**We Can Start the Fire!**

**Inspire: Engage Students from the Start by “Lighting the Fire”  
for Learning**

## Workshop overview

Inspiring learning experiences in the first semester gives students powerful motivation to continue with their studies and also helps build students’ confidence as college learners, which research shows is critical for success in college. This workshop explores why Inspire, a component of the Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan framework, plays a crucial role in program onboarding for new students. You will learn about:

* How to inspire students by:
  + Connecting course content to students’ lives.
  + Connecting course content to programs and careers.
  + Investing in structures that give faculty the time and resources to deliver *Inspire* courses.
* Why Inspire is a crucial part of program onboarding
* Why Inspire is an important strategy for supporting retention and equity on your campus
* Examples of colleges’ approaches to a shift towards Inspire practices
* Activities to aid the implementation of Inspireon your campus

## How this connects to our college’s student equity and success efforts

[**Note to facilitators**: Insert 1–2 sentences about how this workshop supports your college’s existing student equity and success efforts, which may include your college’s five-year plan, strategic plan, Title III work, student equity and success plan, and/or existing initiatives or special projects, etc.]

## Workshop agenda

[10 min] Inspire in the context of guided pathways

[30 min] Why Inspire matters and putting *Inspire* into practice

[15 min] Examining opportunities to Inspirestudents in the first term

[30 min] Activity A: Building connections to students’ experiences, programs, and careers within

top-enrolled first-term courses

[5 min] Debrief Activity A

[25 min] Activity B: Identifying next steps for putting Inspire into practice for your students

[5 min] Next steps

## Pre-readings

[*Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan: How to Reimagine Onboarding into a Program of Study*](https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/blog/acip-reimagining-onboarding.html) (by Hana Lahr and Davis Jenkins)

[*Innovating at Scale: How one community college system discarded a cookie-cutter approach to education*](https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-gamma/innovating-scale) (by Steven Mintz)

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