

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.

Concurrent Workshops - Session 2

Friday, August 7, 2026

9:40-10:30am CT

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

Title: Leveraging story to inspire, educate, and empower: Lessons from The Way to College Podcast

Location: RLP 1.302B

Presenter(s):

Dr. Jose Saldivar, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Brief Description: Utilizing selected stories from The Way to College Podcast, students will learn practical lessons about perseverance, goal setting, academic success, and future planning. The workshop is open to all students and is designed to support student achievement and college and career awareness through guided reflection and storytelling.

Title: Know Yourself, Lead Others: How Identity Shapes Leadership

Location: RLP 1.302E

Presenter(s):

Mr. John Williams, Richardson High School & Texas State University

Brief Description: This interactive session explores how self-awareness, values, and personal experiences shape leadership. Through storytelling, reflection, and dialogue, students will examine their leadership potential, identify personal strengths, and reflect on the type of leader they want to become within their school and community.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TRACK**Title: Money Management for First-Generation Student Success: Building Financial Confidence for College, Career, and Life**

Location: WCP 3.106

Presenter(s):

Mr. Wayne Jackson, Jackson/Davis Educational Consulting

Mr. Tony Davis, Jackson/Davis Educational Consulting

Brief Description: This interactive workshop equips students with essential money management skills needed for success in college, career, and life. Participants will explore the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, and responsible spending while gaining practical tools to make informed financial decisions. Emphasis is placed on developing financial discipline.

Title: Bachelor Bound Boss: Taking Flight on Your Transfer Journey

Location: WCP 3.112

Presenter(s):

Mr. Tim McDuffie, Dallas College

Brief Description: This interactive session equips students with practical strategies for their journey to a bachelor's degree. Participants will explore what it means to be a bachelor bound boss, ways to navigate their transfer experience, how to have a smooth landing at their 4-year university and the importance of campus visits.

Concurrent Workshops - Session 3

Friday, August 7, 2026

10:40-11:30am CT

COLLEGE BOUND TRACK

Title: UnidosUS Leading with Purpose: Identity, Belonging, and Pathways to Success

Location: RLP 1.302B

Presenter(s):

Mr. Daniel Ibarra Flores, UnidosUS

Brief Description: Students are often navigating expectations from family, school, society, and their own personal goals while trying to define who they are and where they are headed. This interactive session introduces a leadership and purpose-building framework designed to help students reflect on their identity, lived experiences, support systems, and future pathways.

Title: Tiger Buddies: Creating Leadership Experiences & Opportunities

Location: RLP 1.302C

Presenter(s):

Ms. Robyn Hamilton, East Austin College Prep Tiger Buddies

Ms. Celine Rodriguez, East Austin College Prep Tiger Buddies

Brief Description: Tiger Buddies: Create your own leadership experiences and opportunities. Hear from local high school students who are changing the way they gain leadership experience while serving their campus through peer mentoring.

Title: Creating College Application Narratives for the Modern Admission Process

Location: RLP 1.302E

Presenter(s):

Mr. Jacob Navarrete, University of Texas at Austin

Brief Description: In this presentation, you will hear from a College Admission Expert with 15 years of experience guiding students through the admission process. Leveraging their experience, this session will provide a detailed overview of modern admissions process and how students can craft authentic, meaningful, and competitive applications to schools where they fit.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TRACK**Title: Next Level Success K-16**

Location: WCP 2.302

Presenter(s):

Mr. Malik Crowder, University of Texas at Austin

Brief Description: Students will learn how to plan for success in academics, life skills and personal development. Action plans, success calendars and a positive blueprint will be developed during our session. Be prepared for instruction and wisdom to succeed in any area of life.

Title: Más Que Una Organización: How a Mexican American Student Association (MASA) Builds True Community, Culture, and Change

Location: WCP 3.112

Presenter(s):

Dr. César S. Silva, Texas Lutheran University

Ms. Leslie Flores, University of Texas at Austin

Ms. Lucia Lopez, Texas Lutheran University

Ms. Valeria Quintanilla, Texas Lutheran University

Brief Description: "What does it actually take to build a student organization that shows up for its community? MASA at Texas Lutheran University is doing exactly that. Students, faculty, and staff share the real work, the challenges, and strategies you can take back to your own campus."

Title: Navigate the Journey of Career Exploration in the Era of AI

Location: WCP 3.116

Presenter(s):

Ms. Melissa Victor Totah, Austin Community College

Mr. Henry Tsai, Austin Community College

Brief Description: This interactive session helps college students explore majors and careers in an AI-influenced world. Participants will reflect on their values, interests, and strengths while learning how AI is reshaping industries and career pathways. Students will gain practical strategies for decision-making, adaptability, and building a future-ready career path.