

Call for Proposals



Memphis

Innovations and Best Practices for Sustaining Gen Ed

Association for General & Liberal Studies

56th Annual Conference

September 22 - 23, 2017

The Guest House at Graceland

Memphis, Tennessee

The Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) is the premier national organization for assisting Gen Ed faculty and administrators with practical knowledge and experience for creating, revising, and running a quality program. We have helped individuals and institutions with everything from communication and marketing to day-to-day administrative operations to innovations in the classroom. For the first time in our recent history, we are creating a conference experience devoted solely to matters practical, and our goal is to get all conference participants engaging, sharing, and leaving each conference session with concrete ‘take-aways’—news you can use!

Our conference / institute, or ‘con-stitute’ is organized around four thematic tracks of interest, and several different session types including traditional concurrent, interactive, panel, posters, full workshops, and Pecha Kuchas that should leave the participants with concrete techniques, strategies, actions, ideas that can be taken home from Memphis.

Exploring Our Thematic Tracks

This year as we focus on innovations and best practices, all proposals should be focused on highly interactive presentations and sharing high impact take-aways. Let’s take a more in-depth explanation of the four thematic tracks and suggestions for presentation topics:

General Education revision and reform: planning, organization, and implementation that lead to maintenance of a sustainable program that fits the institutional culture. Some of the potential topics include:

- ‘marketing’ as in 1) communicating the purposes of Gen Ed to students, faculty, and staff in ways that they understand, or 2) communication with departments, schools, divisions—ensuring that everyone is heard and good ideas shared;
- initiating reform—how to get it going;
- slimming program learning outcomes to the essentials for your setting and culture;
- using assessment data to drive revision;
- identifying allies and dealing with politics;
- keeping an eye on state mandates or regional accrediting standards;
- establishing respectful and collaborative relationships between 2-year and 4-year institutions;
- designing programs with an awareness of the growing populations of transfer students—maintaining the integrity of program learning outcomes while welcoming transfer students.

Assessment in General Education: Planning, organizing, and implementing assessment strategies in General Education. Some of the potential topics include:

- what are your assessment options;
- maximizing the latest and greatest tools (e-portfolios, etc.);
- how to get campus-wide buy-in;
- successful strategies and potential pitfalls;
- where do you begin?

Leveraging campus resources: making the most of the various resources available on your campus to ensure a vibrant and sustainable General Education curriculum. Some of the potential topics include:

- recruiting, involving and developing Gen Ed faculty, both tenure track faculty and contingent faculty (including adjuncts). How do you:
 - develop programs and mechanisms to treat contingent faculty equitably; or
 - include contingent faculty in development, execution, management and assessment of gen ed initiatives; and
 - provide non-tenure track faculty with professional development opportunities.
- successful models for ongoing intra-institutional financial support—How did you pull it off?!
- identifying and cultivating grantors who favor supporting the liberal arts and sciences.

Classroom innovations: maintaining student (and faculty) engagement in the ever-changing learning space of higher education. Some of the potential topics include:

- incorporating Gen Ed learning outcomes through study abroad programs, internship experiences, and other types of experiential learning practices;
- maintaining academic rigor and engaging students in online learning environments;
- scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) projects that result in an increased level of learning in a particular course.

Proposal Guidelines

AGLS welcomes presentations on pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment, program management, and other topics central to general and liberal education. Proposals should be directly related to one of our four “con-stitute” thematic tracks: General Education Revision and Reform, Assessment in General Education, Leveraging Campus Resources, and Classroom Innovations.

AGLS encourages participation from faculty, students, staff, and administrators, as well as proposals that relate successful collaborative efforts between two and four-year campuses. Sessions that actively engage the session audience and/or provide usable ‘Monday morning’ ideas and activities are especially encouraged. We pride our conference on providing hands-on experiences for the attendees.

Ways to Participate

Traditional presentations: one or more persons present a summary of their results from a new project or research and should include both context and references. The purpose of this presentation should be an introduction of a new program or project and to generate discussion or feedback on the development of the program or project. This format is well-suited for the presentation of traditional papers and related topics. These sessions will be 45 minutes.

Panel: an individual topic or question is introduced by a facilitator. Two to four panelists will discuss, followed by open discussion with the audience. Session length will be 45 minutes.

Individuals: single presenters (or pairs) are invited to give a 20 minute paper presentation. Two presentations will be scheduled for each 45 minute block.

Interactive sessions: one or more persons present an interactive learning opportunity very similar to our longer workshops but limited to 45 minute sessions. The goal of these sessions is to initiate conversation and spark ideas to take back to home campuses. Sessions should focus on innovation and integration of particular processes, practices, and pedagogies that have proven meaningful at the home institution. Proposals for interactive sessions should include the learning goals (the take-away) for the session and indicate how participants will be invited to engage in the session.

