



# Call for Proposals

65th Annual Conference

April 18-20, 2024

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Catalyzing Equity-Centered Change**

Proposal Deadline: November 3, 2023, @ 11:59 p.m. (PST)

[Click Here to Submit a Proposal](#)

Twitter: @CSCCResearch  
Hashtag: #CSCC2024



## **ABOUT CSCC AND THE 65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) is an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and a project of the Center for the Study of Community Colleges ([www.centerforcommunitycolleges.org](http://www.centerforcommunitycolleges.org)). The Council is housed at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. Council members include university-based researchers and community college practitioners who further scholarship within the community college enterprise. The purposes of the Council are to:

- Contribute to the development of preservice and in-service education for community college professionals
- Conduct and disseminate research pertaining to community colleges
- Serve as a forum for dialogue among university professors, graduate students, and community college practitioners who study community colleges
- Disseminate information about related conferences and events
- Provide research and other services to AACC and its affiliate councils
- Recognize outstanding service to, research in, and publications about community college education
- Provide a unified and formal base of participation for CSCC members in AACC affairs

CSCC meets annually as a community of scholars, leaders, and practitioners who are dedicated to the study of the community college enterprise. The annual conference serves as a forum for professors, graduate students, community college practitioners, and others who are interested in research and scholarship on topics related to community colleges. CSCC encourages proposals that advance knowledge and understanding of a broad range of issues related to community colleges as a field of study. We welcome proposals from faculty, researchers, administrators, students, practitioners, and policymakers.

### **2024 Conference Location and Dates**

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
April 18 - April 20, 2024

### **Conference Theme: *Catalyzing Equity-Centered Change***

These past few years have brought times of challenges alongside times of inspiration and possibilities. As practitioners, researchers, and policymakers devoted to advancing community colleges as engines of social mobility, equity, and justice, we are driven to reimagine scholarship and practice that result in transformative change. Glaring inequities and racial injustices call for innovative solutions that infuse equity into our work as a throughline instead of an afterthought. This year's conference theme, "Catalyzing Equity-Centered Change," invites contributions that embolden practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to enact change toward dismantling stubborn inequities permeating individual and structural levels. We particularly encourage and will highlight work submitted by practitioners, as there is much to be learned from their perspectives and day-to-day work as agents of change across varying organizational cultures, politics, and contexts. Together, we will make the 65th annual Council for the Study of Community Colleges conference an empowering venue for generating fresh, critical, and diverse ideas that transform policy and practice with equity as a guiding light.

We welcome submissions that reflect a diverse range of paradigms, theoretical or conceptual approaches, and methodological designs and techniques. The 2024 conference consists of six divisions: (a) equity, diversity, and international; (b) leadership and organizations; (c) policy and finance; (d) students; (e) teaching, learning, and faculty; and (f) workforce and career education. Each of these divisions is equally critical for informing and challenging the study and practice of community colleges. In light of this year's theme, we encourage proposals that will inspire new solutions and positive change to address long-standing challenges in advancing equity. We are particularly interested in receiving submissions by or in collaboration with practitioners that demonstrate their crucial role in fostering meaningful change for equity within community colleges.

It is an honor to serve as the CSCC President-Elect and Program Chair. I can't wait to engage and learn with you all in Pittsburgh for our 2024 conference, where we will dialogue and grow together with love, care, clarity, and urgency to center equity as the catalyst for lasting, positive change in the years to come.

**~ Xueli Wang, President-Elect, 2024 Conference Program Chair**

## **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

### ***General Information***

- Individuals submitting proposals to the annual conference must choose from among the conference's various divisions (e.g., students).
- Each proposal must designate the preferred presentation type/format as well as any other types/formats in which the submitter is willing to present. These types/formats are described later (pp. 4-5).
- Proposal narratives should not exceed 1,500 words. Submissions longer than 1,500 words will not be considered. References, tables, and figures are not included in the word count.
- All proposals must include an abstract of 50 words or less. The program committee relies on the abstracts to assign appropriate reviewers. Please include research design/methodological approaches in the abstract.
- All proposals, except those being submitted for symposia, will be evaluated through a blind-review process. Therefore, the names of the authors and their institutions should not appear within the proposal narrative, headers, footers, or attachments (reference list, tables, figures), except in the case of symposium proposals. Please ensure that all author and institution information is removed from the file submitted. Submissions that have this information will not be reviewed or considered for inclusion in the conference.
- Each proposal must be submitted as a single PDF document through the designated system.
- Authors are welcome to submit multiple proposals. However, one goal of the conference is to engage as many of our attendees as possible as presenters. While all proposals will be scored through blind review, the planning committee will consider the number of times that any one person appears as the first author on multiple proposals when planning the final program.

