THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT RETENTION

Sponsored by the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange
at the University of Oklahoma

September 29-October 1, 2008

Little Rock, Arkansas

Call for Proposals

Conference Objectives

- Highlight emerging research in higher education that can inform retention efforts at four-year and two-year institutions.

- Showcase successful, effective programs and strategies and best practices of four-year and two-year institutions.

- Promote opportunities for dialog, networking, and shared understanding between colleagues.

- Identify useful research and resources for supporting student success though the entire retention life cycle, from enrollment through graduation.

Areas of Special Interest for Proposals: Ideas for Authors

CSRDE is particularly interested in proposals which address current, evidence based research that advances knowledge in student retention and success fields. Proposals may be submitted for users at introductory, intermediate, or advanced levels of experience. However, authors should be aware that while we will have a few participants that are interested in introductory information, many of our participants are seeking more advanced levels of understanding.

If you are trying to narrow down a topic area on which to write, we'd like to offer some of the following ideas on which there have been requests for information expressed:

- Programs and initiatives for the first year as well as research and initiatives which focus beyond the first year
- The largely unexplored issue of transfers and non-traditional students: issues, problems and strategies to improve their success
- Strategies for maintaining momentum in retention initiatives
- Research which focuses on unique retention issues of small institutions and/or community colleges

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   1 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

- Methodologies for assessment and evaluation of incoming students and cohorts with an eye toward identifying at-risk populations
- Methodologies and data tools for evaluating retention success
- Methodologies for assisting under-prepared students
- Successful institutional initiatives with lessons learned that have broad application
- Financial aid, economic factors and their relation to student success
- Bridging the preparedness gaps - higher education's relationship with K-12
- Building successful early alert systems
- Retention issues related to special populations and specific majors

Conference Paper/Presentation Tracks

I.   Programs and Initiatives

Proposals in this track will discuss innovative programs and institutional initiatives which have been demonstrated to improve student retention and success. New promising programs may be presented with a discussion of preliminary findings. Examples of such programs might include:

- bridge programs
- model advising centers
- early alert programs
- intervention programs (for poor math or English skills)
- learning communities

II.   Transfers and Retention

Proposals in this track will explore a variety of issues related to transfer student retention, at community colleges and/or four year institutions. Topics may include but are not limited to: orientation, preparation, and integration of transfers into campus life, compare and contrast approaches to first-time freshman and the transfer population, examining institutional retention/graduation rates of transfers, and data collection issues.

III.   Looking Beyond the First Year Retention

CSRDE data indicates that the overall percentage of freshmen who do not continue after the second year and subsequent years is often equal to the percentage of students that do not continue after the freshman year. Proposals in this track will discuss what is being done to sustain institutional retention initiatives beyond "First-Year"; research on students that do not persist during or after the second year to better understand this phenomenon, and retention interventions for these students.

IV.   Retention and Special Populations

Continuing the CSRDE tradition of tracking diverse student populations, proposals in this track will address the status of diverse student populations and retention efforts directed toward these groups, including but not limited to: minority students, science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors (STEM) or other academic majors of concern, community college transfers, non-traditional and distance learning students.

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   2 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

V. Data, Technology, and Methods

Proposals in this track will provide presenters with an opportunity to share analytical methods, statistical applications, or technology that is useful in the study of student retention issues. Specific topics of interest could include assessment methodologies for identifying at risk populations, data mining techniques, and evaluation of retention initiatives.

VI. Theoretical Models

These proposals focus on concepts, principles, or relationships between concepts and principles, which affect the student retention life cycle. Examples might include research on theories of engagement, or student perception. Prediction of retention and graduation, and the influence of student, institutional or external variables (economy) would also be examples of topics.

Types of Presentations

I. Papers- presented during 50 minute concurrent sessions

- Papers continue to be the preferred contribution to the National Symposium on Student Retention. One of the reasons for the great success of this conference has been the quality presentations backed by peer reviewed papers. When choosing presentations for the conference program, proposals for papers will be given consideration over the other presentation types. Authors desiring to present a paper are asked first to submit an abstract of no more than 200 words. Once the abstract has been approved, the authors will then be asked to submit a ten page paper. All papers will be peer reviewed and published in the conference proceedings. Detailed instructions on the required format and an example will be e-mailed to authors whose abstracts have been accepted. ***IMPORTANT***: All full papers submitted by July 7, 2008 must be copy ready and in the Conference format. Papers not meeting those requirements will be returned to the authors.