Pecha Kucha presentations: Pecha Kucha (peh-chuh koo-chuh) is an Anglicized version of a Japanese phrase meaning 'Chit-Chat.' Single or pairs of presenters are invited to give 6 minute and 40 second image-accompanied narratives focused on a conference topic (with about 2 minutes for questions). Pecha Kuchas are not 'research' presentations per se, but the presenter does impart information through the authority of his/her knowledge and experience. This technique involves presenting experience, grounded ideas, innovations, convictions—in a concise 20 image format—each displayed for 20 seconds with the presenter providing commentary on the topic being presented. This format is fast-paced, visually intense, and a great way to start conversations. Good Pecha Kucha presentations can uncover the unexpected—unexpected ideas, innovative teaching methods or course organization, and more. Some Pecha Kuchas tell great stories about successful projects or study away. Learn more at about this type of presentation at pechakucha.org.

Poster: we invite representatives from various campuses to visually present a successful element of their general education program; poster authors should plan to be at or near their poster during the session to answer questions and speak with conference attendees. Submissions should be for a single poster (multiple submissions representing different aspects of a program from a single campus are welcome); the poster session is scheduled for 90 minutes and will occur as part of the president's reception on Friday evening.

Full Workshop: a 2 hour 15 minute, hands-on, interactive learning opportunity designed to provide attendees with take-away solutions and tips for use on their home campus. Similar to our shorter interactive sessions, workshops give presenters the opportunity to lead participants through a more complicated process or multiple, related topics. Workshop proposals should be organized around one of the major conference themes, include the learning goals for the session, and indicate how attendees will be invited to engage in the session. Successful workshops will serve as a model for engaged learning and participants will be able to apply the theories and concepts developed through the experience to their home campus. A limited number of workshops will be selected to kick off the conference.

**Full conference information online at
www.agls.org/upcomingconference.htm**

Proposal Deadline: May 15, 2017

**What information should you have on-hand prior
to going online to submit your proposal?**

- 1) Type of presentation
- 2) Title of proposal
- 3) Name, institution, email address, and day phone number of primary proposal contact
- 4) Abstract of proposal (limited to 250 words)

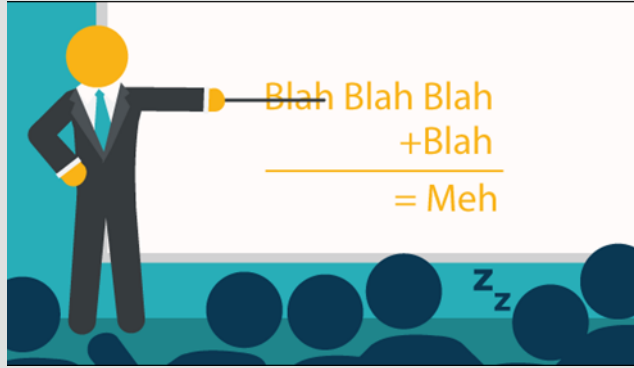
Note: Computers/laptops and live internet access will not be available in session rooms, but LCD projectors will be available if presenters choose to bring their own laptops.

Have a question about session types, topics or technology?

Contact Joyce Lucke by phone at (812) 376-7468 or by email at execdir@agls.org.

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How often have you suffered 'death by PowerPoint' at a conference? Or in the classroom? Don't we tell students that the content and their presentation is what makes for a powerful presentation – not how dynamic, colorful or animated their PowerPoint may be?

Come on, it's 2017. LET'S MODEL HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES!

Technology should enhance, not duplicate, the presentation.



We encourage sessions to be low (or no) tech—high interaction sessions infused with conversation, nuts and bolts and take-aways that your national peers can bring home to their institutions. The sessions are designed to connect our attendees—faculty, student affairs, and administrators—to one another and to ideas that we can use.

The highly interactive and personal connections during sessions is what people love about AGLS. Our conference is for those who are in the trenches of general education working to develop and grow their programs and provide quality education on their campus.

We do encourage handouts and sharing resources. With electronic resources and cloud capabilities – your audience could easily access your materials with a single page handout with instructions how to download or browse any resources you want to share.

Be sure to visit our conference page for continuous updates and news throughout the spring semester

Registration

All presenters must register for the conference unless otherwise notified. Online registration will open March 20, 2017. The registration fee is \$310 if registered before September 5, 2017. After September 5, the full conference fee is \$350. Those attending only one day can register for \$200 up to September 15. Registration includes annual membership in AGLS. Memberships paid for with the conference will have a term of September 2017 through August 2018. Registration includes conference packet, lunch on Friday and Saturday, Friday evening reception, and beverage breaks. Refunds are available requested in writing before September 5 (less \$25 processing fee).

