

**Equitable Dual Enrollment as a Win-Win Strategy:
New Research and Leadership Perspectives on Student Outcomes and Institutional Value**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Time
Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress
Pre-Congress Academy | Chicago, IL

As dual enrollment continues to expand, community college leaders face important questions about quality, impact, and sustainability: *Which program features are associated with stronger student outcomes? What are the long-term education and workforce benefits of participating in dual enrollment? And how can colleges better understand the institutional value of these programs?*

Join researchers, community college leaders, and policy experts for a discussion on what drives equitable and successful dual enrollment programs. The session will feature research funded by the [Dual Enrollment Research Fund](#) on the relationship between program quality and student outcomes, the education and labor market impacts of CTE dual enrollment participation, as well as results from an emerging statewide revenue analysis of dual enrollment programs. Community college and policy leaders will discuss what these findings mean for strategy, practice, and partnerships in the field.

Featured Speakers

Dr. Kirk Overstreet

President

John A. Logan College (Illinois)



Dr. Lisa Peel

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Delaware Technical Community College



Dr. Florence Ran

Associate Professor

University of Delaware



Dr. Meg Bates

Executive Director

IL Workforce and Education Research Collaborative, University of Illinois



Emily Rusca

Director of Policy

Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University

**Chibuzo Ezeigbo** (session organizer)

Senior Program Officer

The Joyce Foundation

**Speaker Bios****Dr. Kirk Overstreet, President, John A. Logan College**

Dr. Kirk Overstreet is the President of John A. Logan College, where he leads with a philosophy rooted in thoughtful, reflective, and intentional leadership. A first-generation college graduate who began his academic journey at a community college, Dr. Overstreet brings a deeply personal understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing today's students.

With over two decades of experience in higher education and workforce development, Dr. Overstreet has held senior leadership roles at institutions including College of DuPage and the University of Illinois at Chicago. His work has spanned strategic enrollment management, dual credit expansion, faculty development, and institutional effectiveness. He is also a seasoned educator, having taught history at Lewis University for more than a decade.

Dr. Overstreet holds a Ph.D. in Organization Development from Benedictine University, an M.A. in History from Ball State University, and a B.A. in History from North Central College. His early career in the electrical construction industry as a journeyman–lineman continues to inform his strong advocacy for career and technical education.

At John A. Logan College, Dr. Overstreet has championed student-centered initiatives, expanded dual credit programs, and innovative scheduling models to improve access and completion. He is a collaborative leader who builds strategic partnerships with K–12 schools, universities, workforce boards, and community organizations.

Dr. Overstreet serves on multiple regional and statewide boards, including Artspace 304, SI Now, the Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board, and the Behavioral Health Workforce Center. He is an active member of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, where he contributes to task forces on competency-based education and equity in procurement.

His scholarship and presentations have been featured at international conferences, focusing on organization development, shared governance, and adjunct faculty support. Dr. Overstreet remains committed to fostering inclusive, data-informed, and community-driven education that empowers students and strengthens Southern Illinois.

Dr. Lisa Peel, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Delaware Technical Community College

Dr. Lisa Peel serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Delaware Technical Community College, where she provides leadership focused on expanding educational access, strengthening pathways, and developing student-centered programming aligned to the needs of Delaware employers and communities. Her work includes initiatives that broaden opportunities for high school students through non-degree and degree programs aligned with career and technical pathways, expand educational opportunities for incarcerated learners, and increase access to baccalaureate education through Delaware Tech's Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education, which was developed in response to Delaware's teacher shortage.

A significant focus of Lisa's career has been building partnerships that help students successfully transition from high school to college and careers. At Delaware Tech, she has advanced dual enrollment partnerships, supported Grow-Your-Own teacher apprenticeship initiatives, and led efforts to strengthen statewide K-12 collaborations.

Meg Bates, Executive Director

Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative, University of Illinois

Dr. Meg Bates is an educational researcher with a deep interest in transforming education so it works for all learners. Before coming to IWERC, Bates spent 11 years developing and researching educational innovations at UChicago STEM Education. Her most notable expertise was in teacher professional learning and educational technology, as she led development and research on the widely-used Everyday Mathematics Virtual Learning Community. Her other R&D work spanned the preK-12 spectrum, including projects in elementary math, financial literacy, early childhood, and science

Bates has served as a leader on numerous federal, foundation, and private grants. She has published extensively on teacher learning, educational technology, and classroom instruction. She holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in educational psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. in English secondary education from Millikin University.

Bates has lived in Illinois her entire life, from her upbringing in Quincy to lengthy stays in Decatur, Champaign, and Chicago. She has taught English and educational psychology and conducted teacher training.

Dr. Florence Ran, Associate Professor, University of Delaware

Dr. Florence Xiaotao Ran is an associate professor specializing in higher education policy in the School of Education at the University of Delaware. She is also a research affiliate with the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research examines how education resources and policies affect student outcomes in postsecondary institutions, particularly in community colleges and the labor market. Recent work looks at the impact of college instructors and remedial education reforms on student success. She has worked closely with higher education institutions, state college systems, and national postsecondary improvement organizations to bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice.

Dr. Ran holds a B.A. in Economics from Renmin University of China, an M.A. in Economic Policy Analysis from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a Ph.D. in Economics and Education from Columbia University.

Emily Rusca, Director of Policy, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University

Since joining the EdSystems team as an Education Pioneers fellow in 2015, Emily's portfolio has spanned the full breadth of EdSystems' focus areas, from college and career pathways to data engagement. She leads the team's state policy portfolio by facilitating interagency and statewide structures, cultivating and managing relationships with state agency partners and fellow policy organizations, exploring national best practices and representing Illinois in cross-state learning opportunities, and collaborating with team members to identify where implementation and innovation work across Illinois can inform new opportunities for effective policy. She holds a bachelor's in international development from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

Chibuzo Ezeigbo, Senior Program Officer, The Joyce Foundation

Chibuzo Ezeigbo is the senior program officer for the Education and Economic Mobility Program at The Joyce Foundation. She leads the Foundation's college and career readiness portfolio, which focuses on policies that enable systems to help students smoothly transition into postsecondary education and career pathways leading to economic mobility.

Chibuzo has a background in quantitative data and research focused on high school transitions. She joined Joyce from the Academy for Urban School Leadership in Chicago, where she was director of data analytics and strategy, leading data initiatives for the organization and overseeing the development and implementation of several data products designed to inform school improvement strategy in more than 30 Chicago Public Schools.

She also previously served as a senior research manager at the University of Chicago Urban Labs, where she developed and managed its postsecondary education research portfolio. She started her career working on K-12 policy in Chicago Public Schools and in the Chicago Board of Education office. Ezeigbo holds a master's degree in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a bachelor's degree in public policy studies from the University of Chicago.