REQUESTED SESSIONS

We are looking for session proposals that will fit into one of the following five tracks and topic areas, but proposals on any relevant topic are welcome. **Presenters from under-represented and marginalized groups and those from colleges and universities are especially encouraged to submit session proposals.**

**EFFECTIVE SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

*Master the core elements of effective and efficient scholarship administration, legal considerations, program evaluation, and financial aid fundamentals. Enhance your current knowledge and elevate your expertise in the field.*

**Fundamentals of Scholar Selection and Awarding**

- Effective Timing for Selection and Committee Management
- Efficient Scholar Selection: Aligning Selection with Intent while Reducing Workload
- How to Determine Appropriate Award Amounts
- Key Ethical Issues in Scholarship Awarding
- Optimizing Awarding Strategies for Efficiency and Student Success
- The Pros and Cons of Using Rubrics in Scholar Selection
- Top Ten Strategic Scholarship Awarding Practices
- Training and Managing Selection Committees
- Using AI to Automate Your Scholar Selection Processes

**Institutional Scholarship Programs**

- Centralized vs. Decentralized: Overview of Scholarship Program Structure at Colleges and Universities
- Documenting Institutional Award Methodologies and Policies
- Making a Break: Lessons Learned from Moving a Scholarship Office from Under the Financial Aid Umbrella

**Program Evaluation, Outcome Measurement, and Reporting**

- Assessing Needs, Measuring Impact, and Expanding Opportunities
- Assessing the Long-Term Impact of Scholarships on Educational and Career Trajectories
- Creating Personalized (Yet Streamlined) Reports for Donors
- Fundamentals of Scholarship Program Evaluation
- Leveraging Data Insights: Using Analytics to Improve Scholarship Program Performance
- Reporting Program Outcomes to Stakeholders
- Rethinking Measurement of Success and Data Strategy: Leveraging Data Analytics to Understand the Impact of Your Scholarship Program
- Strategies for Measuring the Effectiveness of Scholarship Programs
- The Scholarship Storytelling Toolkit: Strategically Communicating Needs and Impact to Attract and Retain Donors
- Understanding the Basics of Qualitative Evaluation
- What is “Success?” Defining and Setting Goals

**Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Scholarship Administration**

- Donor Involvement in Scholar Selection
- Laws and Regulations Governing Scholarship Providers' Programs and Policies

**SUBMIT PROPOSALS AT BIT.LY/NSPA2024RFP**
• Legal Fundamentals
• Protecting Student Information: FERPA Waivers and Much More
• Scholarship Tax Liability and Tracking Scholarship Funds’ Usage
• Strengthening Accountability to Students and Other Stakeholders: Building Positive and Trusting Relationships
• Understanding the Taxation of Scholarships

Updating and Streamlining Administrative Practices
• Effective Systems for Tracking Student Eligibility, Required Documentation, and Outgoing Payments
• Marketing Your Scholarship Program
• Moving to Electronic Payments
• Operations: Effective Practices for Accounting and Administrative Scholarship Professionals
• Standard Practices (and Outliers) in Timing Scholarship Lifecycle Processes
• Streamlining Your Application Processes
• Taming Application Chaos: Effective Strategies for Managing Submissions, Data, and Documentation
• Technology Solutions for Greater Impact: Choosing the Best Software for Your Scholarship Program
• Tracking the Use of Awards by Institutions and Students
• Using Data for Adapting Scholarship Programming in Meaningful and Timely Ways

Foster Inclusivity and Equal Opportunity

Dive deep into the realm of accessibility and equality in education! Learn strategies for scholarship inclusivity, empower marginalized communities, bridge the digital divide, and transform scholarship processes with proven and new strategies.

Educating Stakeholders about Student-Centric Scholarship Practices
• Educating Donors, Leaders, and Staff on Making New, and Existing, Scholarships More Equitable
• Empowering Student Engagement: Integrating Students and Alumni in Selection and Outreach Initiatives
• From Donor Intent to Student Success: Aligning Donor Aspirations with Equitable Outcomes
• How to Shift Donors’ Focus from Giving Money to Students Who Look Like Them (...or Their Kids...or Someone They Know)
• Low-Income Students Don't Owe Donors Their Stories: How to Engage Donors in Alternative Ways
• Sharing About Students’ REAL Needs and Circumstances

Expanding Access through Inclusive Outreach and Application Practices
• Addressing Financial, Social, and Mental Health Barriers to College Access
• Connecting with Niche Populations in Your Community
• Expanding Scholarship Access: Rethinking Eligibility Criteria for Financially Challenged Students
• From Complexity to Simplicity: Streamlining Scholarship Applications to Reach a Wider Pool of Qualified Students
• Making Your Application Equitable: Assessing the Need for Standardized Testing and Essays
• Proven Outreach Methods to Attract Students of Color
• Removing Barriers in Scholarship Applications
• Tackling the Digital Divide: Promoting Technological Access for Marginalized Students

