

Empowering Students for Academic Success Through Academic Advising

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UCD Teaching & Learning Symposium 2026

Online Event - Wednesday 25th February

Programme

10:30 **Welcome:** [Dr Leigh Wolf](#), Interim Director, UCD Teaching and Learning

Opening Address: [Professor Colin Scott](#), UCD Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

10:35 **Session 1: Keynote – ‘Empowering Students for Academic Success Through Academic Advising’**

Keynote Speaker: [Dr Saundra Yancy McGuire](#), Professor Emerita of Chemistry and Director Emerita of the Center for Academic Success at Louisiana State University (LSU)

The keynote will explore how metacognitive strategies and cognitive science can transform academic advising to empower student success. Practical approaches for building student confidence, motivation, and agency, while guiding the evaluation of personal interests and abilities and development of educational plans will be shared.

Session Chair: [Professor Geraldine O'Neill](#), UCD Teaching & Learning

12:00 **Comfort break**

12:10 **Session 2: UCD Experiences – Case Studies**

Session Chair: [Professor Marie Clarke](#), UCD Deputy Registrar and Dean of Learning and Teaching in UCD



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Case Study of the Academic Advising Approach in the School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr Diane Cashman, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

Case Study of the Academic Advising Approach in the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science

Professor Geraldine Butler, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science

12:50 Session 3: Empowering Students for Academic Success – UCD Staff and Student Voices

Session Chair: UCD T&L Student Partner, June Polgolla

Speakers

Students and senior academic advisors from the Academic Advising pilot will share real experiences, practical tips, and valuable insights on empowering students and building their confidence through academic advising.

The panel includes academic advisors and students from the following UCD Schools:

- School of Chemistry
- School of History
- School of Psychology

13:25 Closing Comments – Next Steps for UCD Schools Who Would Like to Develop an Approach to Academic Advising

Ms Judith Archbold, Senior Project Manager, UCD Teaching & Learning



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Keynote Speaker

Dr Saundra Yancy McGuire, Louisiana State University



Dr Saundra Yancy McGuire is Professor Emerita of Chemistry and Director Emerita of the Center for Academic Success at Louisiana State University (LSU). Prior to this, she spent eleven years at Cornell University, where she received the coveted Clark Distinguished Teaching Award.

A nationally recognised expert in metacognitive learning strategies, Dr McGuire has delivered keynote addresses and workshops at over 500 institutions across 48 states, 15 countries, and six continents, helping faculty and students apply cognitive science to improve academic performance. She is the author of the bestselling books 'Teach Students How to Learn' and 'Teach Yourself How to Learn'.

McGuire's most recent accolades include being listed in 2023 as one of the Top 100 Learning Influencers in history by Eduflow, being named a 2022 Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting, being listed in the 2020 edition of Marquis Who's Who in America, and induction into the LSU College of Science Hall of Distinction. She is an elected Fellow of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Council of Learning Assistance and Developmental Education Associations. She received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in a White House Oval Office Ceremony.



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