

WELCOME TO THE EBS FALL WELCOME

HOSTED BY
THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION,
AND BELONGING COMMITTEE

DOORS OPEN University Center, Columbine A

8:30 AM

BREAKFAST

Cinnamon rolls, croissants, coffee and tea service

8:30 – 9:15 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Speaker: Heather Pendleton-Helm, EBS Dean

9:00 – 9:15 AM

INTERMISSION

9:15 – 9:30 AM

SESSION 1

Aspen A, B, and C

9:30 – 10:30 AM

INTERMISSION

10:30 – 10:45 AM

SESSION 2

Aspen A, B, and C

10:45 – 11:45 AM

CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker: Sue Hyeon Paek, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

LUNCH

Columbine A

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Speakers: Nancy Marchand-Martella, Provost and Executive Vice President and Anne Gregory,
Vice Provost for Academic Resources and Faculty Affairs

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of the presenters who made the 2026 EBS Fall Welcome possible.
We'd also like to thank the following committee members and other community members for their integral
role in the planning and execution of this Fall Welcome.

Maria Lahman (Outgoing Chair)
Sue Hyeon Paek (Incoming Co-Chair)
Chia-Lin Tsai (Incoming Co-Chair)

Amie Cieminski
Amy Graefe
Robyn Hess
James Hodges

Theoklitos Karipidis
Christine Kyser
Aldo Romero

Megan Miller
Kelly Trinch

SESSION 1: 9:30 – 10:30 AM

BUILDING BRIDGES: CONNECTING MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

ASPEN A

Introduced by: Jon Cooney, Assistant Professor of Leadership Policy and Development
Presented by: Candice Gonzalez, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Teacher and Micaela Martinez, Parent and Family Advocate

This session equips higher education professionals with asset-based, culturally responsive strategies to support immigrant and multilingual learners. Using a dual-system approach, participants will explore both campus and community-based resources to help remove barriers and create pathways for student and family success. Attendees will leave with a practical one-pager strategy and resource toolkit.

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENT BELONGING IN YOUR COURSES

ASPEN B

Introduced by: Sue Hyeon Paek, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences
Presented by: Cassie Bergstrom, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences

This invited talk focuses on practical strategies to foster student belonging in both face-to-face and online courses. The session highlights actionable approaches to course design, assessment, syllabi, or interaction that support students with unique needs such as first-generation students, ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, and other nontraditional learners to enhance engagement, access, and success.

SUPPORTING FACULTY AND STAFF OF COLOR THROUGH INCLUSIVE DEPARTMENT PRACTICES

ASPEN C

Introduced by: Amie Cieminski, Professor and Chair of Leadership and Policy Development
Presented by: Lizette Navarrete-Burks, Assistant Professor and Amie Cieminski, Professor and Chair, both of Leadership and Policy Development

Faculty and staff of color navigate unique opportunities and challenges in higher education, where leaders and colleagues play a critical role in fostering environments for success. This interactive session explores evidence-informed strategies to support faculty and staff of color through effective mentoring, equitable practices, inclusive climates, and intentional professional development. Participants will reflect on their departmental contexts and leave with actionable approaches to strengthen belonging and retention.

SESSION 2: 10:45 – 11:45 AM

ACADEMIC ABLEISM, DISABILITY JUSTICE, AND INCLUSIVE TEACHING PRACTICES

ASPEN A

Introduced by: Amy Graefe, Associate Professor of Special Education
Presented by: Sohail Akhavein, Director, UNC Disability Resource Center

This presentation explores the intersections of academic ableism, disability justice, and inclusive teaching in higher education. Drawing on disability frameworks and examples, we unpack how ableism manifests in classrooms, curricula, and systems, often marginalizing disabled students. Participants will reflect on their practices to consider disability justice as a guide toward equity, interdependence, and systemic change. Practical strategies for course design, assessment, and engagement will be shared, equipping educators to build accessible learning environments.

NAVIGATING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

ASPEN B

Introduced by: James Hodges, Director, Marcus Garvey Cultural Center
Presented by: Melisa Valtierra Tuttle (Associate Director), Rogelio Garcia-Perez (Associate Director), Sheridan Snapp (Assistant Director), and Lauren Cline (Scholar Support Coordinator), UNC Office of Community Scholars

Please join us for an overview of the Office of Community Scholars (OCS), covering its scholarship programs and application process at UNC. OCS includes four student development programs in the Division of Student Affairs, tailored to various focus areas. All programs empower and uplift students through events, services, resources, and community wrap-around support.

NAVIGATING BRAVE SPACES: AN INTERACTIVE CONVERSATION ABOUT INCLUSIVE PEDAGOGY

ASPEN C

Introduced by: Maria Lahman, Professor of Applied Statistics and Research Methods
Presented by: Lesley Chavarria, Community Organizer, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Colorado

Join us for an inclusive conversation on navigating challenging classroom discussions. Learn to create brave spaces, foster trust, and deconstruct tension through storytelling and civil dialogue. Gain skills and tools for handling teachable moments rooted in diverse opinions and experiences, encouraging calculated risk-taking and collective change.