### ***Submission Deadline***

All proposals must be received as PDF documents through the submission system no later than Friday, November 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (PST). No emailed, faxed, or hardcopy mailed submissions will be accepted. Each proposal will go through a blind-review process and will be evaluated based upon the criteria described below. The principal contact person for the proposal will be notified of acceptance or rejection via email near the end of January 2024.

### ***Conference Divisions***

CSCC encourages proposals from all disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives that employ diverse research paradigms and methods including qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, arts-based, evaluation, historical methods of inquiry, community-engaged scholarship, and others. This year, we will use the following divisions:

- (a) Equity, Diversity, and International
- (b) Leadership and Organizations
- (c) Policy and Finance
- (d) Students
- (e) Teaching, Learning, and Faculty
- (f) Workforce and Career Education

The program committee will utilize these categories in assigning reviewers and in organizing the conference sessions. We also recognize the content of proposals may cross multiple divisions. In those cases, the committee recommends selecting the division most aligned with your proposal.

## **PROPOSAL TYPES**

### ***Research and Scholarly Papers***

Research papers should report on original, empirical research that is focused on issues important to community colleges. Scholarly papers provide a clear and succinct synthesis of applicable research and scholarship or discuss a critical question on a topic of current interest to community colleges. The difference between these two types of papers lies in the sources of evidence to support a line of argumentation. Research papers rely on empirical evidence whereas scholarly papers may advance a theoretical or philosophical argument drawing on non-empirical evidence.

Research paper proposals should include sections that describe the study objectives or purposes, theoretical and/or conceptual framework(s) or perspectives used, study methods or modes of inquiry, data sources or evidence, preliminary or final results or conclusions, significance of the study, and implications for further research, policy, and practice.

Proposals for scholarly papers should include sections that describe the purpose of the paper, the significance of the topic, the theoretical and/or analytical framework or the perspectives used, a description of the body of literature reviewed, and the conclusion of the analysis.

Research and scholarly papers can also focus on disseminating best practices, but they must meet the standards regarding the use of appropriate research/evaluation methods and/or scholarly analysis.

Research/scholarly paper proposals will be evaluated based on objectives or purpose, importance of the topic to the study of community colleges, originality of the work, grounding in appropriate literature, quality of theoretical or conceptual framework or analytical argument, interpretation or soundness of the research design and analysis, reasonableness of the conclusions and implications, and the general clarity of the proposal.

### **Roundtables**

Roundtable sessions provide a discussion forum to advance, enhance, or share information about a topic of community college policy or practice or one of historical, professional, or theoretical importance to community colleges. The presenters at each roundtable will share significant information in a conversational manner and will encourage and allow time for attendees to participate in the discussion, ensuring that all leave with valuable information and resources on the topic. Proposals should clearly state the significance of the topic, objectives, and intended outcome(s) of the session, as well as strategies to engage participants. Accepted roundtable presentations will likely be assigned to a table with another presentation to further foster engagement. Roundtable proposals should describe as many of the following as are applicable, preferably in this order:

- Objectives, purpose, and significance of the proposed discussion
- Perspectives or theoretical/conceptual framework that will guide the discussion
- Data, evidence, or resources related to the discussion topic
- Strategies to engage participants
- Conclusions and implications

Roundtable proposals will be evaluated on objectives or purpose; importance of the topic to the study and/or understanding of community colleges; originality of the work; grounding in appropriate literature; quality of the theoretical, conceptual, or analytical framework; soundness of the strategies to engage participants; reasonableness of the conclusions and implications; and the general clarity of the proposal.

### **Symposiums**

Symposia are focused, thematic discussions linking together the work of a panel of presenters and are designed to utilize all available time in a session, typically 1 hour and 15 minutes. The focus is a clearly identified theme or topic that is of interest and importance to community college researchers and/or practitioners. Members of the symposium panel make brief presentations on the theme and provide time for discussion.

Symposium proposals will be evaluated based on the topic's originality and its centrality to the study of community colleges, the clarity and coherence of the proposed presentations, and the method of discussion facilitation. A symposium is an integrated session that features interaction between and among a panel of presenters and the audience to advance knowledge of a particular research, policy, or practice problem/topic.