- The format for presenting accepted papers will be an informative session during which the author(s) will discuss their paper. This is not a session where the author "reads" the paper. Typically authors use PowerPoint slides and interactions with the audience to convey the key elements of their paper and findings.

- **NOTE**: All **accepted full papers** will be considered for one of two cash awards that will be presented to the submitting institution at the National Symposium:
  - The CSRDE Best Practices in Student Retention ($2,000)
  - Institutional Research Leadership in Student Retention ($750)
  - Brief papers provided for panels, tutorials, or posters are not eligible for the awards or cash prizes.

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   3 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

II. Panels

- A Panel, consisting of 3-5 people (including the chair). Its purpose is to expose the audience to well researched and reasoned views, programs, or approaches that focus on a common theme, issue, or question related to any of the conference topic areas. It is not uncommon, in the spirit of good academic discourse, for panelists to have opposing perspectives on the issue being discussed.

- Panelists **may not** represent the same institution. This is a requirement. A presentation by institutional colleagues on a joint project is best presented as a paper with multiple authors. Likewise, a panel is not an appropriate venue for a presentation by an exhibitor/vendor and a client using their services. The Exhibitor showcase would be a more appropriate venue for this type of program.

- Panels must provide an opportunity for audience participation. Thus, the panelists should take no more than 30 of the total 50 minutes to make their case and then guide the audience through a discussion and series of questions and answers.

- Panel selection will be based on the importance, originality, focus and timeliness of the topic; expertise of proposed panelists; as well as the potential for informative **AND** controversial discussion.

The Panel chair should provide a 200 word abstract describing the panel topic, the expertise of the panelists, and the general issues that will be highlighted by the panel.

After acceptance, members of the panel have at their discretion one of two options: submitting a brief 3-5 page paper on their portion of the panel presentation or submitting a full 10 page paper. Papers of either size must conform to the conference paper style guide. The Panel Chair is responsible for ensuring that all panel members submit their papers by the deadline. Full papers will be eligible for the CSRDE Best Practices and Institutional Research Leadership cash prizes. Either way, a paper is expected from each panelist for inclusion in the conference proceedings. The Panel Chair is responsible for ensuring that the members of the panel team submit their papers by the deadline.

III. Poster Sessions

Poster sessions are *"show and tell"* sessions presented in exhibit form using a poster board visual display and handout materials. Poster Presenters will man their displays in an "exhibit hall" type session during one hour of the conference specifically dedicated to posters. They should also be prepared to share remarks and informally discuss their presentation topic with other participants. Many posters will be available for review simultaneously during this period and the attendees will be free to move through the exhibits and view one poster after another.   Poster sessions are perfect for the presentation of preliminary findings and conceptual models on which you would like feedback. Participants interested in sharing a poster will need to submit a **200 word**

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   4 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

abstract proposal on the topic and findings to be addressed by the poster. No paper is required.

IV.   Tutorials

Proposals for tutorial sessions are now being accepted. Proposals for tutorials that can be covered during one 50 minute session, or two 50 minute time blocks with a brief break in between will be considered. Tutorials will be presented during the concurrent sessions. Tutorials provide the audience with an opportunity to learn a skill, methodology, procedure, or issue related to the conference topics. Examples of tutorials may include Using Excel and Microsoft Query for manipulating Databases; How to conduct a survey on student satisfaction, etc. **Presenters of a tutorial should submit a 200 word abstract that discusses the topic and the learning objectives**. It should provide a brief description of the activities and plans for audience participation, as well as the amount of time requested (one 50 minute session or two 50 minute sessions). No computers or internet access will be provided for tutorials. You may ask that participants bring their laptops into the session. Once the proposal has been accepted, the Instructor will be required to submit a **neat and brief 3 to 5 page "how to" paper,** which will be included in the conference proceedings and must conform to the conference paper style guide. Note: PowerPoint notes or handouts will not satisfy this requirement.

