



# eLearning: Educate, Innovate, Collaborate

Speaker Series

*Sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Electronic Learning Task Force*

April 12 – April 21, 2021



**Russell Poulin**

*Executive Director*

*WCET (WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies)*

*Monday, April 12, 2021 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Russ Poulin leads the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies, which advocates for effective practices and policies for digital learning in higher education. WCET's members represent institutions, state agencies, corporations, and non-profit organizations from all fifty states. In paying attention to federal, state, and institution policies, he twice represented the distance education and competency-based education communities in federal negotiated rulemaking processes. The Presidents' Forum, Excelsior College, the National University Technology Network, and the Online Learning Consortium have all recognized Russ for his contributions. He is also partial to movies, cats, and his wife, Laurie.

***Changes in Federal Rules for eLearning – What's Coming and What's on the Horizon?***

You may have heard that the occupant of the U.S. Presidency changed this year. It was in the news. The last president made changes to rules including "regular & substantive interaction," notifications for professional licensure, and verification of student identify. In this session we will explore some of these changes, discuss what might happen under the new administration, and leave ample time for your questions.



**Deb Adair**

*Executive Director*

*Quality Matters*

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Dr. Deborah Adair is the Executive Director of Quality Matters, an international non-profit organization providing a scalable quality assurance system for online and blended learning. Utilized by over 1500 institutions across education sectors in 28 countries, QM's tools and training support education professionals in improving digital education and meeting QM's nationally recognized standards. Dr. Adair serves on the Board of Directors for the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and has served on advisory bodies for the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies, the National University Technology Network, the Presidents Forum, and Credential Engine.

***A strategic view of leading quality online: Where are we going and what's the imperative?***

If we peel back the onion on the education-related challenges of COVID 19, we can parse the impact into layers for policy makers to address. But as much as online education was a key solution to continuity of teaching and learning, a hard truth was laid bare – online education alone isn't enough to ensure equitable access to education. If we want to attract, retain and educate students in this changing landscape, we've got work to do - leaning into policy, equipping faculty, preparing students and reimagining our infrastructure and technology to better support all students. It isn't quality unless it's quality for all.



**Sally Johnstone**

*President*

*National Center for Higher Education Management Systems*

*Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Sally M. Johnstone is the president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), which is known nationally and internationally for turning data into useable information for policy makers. Dr. Johnstone also serves as the executive director for the Foundation for Student Success, an organization focusing on levers for campus culture change resulting in equity gap eliminations. Her career includes roles as a provost at a public comprehensive university, a vice president at Western Governors University (WGU), founding director of WCET at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), an assistant dean and a faculty member.

***Rethinking Online Learning Quality***

During fall 2020 NCHEMS interviewed 25 people from colleges, universities, state organizations, accrediting agencies, national organizations, and corporations regarding current issues in online learning. From those we developed a new set of guidelines for use by NC-SARA and the accrediting community. These were then reviewed by a dozen additional practitioners, researchers, and accreditors. The resulting guidelines highlight some new issues to which attention must be paid. This presentation will focus on those and how they will be implemented.



**Thomas Cavanagh**

*Vice Provost for Digital Learning  
University of Central Florida*

*Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Thomas Cavanagh, Ph.D. is Vice Provost for Digital Learning at the University of Central Florida. In this role, he oversees the distance learning strategy, policies, and practices of one of the nation’s largest universities. A national leader in digital education and academic innovation, he has been recognized with numerous awards from organizations such as the Online Learning Consortium, the United States Distance Learning Association, the IMS Global Learning Consortium, and the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technology. He is active in the higher education community and serves on several national boards. He is also an award-winning author of several mystery novels.

***Digital Learning and the Transformation of the Academic Enterprise: Breaking the Iron Triangle***

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced higher education to confront digital learning in a new way. With traditionally face-to-face courses being migrated to emergency remote instruction, students, faculty, and administration have all had to navigate a transformative online education model. Yet, amid these challenges lie opportunities to better serve students across all three domains of the iron triangle: Access, Quality, and Cost. By drawing on examples from the University of Central Florida, this presentation will explore how digital learning strategies can be employed to help break the constraints of the iron triangle.