Rather than present the results of a series of discrete research studies, participants in an interactive symposium session should draw from their research-based expertise to engage in interactive dialogue that advances session attendees' knowledge of one of the following areas:

- How to best address a particular research problem
- An emerging issue in a specific area of research, policy, or practice
- An emerging educational theory or research methodology

The names and backgrounds of presenters should be included in the proposal. A typical symposium session might begin with brief presentations from the panelists (or an interactive Q&A session between the moderator and panelists) about the session's research/policy/practice problem/topic, followed by ample time for discussion among the panelists and between the panelists and other session attendees. The proposal should identify and designate a session moderator.

Symposium proposals should describe as many of the following as are applicable, preferably in this order:

- Objectives of the session
- Importance of the theme or topic to CSCC attendees
- Backgrounds of the presenters as related to the session's research problem
- Expertise or perspectives that each presenter will contribute (e.g., practitioner, researcher, disciplinary/research area, professional background, etc.)
- Structure and format of the session, including the designation of a moderator and strategies to facilitate audience discussion

Symposium session proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria: objectives or purpose; importance of the topic to the study and/or understanding of community colleges; originality of the work; grounding in appropriate literature; quality of the theoretical, conceptual, or analytical framework; soundness of the strategy to engage participants; reasonableness of the conclusions and implications; and the general clarity of the proposal. In addition, symposium proposal reviewers will consider presenters' knowledge and timeliness of the topic, its appeal to CSCC attendees, and whether the session is integrated rather than a series of related papers.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

**All conference proposals must be submitted via the submission system. [Click here to submit a Proposal.](#)**

### ***File Format and Naming***

All proposal files must be submitted in **a single PDF**. The file name should include the submitting author's last name and a "short" version of the title such as "Jones\_CC Fac Workloads." Prior to being sent out for review, the conference chair will duplicate all proposal files and give them unique identifying numbers as file names to ensure blind review.

The submitting author will be required to provide the following information via the online submission form:

- Presenter information (names, organizational affiliations, and email addresses of all authors; to facilitate blind review, please ensure that identifying information about the presenters does not appear anywhere within the uploaded proposal file)
- Title
- Abstract (no more than 50 words)
- Division (see divisions listed on p. 3)
- Primary research method
- Preferred presentation format (and an indication of willingness to present in other formats)

The submitting author also will need to upload a single PDF file via the online system that includes:

- Preferred presentation format (e.g., research paper, roundtable)
- Proposal title
- Proposal narrative of no more than 1,500 words (approximately four single-spaced pages)
- Reference list
- Tables, figures, or other illustrative supporting materials (optional)

A 12-point font should be used throughout the document, with margins of no less than 1 inch on all sides. All pages of the proposal file should be numbered. Again, there should be no information in a proposal for a research paper, a scholarly paper, or a roundtable session that identifies the author(s) by name and/or organizational affiliation(s). **Proposals that do not conform to these guidelines will not be sent out for review.**

## **IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED**

### ***Conference Registration***

All presenters whose proposals have been accepted MUST register for the conference and pay conference registration fees in order to present at the conference. In the case of multiple authors of a proposal, all authors who attend the conference must pay the conference registration fee whether or not they participate in the presentation. Additional information about the presentations and schedule will be distributed after all proposal acceptance decisions have been made.

### ***Equipment***

- Presenters will be responsible for bringing their own laptop computers.
- It is recommended that presenters also bring their presentation files on a flash drive.
- Data projectors will be provided in all rooms for research/scholarly paper sessions, symposia, and pre-conference sessions and workshops.
- Those presenting during roundtable sessions should plan to share content with attendees either on a laptop or through handouts that presenters provide.

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

### ***Reviewers***

Reviewers are needed to evaluate proposals in one or more of the conference format types. Reviews ensure the quality and integrity of the conference program. Comments prepared by the reviewers will be shared anonymously with the proposers. For reviewers, please indicate your areas of expertise (methodology and research divisions), position/title, and contact information. Every effort will be made to match reviewers' expertise and research interest with proposals.

### ***Session Chairs***

The program chair, in conference with members of the program committee, will assign chairs to each research/scholarly paper session. Chairs facilitate the session by introducing the speakers, keeping time, and moderating post-presentation discussion.

### ***How to Volunteer***

It is easy to volunteer. Indicate your interest to serve as a reviewer and/or session chair by answering several brief questions [via this form](#). If you encounter any technical issues or if it is more convenient, you can also email Xueli at [xwang273@wisc.edu](mailto:xwang273@wisc.edu) to volunteer.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For information about proposal submissions:

### ***President-Elect & Conference Chair***

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