; Partner, The Truitt Law Firm

3:30- 4:45pm

Town Hall Meeting

5:00-7:30pm

Dinner

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

April Warren-Grice, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Keynote Speaker Address- **Dr. Adrienne Dixson**

The Ohio State University

Integrated Teaching & Learning and African American & African Studies

Closing Remarks & Acknowledgements

Reflections: *Opening up the space*

10:00pm- 2:00am

Kickin' It!!! A Community of Scholar's presents: *Go Hard or Go Home, A Grown and Sexy Affair; A Charitable Event*

207 W. Clark Street, Downtown Champaign

Proceeds to Lincoln's ChalleNGe, the sole school in Illinois dedicated to giving volunteer dropouts a second chance, helping students obtain their GED, continue their education, and/or obtain employment.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Graduate School 101- for Undergraduates

Trying to relieve the anxiety of graduate education? This session will expose undergraduate students to the world of graduate school. Topics such as choosing a graduate program, finding Graduate/Doctoral Assistantships, Fellowships, student expectations, traditional/non-traditional students, graduate organizations, and many other topics will be discussed. Graduate School 101 will give students interested in graduate education an overview of graduate education.

Room Location: Music Room, 2nd Floor

Real Talk: Surviving Graduate School

Is there a difference between surviving undergraduate and graduate school? Many students get this question answered once they are already a few semesters into their graduate education. This session will focus on understanding student and professor expectations, working while in school, maintaining a social life, managing issues graduate students face while pursuing their degree, and discussing the “Real Deal” within graduate education and how to survive.

Room Location: Reading Room, 1st Floor

Writing for a Purpose—Publications, Manuscripts, and Grants

Writing is essential to graduating. In this session students will gain tips and a more in-depth view of the purpose of writing. Whether it's APA, MLA, or any other writing format, this session will help students develop their writing skills and understand the importance of “Writing for a Purpose”.

Room Location: Room 404, 3rd Floor

Community Partnerships- Dave Stovall

Are you working with the community? Are you a member of any organizations on your campus? This session will provide students the opportunity to learn the importance of developing and sustaining a relationship with community members. You will also gain knowledge on whom and how to establish the relationships.

Room Location: Music Room, 2nd Floor

Claiming Identities: Coping Mechanisms in Graduate School

How do students handle the many pressures of graduate education? As future scholars, students must know themselves and learn how to cope with these pressures while in school. This session will provide knowledge on how to keep yourself intact and ways of keeping your identity while mentally fighting the pressures of graduate school.

Room Location: Breakout Session I- Room 404, 3rd Floor; Breakout Session III- Reading Room, 1st Floor

Finding your Authentic Center: Spirituality and the Academic Journey

Throughout the history of Africans in America, self-agency, spirituality, and spiritual interpretations of daily and future events shaped their survival and legacy. The civil rights movement grew from both legal rights and moral rights arguments to advance major social change. Although there are greater degrees of access and equity in American higher education, students of color often find difficulty, not in the actual intellectual challenges of earning a degree, but in successfully navigating through the well-designed maze of curricular, economic, and cultural hegemony. This interactive workshop explores the role and importance of personal spirituality as a central part of any academic journey. We will discuss questions and issues related to the deeper meaning (finding a spiritual center) of academic and career success for graduate students of color.

Room Location: Room 404, 3rd Floor