



**Speaker: Brandee Popaden-Smith**

**Title:** Scaling High-Impact Engagement Practices for Institutional Success

**Audience:** Administrators

**Topic:** Expanding HIPs to Enhance Student Engagement and Retention

**Summit track:** Milestones and engagement

**Objectives:**

- Train administrators to scale high-impact practices (HIPs) such as service learning and undergraduate research.
- Develop policies that make HIPs accessible to all students, with a focus on affordability and equity.
- Implement assessment metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of HIPs on student engagement, retention, and success.

**Session Description**

As universities and colleges face increasing pressure to deliver meaningful, career-aligned outcomes for students, scaling high-impact practices (HIPs) requires a thoughtful and strategic approach. This session will explore how institutions can leverage user-centered design, formative and summative assessment, and a commitment to post-completion success to expand and sustain practices that drive student engagement, learning, and career readiness.

Drawing from design-thinking principles, we will examine how universities and colleges can better understand student needs, prototype scalable solutions, and iteratively refine interventions to maximize impact. Participants will explore how formative and summative assessments can be used to improve program effectiveness and ensure equitable access to HIPs. Finally, we will discuss why institutions must accept responsibility for post-completion success of their students and how work-integrated learning can help them do so.

Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for embedding design-thinking mindsets, refining assessment practices, and making post-completion success a guiding metric for institutional innovation.

**Speaker Bio**

Brandee Popaden-Smith is a higher education leader specializing in career exploration, experiential learning, and work-integrated learning with a commitment to advancing equity and opportunity for underserved populations, including first-generation students, students of color, and those from high-need backgrounds. By leveraging emerging technologies and forging innovative partnerships with universities, EdTech, and industry leaders, she has driven transformative change across the higher education landscape. Brandee is dedicated to reshaping higher education to meet the needs of today's learners, scaling impact through a steadfast focus on access, inclusion, and opportunity.