Fair and Unbiased Scholar Selection
• Anti-oppressive and Pro-Justice Scholar Selection
• Assessing the Financial Need of Students Who Can't or Don't Complete the FAFSA
• Balancing Need and Merit in Scholar Selection
• Best Practices in Mitigating Bias in Scholar Selection
• Beyond the Numbers: Evaluating Applicants without Using GPA and Test Scores
• Case Studies in Determining Need
• Decoding GPA: The Do's and Don'ts of Using Past Performance in Scholar Selection
• Do This, Don't Do That: How to Assess Need without Compromising Student and Family Information
• Evaluation of Student Responses to Qualitative Application Questions
• Examining Biases in Graduate Scholar Selection
• Innovative Practices in Scholar Selection
• Transforming Scholarship Selection: Fostering Inclusivity, Mitigating Bias, and Ensuring Equity

SUBMIT PROPOSALS AT BIT.LY/NSPA2024RFP
Innovative Approaches to Equitable Scholarship Programs

- A Landscape Scan of Equity-Focused Scholarship Programs
- Benefits and Strategies of Using Reverse Scholarships
- Best Practices in Paying Students Directly
- Case Studies of Using Variance Power to Create More Equitable Scholarships
- Converting Your Legacy Program to an Unrestricted Fund
- Creating Flexible Awards Based on Data from Your Students
- Effectiveness of Promise Programs in Increasing College Completion Rates
- Empowering Marginalized Communities: Strategies for Inclusive Scholarship Programs
- Key Principles for DEI Scholarship Programs
- Overcoming Socioeconomic Barriers: Scholarships as a Tool for Equalizing Educational Opportunities

STUDENT SUPPORTS AND WELL-BEING

Empower your students with fundamental and wraparound supports, financial literacy, mental health resilience, and in-house mentorship programs. Discover practical strategies to support student well-being and success throughout their academic journey and beyond.

Alumni Engagement for Student and Organizational Success

- Building the Culture of Student Service and Give Back through Scholarships
- Community Building and Online Engagement: Implementing Online Communities and Engagement Platforms to Connect Scholars, Alumni, and Scholarship Providers.
- Connecting College and Career
- Cultivating a Lasting Network: Effective Alumni Relations and Give-Back Programs
- Engaging Alumni Across Generations
- Engaging your Scholars and Alumni through Scholarship Programming and Events
- Successful LAUNCH! Helping Students in the Transition to Self-sufficiency

Effective Student Support Programs for Increased Access, Retention, and College Success

- Beyond Private Scholarships: Financial Aid Resources for Students You Serve
- Building and Enhancing Effective Mentoring Programs
- Connecting Scholars to Campus Resources
- Creating Effective Virtual Programs for Students - What Works and What Doesn't
- Creating Financial Literacy Programs for Our Scholars at Any Scale
- Enhancing Student Support: Implementing Wraparound Services for Holistic Success
- Equitable, Innovative, and Effective Student Support Services for Enrollment and Completion
- Helping Students Transition to College
- Holistic Student Support: Beyond Financial Aid to Foster Academic and Personal Growth
- Innovative and Collaborative Approaches to Combating "Summer Melt"
- Managing Student Leave, Stop Out, or Gap Year
- Meeting the Needs of Low-Income Students
- Scholarship Funding for 529 Plans
- Scholarships for Basic Needs Including Housing and Food Supports
- Securing Funding for Scholar Support Services
- Supporting Distraught Students and Parents through College Financing Conversations
- Supporting Diverse Students’ Paths to Degree Attainment
- Supporting Students Attending Short-Term Degree or Certificate Programs
- Supporting the Whole Student through Student-Centered Programming
- Unlocking Possibilities: Mentorship and Guidance Programs as Drivers of Growth

Strengthening Mental Health Supports

- Addressing the Impact of Financial Stress on Student Performance
- Building Resilience: Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being Among Scholarship Recipients
- Mental Health Supports for Your Scholars
LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Unlock your leadership potential! Gain insights on bias and inclusion, recruitment tactics, leadership skills, effective communication, career growth, board governance, navigating change, and fundraising in the digital era. Propel your career and your organization with this transformative track!

Board Governance
- Board Member Orientation and Training: Setting Expectations for Success
- Effective Board Governance: Strategies for Building Strong Board-CEO Relationships
- Enhancing Board Diversity and Inclusion
- Navigating Board Dynamics and Conflict Resolution

Building Successful, Inclusive, and Diverse Teams
- Building High-performing Teams: Strategies for Leadership Success
- Building Inclusive Team Cultures: Strategies for Fostering Belonging
- Efficient Scholarship Management: Optimizing Resources in Challenging Economic Environments
- Navigating Workplace Dynamics and Building Relationships
- Remote Success: Strategies for Thriving and Managing in a Distributed Work Environment
- Staffing Your Scholarship Program for Success and Work-Life Balance
- Unconscious Bias in Team Formation and Decision-Making
- Unlocking Success: Lessons in Cultivating and Retaining Diversity in High-Performing Teams

