

*Workshop on Student Retention through Better Advising*, Carol Gattis, University of Arkansas

One proven way to increase student retention, especially during the freshman and sophomore years, is to improve advising. Research shows that by improving the quality of advising, and including more than just what classes a student should take, the freshman retention rate can be significantly improved. In addition, research shows that for 4-year public colleges and universities, students rate academic advising as the most important aspect of their educational experience, along with instructional effectiveness. In engineering, rarely are faculty given advisor training. Many advisors say they would like to improve their advising skills, but don't know how.

This workshop will be an interactive session with video segments and discussion, using the professionally developed Noel-Levitz advisor development program "Academic Advising for Student Success and Retention". You will walk away with tools to improve advising, with the goal of improving student retention and student satisfaction. Topics will include specific sections on advising freshmen, meeting needs of students of color, ethical implications and practices of advising, accessing campus resources, as well as specifics of how to conduct a quality advising session with students.