



Keynote: Doing the Impossible Just Takes a Little Bit Longer

It can feel like stepping off the edge of the earth. The distance from high school to college can appear overwhelming to any arriving freshman— but when that freshman arrives with learning differences and challenges, that leap can feel absolutely undoable. At many universities, entering freshmen—arriving with or without special challenges-- muddle through their first days, weeks and months on their own as best they can. But your university is different. Freshmen arriving with challenges are offered personalized guidance, mentoring and step-by-step coaching to better the odds that the daunting high school to college transition begins and ends with success. It's a powerhouse intervention program that has the promise to transform lives, save lives and make lives. That makes being a coach or mentor to these entering students one of the most important jobs on campus. It may also be one of the most difficult jobs on campus. There is no simple, just-follow-the-directions, turn-by-turn road map to becoming an effective coach or mentor. Even though the stakes are high and you give it your all, you can't always help create successful outcomes. Your students face such a wide range of learning challenges, and few of those challenges are simply or easily managed and solved. Good coaches and mentors are always inventing, refining, fine-tuning and striving to assist each student to reach their full potential despite the barriers or obstacles that block the path forward. Some days, reaching and assisting some of your students can seem incredibly difficult, and on bad days, it can seem hopeless and impossible. This keynote will take you on a thought-provoking roller coaster ride. It is a candid look at two parallel realities: Striving to do your best to help your students strive to do their best— and how all of us have to come to believe that doing the impossible just takes a little bit longer.

The Amazing Power of Motivation

This workshop will shake up everything you know about motivating students with learning differences. You will walk out the door at the end of the hour with surprising, inventive, compelling, attention-grabbing strategies that motivate, motivate, motivate. Motivational methods will be offered for almost any reason that a student feels that college is too difficult, not necessary or not worth it. You'll learn more effective, colorful motivational methods that powerfully convey the incredible benefits that a college diploma delivers. You'll also receive techniques for students who think that they will be able to get by without a college degree. In addition to learning innovative student motivational strategies, you will also discover the amazing power of motivation to change everything-- how once a student is convinced of the incredible, lifelong benefits of a college degree, that motivation has the power to transform everything for the better. Motivation can become the engine that pulls the train. Without motivation, students can often believe that managing their learning challenges is hopeless, too difficult, overwhelming or impossible. Once more motivated and able to see that education is as important as the air they breathe, students can finally discover the amazing power they have to accomplish anything they can imagine. This workshop will deliver as many motivational and inspirational methods as can fit into a single hour, and this one hour will pay off all year long.

ADD and ADHD Problem-Solvers

Learn a surplus of unique, lively, more effective techniques to help students better manage Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity. This practical workshop is chock full of creative, unusual methods that can mine the assets of ADD and ADHD. This workshop is also chock full of memorable, easy-to-use, inventive strategies that students can use to better manage the specific deficits associated with ADD and ADHD. Ready-to-use methods will be given for issues like maintaining focus, coping with distractions, managing fidgeting, asking for help, organizing, studying, planning, hearing assignments, completing assignments and submitting assignments. You will learn how external structure can help compensate for the lack of sufficient internal controls, and you'll discover specific steps that students can use to moderate impulsiveness and improve decision-making. If you work with students who see ADD or ADHD as nothing but a curse, come to this workshop and learn how to convey to them that ADD and ADHD is something that can also bring benefits. This workshop will give you updated, new tools to convince students that ADD and ADHD do not have to be roadblocks on their journey to academic success.

To book your keynote or breakout workshop event

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