KEITH COTRONEO – Right to Fail vs. Right to Succeed: Successful (and Unsuccessful) Strategies for Assisting Non-Traditional Students (Keynote Speaker)
Keith Cotroneo is in his eighth year as president of Mountwest Community and Technical College in Huntington, WV. In addition to his work at Mountwest, he has served as a community college chief academic officer in Massachusetts, New York and Oregon. Keith’s primary focus, throughout his career, has been the design of postsecondary organizational systems that maximize student success. In 2011, Mountwest received a $5 million federal grant to test implementation of a comprehensive student success strategy known as the Beacon Project. This award was followed by an additional $7 million in funding to institutionalize the project and add supplemental enhancements. Mountwest students have benefitted significantly from these changes which have also resulted in a positive cultural shift for the institution. The conference presentation will highlight key elements of the transformation, as well as pointing out lessons learned along the way.

GAIL ALI – Strategies for Success in the Non-Traditional Classroom
Dr. Gail Ali is the Chief Academic Officer for the South Florida Campus at the University of Phoenix. She possesses a Ph.D. in Management specializing in Information Systems Management, a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems, and a Bachelor in Business Administration. As an academic administrator in higher education of non-traditional students for 14 years, she is passionate about lifelong learning and making a positive impact on the lives of others through education.

MELANIE BALDWIN – Data Ice Breaker
Ms. Melanie Baldwin is the Senior Director of Wilmington University, Northern Delaware and Maryland locations.

ORVILLE BLACKMAN – Integrated Design Curriculum Model
Dr. Orville Blackman is the Campus Executive/Dean at Ottawa University. He is also the Associate Dean in the Angell Snyder School of Business at Ottawa University. He graduated from the University of Louisville with a Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Development. His research agenda includes: (a) Labor market demand and supply; (b) Higher education program design and development (c) Organizational analysis and development and (d) Coaching and mentoring as human resource development interventions.

DAVID DEVIER – The First Year in the Presidency
David H. Devier assumed the position of President of Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, Michigan on January 20, 2014. This appointment came after serving thirty-seven years in Ohio at both public and private, two and four year institutions including as Dean/CEO of the University of Cincinnati Clermont College regional campus. He also was instrumental in developing two significant branch campuses of Clark State Community College between 2007-2014.

LESLIE HAFER – Data Ice Breaker
Ms. Leslie Hafer is the Executive Director of Georgia Military College, Valdosta Campus.
PATRICK HAGEN – Recruitment and Retention of International Students: Best Practices at the University of Wisconsin-Richland

Dr. Patrick Hagen has served as Campus Executive Officer and Dean at the University of Wisconsin-Richland since July 2010. In this capacity, he oversees campus operations and reports to the chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension. International education is one of Dr. Hagen’s passions. He earned a Ph.D. in German literature and taught German language and literature before starting his administrative career. Among his accomplishments is establishing a sister-city partnership between Richland Center, Wisconsin and Yueqing, China.

TODD JONES – GHC411: Serving the Enrollment Needs of Multi-Campus State Institution

Dr. Todd G. Jones is Vice President for Student Affairs and serves as a Campus Dean for Georgia Highlands College. He has over 25 years’ experience in higher education in a variety of student affairs roles at both private and public institutions. His efforts in process improvement have been recognized by the University System of Georgia as some of the best practices within the system.

ANDY MEYER – Adult Learner Friendly Toolkit

Dr. Meyer is the Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Dalton State College, a member of the University System of Georgia’s Adult Learning Consortium. Dr. Meyer earned his B.A. in Biology from Concordia University, Nebraska, and his PhD in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Iowa. He has taught biology for the past 20 years and has served in academic administration the past seven years.

SANDY OTT – Adult Learner Friendly Toolkit

Ms. Ott has served as the Extended Campus Coordinator at Dalton State College’s branch campus in Ellijay, Georgia for the last six years. Prior to this administrative position she worked with the Technical College System of Georgia in Enrollment Management, Career Services, and Student Life. She earned her B.A. in Public Relations from Shorter University, and her M. Ed Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University.

AL PANU – Challenges & Opportunities of Consolidation and Multi-Campus Structure

Dr. Al Panu is the Senior Vice President for University Affairs at the University of North Georgia.

ROSANNE CHASTAIN SHORT – Transitions: Supporting Adult First Gens

Rosanne Chastain Short works with Returning Adults, Military and Veteran Students at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. A private liberal arts school that maintains a historic women’s college, Brenau has six regional campuses located in Georgia and Florida whose student base is composed of returning adults and military students who currently or have served in the armed services. Short’s fifteen years working in higher education include serving on the President’s Strategic Planning Committee, and as past chair of the Staff Development Committee. She co-authored, and teaches Academic Success courses for new and transferring adult students. She also teaches Interpersonal Communication, and Faculty Certification courses. Rosanne has a Master’s Degree in Organizational Development from Brenau University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from The University of Alabama. Rosanne’s supportive husband, Daniel is President and owner of a manufacturing business in Northeast Georgia. They have three adult children, and four grandchildren.
JAMES SMITH – Marketing and the Importance of Telling Your Campus Story
Dr. James M. Smith is the dean of Ohio University Lancaster. As chief administrative and academic officer of the campus, he is responsible for the overall administration of the campus, including fiscal management, physical plant operations, and academic programs. Smith is the seventh dean of the Lancaster Campus and Pickerington Center. Smith served from 2007 to 2009 as the interim dean at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Firelands College in Huron, Ohio. While at BGSU Firelands, he also served as the associate dean for academic programs and services, several years as an associate dean for engagement and outreach and as the applied sciences department chair. Smith holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Maryland at College Park.

VERONICA SUMMERS – Adult Learner Friendly Toolkit
Ms. Summer is the Adult Learner Specialist at Dalton State College. In her current position she provides adult learners a single point of contact through the admissions, registration, advisement, and identification campus resources. Ms. Summer’s background includes financial aid and international student admissions. She is completing her B.S. in Organizational Leadership from Dalton State College.

WILLIAM WILLAN – Smoothing the Turbulence: RCM Revisited
Executive Dean for Ohio University’s regional campuses and Past-President of the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators, Bill Willan is a first generation college graduate who began working in a steel forming plant immediately after high school. A graduate of the University of Indianapolis and Purdue University with degrees in Education and English Literature, Bill began his teaching career at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Since joining Ohio University in 2000, Willan has served the regional campuses in a number of capacities, including as interim dean of the Eastern Campus and as dean of the Southern Campus.

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