



## Annual Critical Issues Seminars

### Hosted by Doctoral Programs in Higher Education

The Department of Higher Education hosts the Critical Issues in Higher Education seminar each July to bring thought leaders in higher education to the APU campus and provide an opportunity for our doctoral students to interact with these leaders. Doctoral students are required to attend two seminars during their three years of coursework. These experts in the field have presented at the “Critical Issues” seminars of over the last five years.

#### *July 2016*



**Shaun R. Harper** is a professor in the Graduate School of Education, Africana Studies, and Gender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he founded and serves as executive director of the Center for the Study of Race & Equity in Education. He studies topics pertaining to race and gender in education and social contexts, equity trends and climate issues on college campuses, Black and Latino male student success in high school and higher education, college student engagement, and intercollegiate athletics.

#### *July 2015*



**Daryl G. Smith, Ph.D.**, is a Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emerita of Education and Psychology at The Claremont Graduate University. Dr. Smith previously served as a college administrator in planning and evaluation, institutional research, and student affairs. Her research, teaching, and publications have been in the areas of organizational implications of diversity, assessment and evaluation, leadership and change, governance, diversity

in STEM fields, and faculty diversity. In addition to numerous articles and papers, she is an author or co-author of *Diversity's Promise for Higher Education: Making It Work*, *The Challenge of Diversity: Alienation or Involvement in the Academy*, and more.

## July 2014



**Susan R. Komives**, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland, is past president of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) and the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), was a vice president of two institutions, and is the author/editor of a dozen books including *Student Services*, *Exploring Leadership*, *Leadership for a Better World*, and *The Handbook for Student Leadership Development*. Dr. Komives is a consulting editor for student leadership with Jossey-Bass and is the executive editor of the New Directions in Student Leadership series. She is former co-PI of the Multi-institutional Study of Leadership (MSL) and a former board member of the International Leadership Association. Dr. Komives is a recipient of both the ACPA and NASPA outstanding research awards and the ACPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

## July 2013



**Alyssa Bryant Rockenbach**, Ph.D., is an associate professor of higher education at North Carolina State University. Her research focuses on the impact of college on students, with particular attention to spiritual development, religious and worldview diversity in colleges and universities, campus climate, community service engagement, and gendered dimensions of the college student experience. Her scholarship has been featured in a number of higher education and interdisciplinary journals, including *Research in Higher Education*, the *Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *Gender and Education*, and *Religion and Education*. She has been honored with national awards, including the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Emerging Scholar Award, the Annuity Coeptis Emerging Professional Award, and the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Religion & Education SIG Emerging Scholar Award.

*July 2012*



Darnell Cole, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Southern California, with an emphasis in higher education and education psychology. His areas of research include race/ ethnicity, diversity, college student experiences, and learning. He has published over 30 articles and book chapters and is featured in the major journals for higher education and other related fields including *The Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *NASPA Journal*, *Journal of Classroom Behavior*, and *Journal of Creative Behavior*.