Campuses with an institutional membership (paid for 2017-18 prior to August 1) should contact the AGLS office to receive discount code for conference registrations.

Accommodations



Our conference hotel is The Guest House at Graceland. We have secured a block of rooms for the evenings of Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 23 at the rate of \$135 per night plus 20.95% tax.

Room rates are guaranteed through August 25, 2017, or until the room block is fully reserved. For those driving to the conference, parking rates are \$10/day for self-parking. Valet parking is \$16/day.

The Guest House is a smoke-free hotel. Smoking is not allowed within hotel guest rooms, restaurants, meeting rooms, or any public area. There are designated smoking areas along the perimeter of the hotel property.

Phone and online reservation lines will open April 1, 2017.

Southern Hospitality with the Flair of the 'King'

Introducing an extraordinary hotel experience in the heart of Elvis Presley's Graceland®!

Located just steps away from the iconic Graceland Mansion, The Guest House at Graceland welcomes music fans, Graceland guests, Memphis visitors and groups from around the world with Southern hospitality, royal treatment and luxurious amenities that would make the king™ proud.

The Guest House is a quick 3 miles from Memphis International Airport (MEM), but worlds away from ordinary!





We invite you to join us in the Bluff City—Memphis!

Memphis is known as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll and the home of the blues but there is so much more to the Bluff City than a great music heritage.

Perched high on a bluff overlooking the mighty and powerful Mississippi River, Memphis marches to the beat of the Blues, of Stax-era Soul, of the countless neighborhood barbecue shacks and the King's own Graceland. There's no better place to gather for our annual meeting than Memphis. From musical landmarks to upscale restaurants run by some of the country's hottest chefs, from the elegant hotels to the mystical nightclubs on the legendary Beale Street, there's just something authentic about Memphis, the “Home of the Blues, and Birthplace of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

We selected Memphis as it is a city of striking combinations and boundless creativity, a place where passion, ideals, cultures and opportunity converge in authentic ways. Memphis is a one-of-a-kind experience that helped change the world and continues to be influential. Come be a part of it!

Memphis International Airport (MEM)

Memphis is a hub for several airlines and serviced by over 20 companies. Non-stop flights available from over 30 cities, such as Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, and Phoenix.



When asked, this is what conference attendees have said why AGLS is distinctive and why they return each year:

I get considerable "bang for my bucks" in that belonging and participating in AGLS is affordable, especially compared to other professional development organizations for general education personnel

AGLS represents a consistent opportunity to interact with like-minded people who do what I do and who understand my role at my institution

AGLS provides opportunities to discuss general education 'administrivia' with folks "who've been there, done that"

I can seek and find solutions to especially knotty problems regarding gen ed reform, development, administration

AGLS provides outlets for resume building through service to the profession, conference presentations, and publications

AGLS is a COMMUNITY of people dedicated to general and liberal education and thus provides support to faculty and administrators who may not find such community or support at their home institutions. Yet is small enough that I can develop relationships with those people

Nuts and bolts! AGLS is the place to discuss how to apply a wide variety of general education ideas

AGLS develops me both as a faculty member and an administrator

AGLS provides guidance through the thorny problems of general education program revision and assessment

AGLS is large enough to include faculty from a wide variety of types of institutions, but small enough so I can get to know people well enough to collaborate on projects

AGLS focuses on the day-to-day, problem-solving end of general education that we all share

AGLS is grass-roots organization, driven by concerns of faculty on campuses

AGLS is proudly and properly diverse in its council members, general membership and conference participants—geographically, institutional types, diversity of student bodies and diversity of disciplinary backgrounds

Every year I meet someone new who understands the reforms and changes I face on my campus. Having the opportunity to talk with colleagues from around the country provides a sense of 'I'm not doing all that bad as everyone is facing similar challenges and frustrations—and successes!'

The mission of the AGLS is to serve colleges and universities by fostering strong General Education programs. General Education is that part of the curriculum required of all students and dedicated specifically to liberal learning—the development of the knowledge, skills, values, and habits of mind characteristic of an educated person. The members of AGLS comprise a community intent upon improving liberal learning by advocating the centrality of general education and supporting its continuous improvement.



Memphis is often called the “Cradle of American Music.” But there’s more to Bluff City than Graceland and Elvis impersonators. Memphis also is also home to Civil Rights Movement, friendly locals, and some great entertainment venues. Plus it serves up some tasty barbecue. Come to historic Memphis, and you’ll be amazed at how much there is to do.

AGLS
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