



**2026 CILC Best Practices Symposium**



**“Grunt Work at the Summit and in the Trenches: Case Studies of What It Takes to Make a Learning Communities Program a Success”**

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

**Northeastern Illinois University**

<b>Breakfast &amp; Registration:</b> 8:00 – 8:45 AM	<b>Student Union Alumni Hall</b>	
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> 8:45 – 9:00 AM	Veronica E. Rodriguez, Director, Student Leadership Development Charles Pastors, Acting Executive Director, CILC	
	<b>SU 103</b>	<b>SU 214</b>
<b>Breakout I</b> 9:00 – 10:00 AM	“How We Spent Our Summer,” Shiela Venkataswamy and Toni Countryman, McHenry County College	“The Benefits of a Diversified Living Learning Community Cohort,” Cindy Voisine and Jon Hageman, Northeastern Illinois University
	<b>SU 103</b>	<b>SU 214</b>
<b>Breakout II</b> 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	“But Do They Work? Adventures in Assessing LCs”, Jim Allen and Sarah Butler, College of DuPage	“LLCs @ NEIU: A Case Study About a Living Learning Communities Program at an Urban HIS,” Pamela Geddes and Veronica Rodriguez, Northeastern Illinois University
	<b>SU Alumni Hall</b>	
<b>Lunch:</b> 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM		
	<b>SU Alumni Hall</b>	
<b>Plenary Session</b> 12:15 – 1:15 PM	“NEIU Learning Communities Student Panel,” Veronica Rodriguez, Northeastern Illinois University	
	<b>SU 103</b>	<b>SU 214</b>
<b>Breakout III</b> 1:30 – 2:30 PM	Workshop: “Convincing Your School That, For Learning Communities, ‘The Price is Right’”, Charles Pastors, QUEST	“The Trials and Tribulations of Creating a Learning Community,” James Allen and Les Wolf, College of DuPage
	<b>SU Alumni Hall</b>	
<b>Wrap-Up</b> 2:30 – 2:45 PM		