**David Rose**

*Co-Founder and Chief Education Officer, Emeritus  
CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology)*

*Friday, April 16, 2021 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

David Rose is a developmental neuropsychologist and educator whose primary focus is on the development of new technologies for learning. In 1984, Dr. Rose co-founded CAST, a not-for-profit research and development organization whose mission is to improve education, for all learners, through innovative uses of modern multimedia technology and contemporary research in the cognitive neurosciences. That work has grown into a new field called Universal Design for Learning which now influences educational policy and practice throughout the United States and many other countries. Dr. Rose has also taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for over three decades. He has authored dozens of journal articles and academic book chapters and is the co-author of several books, including *Universal Design for Learning: Theory & Practice*. With his CAST colleagues, he has been honored at the White House and won numerous awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (2017).

***“From Inclusion to Equity: The Future of Universal Design for Learning”***

Many advances in world cultures have emerged from the challenges posed by significant crises – wars, plagues, revolutions. The convergence of two contemporary crises - the current Covid pandemic and the eruption of longstanding racial and social inequities – pose deep and urgent challenges for our culture and our schools. And it is already clear that these crises will permanently change our cultures and our schools. Dr. Rose will discuss the role that the principles and practices of Universal Design for Learning can play in taking advantage of the changes ahead, to ensure greater equity and opportunity for the full diversity of students and their teachers.



**Lori Williams, Ph.D.**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

*NC-SARA*

*Monday, April 19, 2021 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Dr. Lori Williams serves as President of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), which provides reciprocity of state oversight of postsecondary distance education and advances critical consumer protections and accountability in distance education, reducing bureaucracy and costs for states and institutions. Forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have joined SARA as members as of August, 2020 with over 2,140 participating institutions. Prior to assuming her position at NC-SARA, she served as Vice President at the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) and has over 25 years' experience in education in positions as provost, vice provost of curriculum development and innovation, vice president, executive director, and other administrative roles. Throughout her career, Lori has also spoken at national and international conferences about adult and online learning, and taught extensively, serving as a professor, thesis advisor, and mentor.

***The Value Proposition of NC-SARA***

Dr. Lori Williams, the President and CEO of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) will share about the value that NC-SARA provides to its member states and participating institutions. This value includes significant cost savings and student consumer protections. Time at the end of the session will be allotted for questions to address participant interests.



**Carol B. Aslanian**

*President and Founder*

*Aslanian Market Research*

*Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Carol B. Aslanian has spent more than 30 years assisting colleges and universities across the country (and beyond) tailor programs, services, outreach, and marketing to better meet the needs of adult, post-traditional, online, and other non-traditional segments of the higher education market. She has done this through the application of primary market research to strategic decision making. Her advice has been heard at nearly 300 colleges and universities in 43 states and five foreign countries. She is a regular keynote presenter on higher education trends and is the author or co-author of dozens of articles, books, and white papers.

***Attracting the Majority of Students Today: Post-Traditional Student Demand and Preferences***

Join leading researcher Carol Aslanian, President and Founder of Aslanian Market Research, a division of EducationDynamics, as she discusses today's modern student. This informative session will discuss the latest trends, demands, and preferences of recent, current, and prospective students based on our latest reports focused on post-traditional, online, minority and first-generation students. Gain important insights to the most pressing questions facing today's higher education leaders.



**Louis Soares**

*Chief Learning and Innovation Officer*

*American Council on Education*

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Central)*

[Registration Link](#)

Louis Soares serves as the Chief Learning & Innovation Officer at ACE. Soares incubates and scales ACE’s executive leadership networks, as well as catalyzes compelling research and innovation initiatives across the Council. Working with colleagues, Soares integrates the work of ACE’s leadership, research and innovation teams to optimize membership value for colleges and universities by developing programs and services to advance the success of senior leaders, diversify the executive talent pipeline, and facilitate partnerships to enhance institutional performance. While at ACE, he published landmark papers, including *The Post-traditional Learners Manifesto Revisited: Aligning Postsecondary Education with Real Life for Adult Student Success* and *Evolving Higher Education Business Models: Leading with Data to Deliver Results*.

***Higher Education Futures: Meta-themes and Tools***

Today the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest and economic struggle are framing the public dialogue on higher education. For college and university leaders, understanding and integrating these urgent crises with longer term technological, demographic and the economic trends, holds the key to creating an innovative, adaptable, and resilient higher education systems for years to come. This presentation explore crises, trends, and ways of thinking about change to help campus leaders guide their institutions in ways that focus on student success and stakeholder engagement.