V.   Other Presentations

- **Pre-Conference Workshops.**   Pre-conference Workshops are intended to enhance the skills and broaden the perspective of their attendees. They should be well organized with specific learning objectives and activities to support the participants in achieving the objectives. Selection of workshops will be selected on the basis of the instructors' qualifications for teaching the proposed Workshop and its coherence with the overall symposium. If you are interested in conducting a pre-conference workshop, please contact Dr. Hayes at csrde@ou.edu.

- **Exhibitor Presentation.** The exhibitor presentation is intended to provide commercial and not-for-profit organizations an opportunity to interact with interested symposium participants. Run during the concurrent sessions this presentation will provide the exhibitor with 50 minutes to highlight the features and benefits of their services, products, or surveys. Please see the exhibitor application for more information.

Guidelines and Deadlines

IMPORTANT: Abstracts due May 23, 2008

Required Abstract Information

All participants interested in proposing a:

- Paper

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   5 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

- Panel
- Poster
- Tutorial

for consideration must first submit an abstract of **200 words or less using the online Abstract Submission Site by May 23, 2008.** This abstract will be used in the conference brochure and conference proceedings. The abstract should provide a concise summary of what will be addressed in the paper, panel, poster, or tutorial. A good abstract will help the reader determine the scope and level at which the issues of the paper are covered so that they can determine its appropriateness to their needs. The following information will be required for abstract submission:

- Title of the paper or presentation
- Authors (panelists) and affiliation
- Complete contact information (address, email, and phone number on each author.) Email addresses are required.
- Indication of what type of presentation category you are submitting under: Paper, Panel, Poster, or Tutorial. If you are proposing a tutorial, please include your request for one or two 50 minute time blocks in your abstract
- A brief abstract
- An indication of the track for which the paper is submitted: **For example**: Track I: Programs and Initiatives.
- Target Level of Audience Expertise (Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced)

Abstract Submission Form

All abstracts should be submitted using the online abstract submission form. Once this form is brought online, go to http://csrde.ou.edu/web/symposium for the link. Please have ready all required information as you begin to complete the online form. *A separate submission must be completed for each proposal.* Up to five authors or panelists may be associated with each proposal. If there are more than five authors, email CSRDE (csrde@ou.edu) for assistance. Your submission will be acknowledged within five business days. Notification of acceptance of your proposal will be sent out by late May.

IMPORTANT: Papers due July 7, 2008

Accepted abstracts on Poster Presentations do not require the submission of a paper. Authors and panelists on all other presentation types with accepted proposals must submit their final papers for review by July 7, 2008. Final papers should be submitted by email in **MS Word doc** format to csrde@ou.edu. Please see the presentation types for a description of the paper required for each type of proposal, or review the table below for a summary of deadlines and requirements.

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   6 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08

Summary of Submission Requirements

Presentation Type	Proposals	Accepted Proposals
	Abstract Length and Due Date	**Paper Length and Due Date**
Conference Paper	Abstract no longer than 200 words. *Due May 23, 2008*	10 page paper that conforms to conference paper style guide. *Due July 7, 2008*
Panels	Abstract no longer than 200 words. *Due May 23, 2008*	Each panelist must submit a paper. Each member of the panel may choose at their own discretion to submit either a brief paper (3-5 pages) or a full paper (10 pages). **Note**: Full papers will be peer reviewed and eligible for the cash prizes. Papers of either size must conform to the conference paper style guide. The Panel Chair is responsible for ensuring that all panel members submit their papers by the deadline. *Due July 7, 2008*
Posters	Abstract no longer than 200 words. *Due May 23, 2008*	No Paper Required.
Tutorials	Abstract no longer than 200 words. Specify your request for one or two 50 minute time blocks in the abstract. *Due May 23, 2008*	Brief 3-5 page "how to" paper that conforms to the conference paper style guide. **Note**: PowerPoint notes or handouts will not satisfy this requirement. *Due July 7, 2008*

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma   7 of 7
Phone: 405-325-2158; E-mail: csrde@ou.edu
3/5/08