



## **Breakout Session Descriptions and Locations | 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

### **Session 1: How can restorative practices be utilized in our community?**

*Location:* MGC 331

*Presenters:*

Amanda Taylor, Assistant Vice President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Regina Curran, Title IX Program Officer  
Jaris Williams, Assistant Dean of Students

*Summary:* Like many campuses across the country, AU has recently undergone a series of painful racist incidents that have torn at the fabric of our community. A group of AU faculty, staff, and administrators have been exploring how restorative practices could serve as a vehicle to (re)build the authentic relationships needed to hold ourselves and each other accountable. In this interactive workshop, we invite participants to engage in a series of restorative circles to explore how restorative practices could play a role in bearing witness to the harm and building the space for healing in our community.

### **Session 2: How do we support high-achieving student success and well-being?**

*Location:* MGC 332

*Presenters:*

Jane Palmer, Professorial Lecturer, Department of Justice, Law & Criminology (SPA)  
Larry Thomas, Director, Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars Program  
Paula Warrick, Senior Director, Office of Merit Awards

*Summary:* The rates of anxiety, depression and substance abuse among students from “high-achieving schools” is at least two to three times the national average. Yet, a comprehensive, holistic approach to working with high-achieving students can mitigate the negative impacts of excessive pressure to excel. The panelists, who mentor high-achieving students at AU, will share their strategies to support students’ well-being while helping them reach their goals.

### **Session 3: How can we improve recruitment and orientation processes for new AU faculty and staff?**

*Location:* Butler Board Room

*Presenters:*

Mary Clark, Deputy Provost and Dean of Faculty  
Beth Muha, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources

*Summary:* This session will feature a facilitated discussion of current recruitment and orientation processes for new AU faculty and staff and solicit participants' feedback on what's working well and what could be approached differently.

### **Session 4: How can we ensure that STEM students thrive at AU?**

*Location:* MGC 324

*Moderator:*

Monica Jackson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Professor of Statistics, and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer (CAS)

*Panelists:*

Meg Bentley, Senior Professorial Lecturer, Department of Biology (CAS)  
Nathan Harshman, Professor and Chair, Department of Physics (CAS)  
Kathryn Walters-Conte, Director of STEM Partnerships and Outreach (CAS)

*Summary:* Led by the leaders of CAS's Initiative for STEM Education, Equity and Ethics (ISE3), this session will examine the many factors affecting STEM retention and student success—at AU and at peer institutions. Are those factors more acute for underrepresented students? What role should student advisement and/or faculty mentoring play in ensuring that our STEM students thrive? How do we address the common misperception that AU “isn't a science school”?

### **Session 5: How do we create a culturally inclusive academic community?**

*Location:* MGC 200 (Gianni Lounge)

*Presenters:*

Kiho Kim, Executive Director, Center for Teaching, Research & Learning  
Amy Savage, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, International Accelerator Program

*Summary:* In this session, we will examine the roles of cultural capital, particularly those that relate to language and understanding of social norms, in the learning process. Although typically viewed as a deficit needed to be overcome by students, we will also examine our own cultural capital, how it is expressed in the classroom, and its impact on the student experience.

## **Session 6: How do we better support our graduate student population?**

*Location:* MGC 330N

*Presenters:*

Wendy Boland, Interim Dean, Graduate Studies

Traci Callandrillo, Assistant Vice President, Campus Life

*Summary:* Our graduate student population is growing and changing. Our graduate students are taking classes on-campus and online, and they are often juggling professional and family obligations. In addition, many of our students, even those taking on-campus programs, do not live near campus, so commuting is also an obstacle they navigate. Thus, the goal of this session is to discuss the needs of our current graduate student population and develop an action plan of things we can do to better support this student population.

## **Session 7: How do we develop programs that support student thriving beyond graduation?**

*Location:* MGC 247

*Presenters:*

Jill Klein, Interim Dean, School of Professional and Extended Studies

Sam Hanna, Executive in Residence and Associate Dean, Graduate & Professional Studies (SPExS)

Raina Lenney, Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations

*Summary:* Learning does not stop at commencement. How can AU best support our graduates along their professional and personal journey? What is the "value" to our alumni? To the university? Let's imagine the future life of our alums—once an Eagle, always an Eagle.

## **Session 8: How do we improve policies and practices that get in the way of student thriving?**

*Location:* MGC 2–5

*Presenters:*

Jannel Clothier, Director, AU Central

Gene Logan, Associate Director, AU Central

Matt Bruno, Assistant Director, First-Year Advising

Casey Evans, Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Student Services (Kogod)

*Summary:* In this session, we will discuss what success looks like for AU students in the context of those who thrive and those who do not based on our policies and practices. Participants will discuss the obstacles that prohibit thriving and the interventions that promote thriving, as well as develop possible areas for improvement in our policies and practices.

## **Session 9: How can faculty and staff support student wellness?**

*Location:* MGC 328

*Presenters:*

Pritma (“Mickey”) Irizarry, Director, Health Promotion & Advocacy Center  
Andrea Malamisura, Assistant Director, First-Year Advising  
Elissa Margolin, Professorial Lecturer, Department of Health Studies (CAS)

*Summary:* This interactive and experiential learning session will provide a brief overview of data and research on student health and wellness as it relates to academic performance and student engagement. We invite participants to experience and engage in discussion around potential strategies to support student well-being.

## **Session 10: Are you taking care of yourself so that you can take care of our students? Self-care for campus caregivers.**

*Location:* MGC 245

*Moderator:*

Andie Rowe, Director, Employee Wellness and Work-Life

*Panelists:*

Jenn Baron Knowles, Associate Director, Kay Spiritual Life Center  
Kevin Barrett, AU Police Captain  
Bob Beahm, Fitness Coordinator, Personal Training & Assessment Programs  
Yoo-Jin Kang, Coordinator for Alcohol and Other Drugs, Health Promotion & Advocacy Center  
Shirleyne McDonald, Associate Director, Financial Aid  
Darien Smith, AUx Instructor and First-Year Advisor  
Amy Trietiak, Instructor, Department of Health Studies (CAS)

*Summary:* You’ve probably heard the old adage, “You can’t pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first.” Staff and faculty are *tired* juggling work and family obligations. Our panel explores strategies to combat stress and burnout and will randomly pick questions posed by session participants and discuss actionable solutions to support student thriving.