Title:
Removing Financial Barriers: Improving the Student Experience Through “One Form”

Abstract:
SES One Form at Northwestern University is an online application platform that allows students to apply for multiple funding opportunities, through one application or “form.” From scholarships for Greek Life to professional attire, students share their financial narrative one time. The SES One Form increases visibility of funding opportunities across campus while decreasing inconsistent application processes and the need to repeat financial narratives to multiple stakeholders.

This session will provide an overview of the SES One Form and describe what led to its creation. Participants will also learn how cross-unit partnerships between the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, Division of Student Affairs, School of Education and Social Policy, and Financial Operations and Treasury, fostered an environment of collaboration and information sharing.

Finally, the session will describe the multiple financial barriers that low-income students face on college campuses, and share strategies for building partnerships with key departments. Participants will also learn about the importance of eliminating barriers and increasing transparency around resources and scholarships for curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will learn strategies for collaborating across multiple units and departments.
- Participants will gain awareness of financial barriers that can significantly impact student performance, persistence, and overall achievement.
- Participants will evaluate the strengths and opportunities for addressing financial barriers in their respective units/teams.