



Mississippi Association for Institutional Research



Annual Conference



Gulfport, Mississippi

March 31st – April 1st, 2015

Bag Stuffers:





PRESENTATION INFORMATION & ABSTRACTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST

8:30 – 12:30

NEWCOMER'S WORKSHOP (Prior registration required)

Mary Harrington – UM (Retired), Carolyn Warren – NWMCC, Shemeka McClung – JSU
Bay Room

1:00 – 1:10

CONFERENCE WELCOME

Laura Damm - EMCC

Harbor Room

1:10 – 1:40

UPDATE FROM THE STATE BOARDS

Jim Hood, PhD – IHL, Raúl Fletes – MCCB

Harbor Room

This session will provide the attendees with an overview of current topics within the IHL and MCCB administrative offices including items such as enrollment audits, funding models, etc.

1:45 – 2:30

IPEDS UPDATE

Harbor Room

Eric Atchison – IHL

This presentation will focus on how the IPEDS collection is changed and the recommended changes to IPEDS for the upcoming 2016 - 2019 OMB approval for the applicable survey components.

2:30 – 3:00

BREAK / DOOR PRIZES / HOTEL CHECK-IN

3:00 – 3:45

PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING: MOVING TOWARDS CAUSALITY IN EDUCATION

Kenneth Thompson, PhD – Millsaps

Harbor Room

This session provides an introduction and overview of Propensity Score matching. Although experimental design is considered the gold standard for causal inference, experimental design is not always possible in education. Instead, educators tend to rely on quasi-experimental designs lacking the randomization required for causal inference. Propensity Score matching is a statistical technique for removing systematic differences in groups by matching participants on their likelihood of group assignment. Grounded in the Rubin counterfactual framework, but the technique is not widely used in educational research.

EXCEL PROBLEMS FIXED "ASAP"**Carolyn Warren – NWMCC****Bay Room**

Do you wish you could merge rows of data instead of just columns? Want to change the format of dates on the fly? Large amounts of text formatted numbers need to be adjusted to number format? Excel doesn't handle many of these pesky little issues easily, but a cheap plug-in called ASAP can help you handle large amounts of data easier than ever before. This is truly my favorite Excel enhancement, and I will show you some of its many features in this session.

4:00 – 4:45**CIRO MEETING****Jim Hood, PhD – IHL****Harbor Room**

This session will examine current topics related to Mississippi's public universities. These topics will include discussions on the IHL Allocation Model, certificate reporting, intermediate reporting, and several IHL Board initiatives. The discussions will be intended for members of the Council of Institutional Research Officers (CIRO), but any conference participant with an interest in topics related to Mississippi's public universities is encouraged to participate in the session.

CIRE MEETING**Carolyn Warren – NWMCC****Bay Room**

This session will examine current topics related to Mississippi's public community and junior colleges. The discussions will be intended for members of the Council for Institutional Research & Effectiveness (CIRE), but any conference participant with an interest in topics related to Mississippi's public community colleges is encouraged to participate in the session.

5:00 – 7:00**NETWORKING RECEPTION****Courtyard Marriott Lobby Area**

FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST**6:30 – 7:15****4TH ANNUAL MAIR FUN RUN****Gulfport Beach**

7:30 – 8:30**BREAKFAST BUFFET****Coastal Ballroom 2**

8:30 – 9:00**WELCOME / COFFEE / DOOR PRIZES****Coastal Ballroom 2**

9:00 – 9:45

FINISH IN FOUR: DISCUSSION & ANALYSES

Eric Atchison – IHL

Coastal Ballroom 1

The Finish in Four initiative began in 2014 through a student-led campaign using printed and digital media to inform students of the benefits of completing a degree on time. This presentation will provide a background of this initiative and provide data on various metrics to illustrate the initial outcomes of this campaign.

UNCERTAINTY IN CAMPUS SURVEY DATA: CAN REVEREND BAYES HELP?

Joel Hanel – UM

Coastal Ballroom 2

Survey data is a wonderful tool to gauge a multitude of questions on campus, yet reporting this data often lacks measures of uncertainty. This presentation focuses on utilizing Bayesian statistical methods in an institutional research perspective, mainly looking at survey data, to better understand statistical uncertainty. Three example models using current University of Mississippi data help explore these methods and draw conclusions. I include simple instances of improving reporting survey data (means and proportions) to hierarchical linear models for retention modeling. I begin by introducing a basic understanding of Bayesian statistical methods, common misunderstandings, and advantages/disadvantages. I conclude by discussing current uses of Bayesian methods, and the growing technologies now available to implement these methods.

9:55 – 10:40

IF DATA ARE GOING TO BE MISSING, WHY NOT PLAN FOR IT?

Kenneth Thompson – Millsaps

Coastal Ballroom 1

This session provides an introduction to using data designs that plan for missing data. In this type of design, the researcher purposefully introduces missing data using techniques such as the 3-Form Planned Missing Data Design (3FPMD). As a type of matrix sampling, the 3FPMD allows the participant to respond to fewer items while providing the researcher with the same amount of data. Using a brief simulation, the session will demonstrate the ease with which planned missing data can be utilized to increase participation and to aid in controlling missing data.

SACSCOC OPEN DISCUSSION

Lee Skinkle, PhD - Belhaven

Coastal Ballroom 2

Come and discuss current issues of accreditation. What are reviewers looking for? What have you done that has worked well? Bring your ideas and learn what others are doing as well.



ROUND TABLE INFORMATION & ABSTRACTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH

10:50 - 11:15 Round Table 1

11:25 - 11:50 Round Table 2

EXCEL TO TABLEAU – HANDS ON EXAMPLE

Tiffany Gregory Ward – UM

Coastal Ballroom 1

Thinking about moving from Excel to Tableau for data visualizations? In this round table discussion, I will showcase how we used to present fall enrollment data and how we are presenting it now in Tableau. I will also answer any questions regarding how to do anything in Excel as well as talking about our transition to Tableau during the Fall 2015.

RESIDENCE HALLS AND THEIR ROLE IN STUDENT RETENTION

Kayla Arrington – UM

Boardroom

Pre-matriculation or demographic factors such as high school GPA, standardized test scores, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status can influence student retention on campus. However, matriculation characteristics such as specific building location can define a student's social experience or reflect and compound pre-matriculation or demographic factors. This session will look at the changes in retention achieved through employing a full-time Hall Director in a residence hall and discuss how understanding your institution's housing assignment process can help you understand student retention.

USING THE BEST ONLINE TOOL IN AN INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT OFFICE

Jamil Ibrahim, PhD – UMMC

Coastal Ballroom 2

A powerful and an easy-to-use professional data collection tool that enables IR professionals to gather high quality data is a must. Web-based research tools are here to stay. Online surveys are a convenient way for institutional researchers and assessment staff to collect data, and transform the data into information to support managerial decision making. In order collect data effectively, one must know the advantages and disadvantages of these online tools. The presenter will provide an overview of the best online survey applications in the market and also shares his expertise in using some of them such as Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, and others.

TOOLS TO TRACK AND MEASURE KPIS

Carley Dear – Hinds CC

Coastal Ballroom 3

This round table will be an active discussion of participants and will focus on the software tools used to track key performance indicators for effectiveness reporting and institutional outcomes.

12:00

MAIR BUSINESS MEETING & LUNCHEON

Coastal Ballroom 2



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To evaluate the overall conference:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MAIR2016Conf>

To evaluate each of the individual sessions, use the following link for each session:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MAIR2016Session>



See you next year!