

Concurrent Workshops - Session 1

Thursday, August 6, 2026

3:00-3:50pm CT

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

Title: From Invisible to Unstoppable: Harnessing Your Story to Close the Distance Between Struggle and Dream

Location: RLP 1.302B

Presenter(s):

Mr. Kim Heng, Leveled Ground

Brief Description: The heart of the session is a structured reflection exercise: students name the real challenges they carry today — academically, socially, at home — and place them alongside the dreams they haven't said out loud yet.

Title: Yo Soy Erudito/a: Seeing Yourself as a Scholar

Location: RLP 1.302C

Presenter(s):

Ms. Sandra Morrow, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Jose Saldivar, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Brief Description: What if you started seeing yourself as more than just a student trying to pass classes? What if you saw yourself as a scholar—someone with ideas, purpose, and the power to shape their own future? This workshop is all about helping you make that shift. Start owning your journey!

Title: Real-Word Decisions: Navigating Consent, Boundaries, and Relationships in College

Location: RLP 1.302E

Presenter(s):

Mr. Frank Bedolla, Fathers & Families Coalition of Utah

Brief Description: This interactive workshop prepares college-bound students to navigate real-world situations involving consent, boundaries, and relationships. As students transition into college, they encounter new levels of independence, social pressure, and decision-making—often without clear tools to guide them.

COLLEGE BOUND TRACK**Title: Using Ai to Find Your Perfect Fit**

Location: WCP 3.106

Presenter(s):

Mr. Javier Gonzalez, Western Governors University

Brief Description: This session empowers students to use AI tools for personalized college searches, considering acceptance rates, costs, programs, financial aid, and test requirements. Helping them build a tailored list of idea colleges.

Title: The Real Cost of College (and How to Make It Affordable)

Location: WCP 3.112

Presenter(s):

Dr. Karissa Grano, University of Texas at Austin

Brief Description: Paying for college can feel overwhelming, but this session will help you build a realistic plan. Learn about grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study; compare college costs and financial aid options; and create a personalized strategy to make college more affordable and achievable.

Title: Turning Roadblocks into Stepping Stones: Transforming Challenges into Success

Location: WCP 3.116

Presenter(s):

Mr. Ivan Iniguez, El Paso Community College

Mr. Michael Silva, El Paso Community College

Dr. Miguel Vasquez, El Paso Community College

Mr. Hector Riveroll, El Paso Community College

Brief Description: Obstacles are not barriers to success; they are essential parts of the process. Learn how to shift your mindset and approach challenges as opportunities to grow stronger and more capable. Explore the benefits of perseverance, present-focused decision-making, and how overcoming adversity can make the path forward purposeful and rewarding.