



ARKANSAS  
TECH  
UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs and Student Services Present a

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Please feel free to bring your lunch to enjoy during the seminars. All seminars will be recorded and posted to Blackboard should you wish to view at a more convenient time.

## SEMINAR 1:

### Effective Use of the Tech Emergency Procedure Guide: How to Respond in a Crisis

Friday, February 28 • Noon to 1 p.m. • Rothwell 317

#### TOPIC:

What is an emergency? An emergency is any immediate threat to life and/or property that requires response from police, fire, or emergency medical services. What should you do in the event of an emergency? To answer this question, Arkansas Tech University has created and distributed an Emergency Procedure Guide which is available to all faculty and staff members and is provided in every classroom, residence hall room, departmental office, and meeting space on campus. This guide is designed to be easy to follow with special tabs for quick access to information needed in emergency situations. This session will provide you with further information and help you maximize the use of the Emergency Procedure Guide to ensure you are prepared to respond in an emergency situation.

**PRESENTER:** Joshua McMillian,  
Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Joshua McMillian is the Chief of Police for Arkansas Tech University. He previously worked for the Russellville and Dardanelle Police Departments as a patrol officer, traffic team officer, public Information officer, crime prevention officer, and served on the Russellville Police Special Response Team. Chief McMillian has a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University, completed graduate work at SMU, and is currently enrolled in the Graduate College at Arkansas Tech University in the Emergency Management Program. He is a certified Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Specialist (CPTED).

# SEMINAR 2:

## Continuous Improvement Plan: Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement from 2011 to 2021

Wednesday, March 19 • Noon to 1 p.m. • Rothwell 317

### TOPIC:

This session will provide information for academic programs and university offices on how and why we “close the loop,” better known as Continuous Improvement. The focus of the session is Continuous Improvement, which is vital for the advancement of student learning and program quality. Continuous Improvement is synonymous with Institutional Effectiveness; Nichols and Nichols (2000) define continuous improvement as “the results of assessment activities are utilized both to determine the extent to which department intentions have been met (hence, effectiveness of the institution has been demonstrated) and to improve departmental and programmatic operations”.

This session is for faculty, department heads, directors, and university staff. Assessment strategies and continuous improvement plans and reports will be discussed for academic programs, student services, student support services, and other ancillary programs on campus. A power point slide will accompany the presentation as well as documents available on the Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness web page.

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Monica Varner

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Dr. Monica Varner is the Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. Varner oversees the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Her research interests include service learning, analysis of student reflection journals, and assessment best practices.

# SEMINAR 3:

## Giving Back: Academic Service Learning a Collaborative Partnership with Academic Affairs and Student Services

Wednesday, April 23 • Noon to 1 p.m. • Rothwell 317

### TOPIC:

This session will provide information for faculty on Giving Back: Academic Service Learning pilot study and the collaborative service partnership with Academic Affairs and Student Services. The focus of the session is to demonstrate how to implement a service learning assignment in your course, how to establish service opportunities for your students through the collaborative partnership with Student Services, and an explanation of what you will need to implement a course embedded service learning activity. We will conclude this session with helpful service learning strategies we learned from the pilot study.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Monica Varner, Dr. Jason Warnick, and Ms. Aubrey Holt

**ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:** Dr. Monica Varner is the Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. Varner oversees the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Her research interests include service learning, analysis of student reflection journals, and assessment best practices.

Dr. Jason Warnick is an Associate Professor of Psychology. In 2013, he was awarded the Arkansas Tech University Student Government Association Outstanding Professor of the Year Award. His primary research interests include developing animal models of neuropsychiatric disorders and the identification of variables indicative of success in combative sports.

Ms. Aubrey Holt currently serves as the Director of Student Life at Arkansas Tech University. In this role, she oversees leadership development and civic engagement programming, the co-curricular experience program (On Track), Registered Student Organizations, and Spirit Squads. Ms. Holt obtained her M.A.E. in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Western Kentucky University in May 2011. Prior to her graduate work, Ms. Holt traveled to over 50 college campuses as an Educational Leadership Consultant for Delta Zeta Sorority to facilitate officer and membership development. She obtained her bachelor degree in 2007 at Arkansas Tech University in Broadcast Journalism.