Career Growth and Personal Branding
- Building Your Personal Brand and Online Presence
- Mastering Essential Skills for Career Success
- Navigating Your Career Path: Insights from Successful Professionals
- Proactive Career Planning in the Philanthropic and Nonprofit Sectors

Communication and Relationship Building
- Communicating Effectively across Generations
- Community Foundations: How to Create Leadership Buy-in
- Effective Communication Strategies for Connecting and Building Relationships with Your Stakeholders
- Leadership Communication: Inspiring and Influencing Others Through Effective Communication
- Mastering the Art of Managing Up: Strategies for Success
- Navigating Workplace Dynamics and Building Relationships
- Networking: How to Do It Purposefully, Productively, and Joyfully

DEI Initiatives
- Addressing Challenges and Overcoming Resistance to Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Understanding Bias and Inclusion

Effective Partnerships
- Bridging the Gap: Building Stronger Relationships Between Institutions and Scholarship Providers
- Empowering Social Responsibility: Leveraging Corporate Partnerships for Impact in Higher Education
- Leveraging Community Partners: Working Across Industries to Increase College Access
- Promoting Diversity and Inclusion Through Strategic Collaborations
- Strengthening Your Advocacy Efforts through Strategic Partnerships

Financial Strength and Fundraising
- How to Safeguard Your Program’s Financials and Raise New Funding in a Down Market
- Innovative Approaches to Donor Development and Fundraising in the Digital Age

Leadership Development
- Developing Emotional Intelligence for Effective Leadership
- Leadership Agility: Adapting and Thriving in a Rapidly Changing World
- Leading from Within: Developing Leadership Skills as a Solo or Small Team Contributor
- Leading Organizational Transformation: Lessons from Experienced Leaders

SUBMIT PROPOSALS AT BIT.LY/NSPA2024RFP
• Navigating Change and Transformation: Strategic Leadership in Times of Uncertainty
• Navigating the Path to Success: Essential Skills for Emerging Leaders
• Strategies for Work-Life Balance and Well-being in Leadership Roles

Professional Development
• Prioritizing Professional Development on a Lean or Variable Budget
• The Scholarship Provider’s Guide to Excellence: Strategic Leadership, Administrative Efficiency, and Career Advancement

Redesigning Scholarships for an Evolving Educational Landscape
• A Greater Force for Good: Scholarship Providers’ Collective Impact on Students, Families, and Communities
• Focus on Philanthropic Initiatives and Equity: Supporting Diverse Students, Addressing Societal Challenges, and Promoting Equitable Access to Education.
• Making a Collective Impact on Higher Education: A Roundtable for Industry Leaders
• Rethinking Program Strategy
• Scholarship Providers as Collective Change Makers for Better Student Outcomes and Systems

TRENDING ISSUES SHAPING SCHOLARSHIPS AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Unveil insights into the implications of FAFSA delays, scholarship displacement and taxation, and the affirmative action ruling. Explore strategies to address rising tuition costs and to adapt to the evolving higher education landscape. From expanding program eligibility to integrating AI, seize opportunities to revolutionize your scholarship program.

Advocacy
• From Scholarship Funding to Policy Impact: How Scholarship Providers Can Advocate for Student Empowerment

Affirmative Action Ruling
• Affirmative Action Ruling and Its Impact on DEI in Scholarship Program Administration

Alternative Credentials
• How Are Colleges and Scholarship Providers Adapting to Meet the Needs of Those Seeking Shorter Programs
• The Current Landscape of Short-Term, Certificate and Credential Laddering Programs

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
• ChatGPT for Scholarship Providers: What You Need to Know
• Exploring AI Tools and Platforms for Workplace Efficiency
• Integrating AI and Data Analytics in Scholarship Program Administration
• Using AI in Selection to Remove Bias

Cost of College
• Addressing Rising Tuition Costs
• College Affordability: What Is the Data Telling Us?
• How Today’s Students Pay for College
• The True Cost of College and Assessing Need Accordingly

Enrollment and Completion
• College Completion Today: Trends, Key Issues, and the Role of Scholarship Providers
• Declining Enrollment: What Scholarship Providers Should Know and Can Do
• Student Enrollment, Persistence, and Retention: Deciphering Data Insights

Mitigating Scholarship Displacement
• Collaborating with Institutions on Award Displacement
• Creative Funding Programs to Reduce the Impact of Scholarship Displacement
• Educating Students and Families on Award Displacement
• Practical Solutions to Address Award Displacement
• Using Loan Repayment Programs to Mitigate Displacement
The New FAFSA and Other Federal Initiatives

- Better FAFSA: A Year in Review, Lessons Learned, and Looking Ahead
- Financial Aid Fundamentals
- Student Loan Forgiveness
- The Effect of Changes and Delays of the New FAFSA on Scholarship Programming
- Trends in Financial Aid Awarding
- Understanding the New FAFSA: Pitfalls and Solutions