

# Caring for Students During Mergers and Closures

A Webinar Presented by The Transformational Partnerships Fund

Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT



**Doug Lederman** Co-Founder & Former Editor *Inside Higher Ed* 

Moderator

Ben Schears President Fort Hays Tech | Northwest

**Panelists** 



Nancy H. Blattner President Fontbonne University



**Reyes M. Gonzalez** President Emeritus *St. Augustine College* 







Paula Langteau Principal Consultant Academic Game Changers; Former President Presentation College



# Ben Schears – Fort Hays Tech | Northwest

- Visibility and Consistency from Leaders
- Authentic Transparency
- Create Wins for Students



## Nancy Blattner – Fontbonne University

### What do students need during closure and how did we work to provide it?

- Students need to be heard; they need to have their questions answered and their fears and uncertainties addressed.
- Students need a sense of normalcy in the classroom and on the campus.
- Students need information and options about how they can continue toward graduation after Fontbonne closes.



## Jamienne Studley – WSCUC

### **Environment for Effective Change Management**

- Accreditors as regulators, guides, and allies
- Harmonizing and satisfying multiple entities
- Characteristics and lessons of well-organized mergers and closures
- Surprises & slips | Technicalities & tensions



# Paula Langteau – Presentation College Academic Game Changers

### Teaching Out

- Preparation & Announcement Timeline
- Internal vs. External Teach-Out
- No Student Left Behind
- Teach-Out & Transfer Fairs
- Website

### **Direct Student Support**

- Visibility & Accessibility / Communications
- Counselors / Advisors / Supporters
- Activities / Events
- New "Home Base"
- Tracking Student Placement



## Reyes Gonzalez – St. Augustine College

#### Student First: Leading with Care

- Student-Centric Support
- Supporting Students Through Uncertainty
- After-Merger Support







The Transformational Partnerships Fund

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