

Sally M. Johnstone
President, NCHEMS

**National Center for Higher Education
Management Systems (NCHEMS)**



The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) is turning 50 years old. During those decades, we have served almost every U.S. state, dozens of higher education systems, many higher education institutions, plus had the opportunity to partner with multiple associations. We have worked with all the regional accrediting commissions and a few national accreditors. Our work typically involves analyzing, designing and assisting with implementation of data affirmed practices to serve the needs of students. To celebrate we are offering the field of U.S. higher education the gift of series of webinars throughout 2019.

Some will look back in time, some into the mysteries of where to find and effectively use data, and some will try to pierce the veil of the future. To sign up for the free webinars listed below go to www.NCHEMS.org and we will notify you of the exact dates and times. Each will an hour long with 30 minutes devoted to interactions with the audience.

January - The More Things Change, the More They Stay...Changing.

In the 50 years since NCHEMS first began its work, many changes have occurred in the external factors affecting postsecondary education including the public policy environment. Dennis Jones leads a webinar highlighting curves in the policy road since 1969 and shares opinions on how policy will have to keep evolving to meet looming conditions. Pat Callan and David Longanecker will add their voices to this conversation.

March - It's a Systemic Thing. (Or it Should Be).

Higher education institutions are facing ever-increasing amounts of scrutiny and pressure as the importance of a college education to both individual success and a healthy economy becomes more apparent. Yet institutions acting on their own will struggle to navigate an increasingly perilous pathway in states that have unfavorable demographic futures combined with state disinvestment, as many do. State higher education agencies can add value by exercising bold, decisive, and forward-thinking policy leadership that promotes a systems approach, marked by cross-institutional collaboration, to solving these challenges. Brian Prescott will lead a discussion with Aaron Thompson (Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education) and Alan Wagner (State University of New York). They will focus on how the state higher education agency's role is evolving to help meet the demands to achieve attainment goals and close equity gaps - even as resources are stretched thin.

May - Quality Never Goes Out of Style.

The changing world of higher education, shaped by new forms of instructional delivery and constantly shifting demands for relevant credentials, demands new definitions of quality and new approaches to quality assurance. In this webinar, Peter Ewell addresses the evolution of quality assurance since the emergence of the "assessment movement" in the early 1980s, with an emphasis on the role of institutional accreditation and the constantly improving array of approaches to gathering evidence

about what and how much students have learned. Assisting Peter as resources for this webinar are a faculty member with expertise in learning outcomes assessment (George Kuh of Indiana University and the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment) and an expert in accreditation and quality assurance policy (Melanie Booth of the Quality Assurance Commons).

July - A Little (Culture) Change Just Might Do the Trick.

For the past two years, NCHEMS has hosted The Foundation for Student Success (FSS), setting up teams (or pods) of schools in Mentor/Mentee relationships to examine how some institutions of higher education have interrupted undesirable trends in student success measures of historically underrepresented and underserved populations. Sarah Torres Lugo and her guests, Paul Dosal (University of South Florida) and Alvin Schexnider (FSS Board Member) will discuss the critical role of data in igniting and sustaining campus culture change that creates more fertile conditions for equity gap elimination and improvements in overall student success.

September - Is That a Classroom in Your Pocket?

It's been decades since broadband brought classrooms into our homes, making quality education outside of a brick-and-mortar institution a new norm. Sally Johnstone and her guests discuss the importance of maintaining a focus on quality in learning outcomes and appropriate support for students in the ever-evolving world of alternative delivery systems and how greater access will address the needs of an agile workforce.

November - I'm More Than Just a Pretty Chart.

While “too much data” isn’t really a thing, sorting through what is relevant to whom, what should be in focus at what altitude, and ultimately how to use the vast stores of information at our disposal can often be a dizzying point of contention. Rachel Christeson leads a discussion on data visualization and how to avoid some of the rabbit holes you trip over if you try to answer too many (or the wrong) questions. She will be joined by two NCHEMS staff members, John Clark and Linda Leyba who are experts at finding data.

December - af·ford·a·bil·i·ty/əfôrdə'bilədē/ noun.

Affordability is a complicated subject, made even more so by multiple perspectives: student, institution or state. It seems that the only agreement is that college is not affordable and getting less so all the time. Yet lacking any common definition of affordability and how to measure it, we might not recognize it if we saw it, nor do we have a target for goal-setting in order to bring us closer to achieving it. Brian Prescott leads a dialog on a subject that is at the forefront of policy debates affecting everyone from students and their families to communities, institutions, systems, states, and the federal government. It's a simple word with major implications.