



**Welcome to the final session of the NACADA Conference! Thank you for joining us!**



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

# CONVERSATIONS ON THE GO

FLOWING TOGETHER: NAVIGATING THE  
CONFLUENCE OF STUDENT, FACULTY AND  
ADVISOR INFORMAL CONNECTIONS

Elaine Barr and Doug DaVee



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Presenter Introductions

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ADVISOR

## Elaine Barr

- Direct Admit Freshman
- Juniors L-Z
- Seniors
- Licensure questions
- Resume and Cover Letter help

[ebarr@iu.edu](mailto:ebarr@iu.edu)





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ADVISOR

## Doug DaVee

- Sophomores
- Juniors A-K
- Career Readiness and Programming
- Conversations on the Go

[dadavee@iu.edu](mailto:dadavee@iu.edu)

Presenter Introductions





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## Getting to know you

Are you an Advisor, Faculty Member,  
Faculty Advisor, Administrator, or Student?

What is the size of your institution?

Are you involved in creating or running  
programming and engagement activities?





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## Session Agenda

- Background and Context
- Development and Implementation
- Outcomes and Assessment
- Challenges and Adaptations
- Group Discussion and Brainstorming



# **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

- **Founded in 1820:** Indiana University Bloomington (IU) is the main campus of Indiana University's nine-campus/center system across Indiana and is one of the oldest public universities in the Midwest.
- **Academic and Research Excellence:** IU Bloomington is an R1 research institution, offering degrees through 16 schools, with highly ranked programs in fields like business, informatics, and music.
- **A Diverse, Welcoming Community:** With over 43,000 students from all 50 states and more than 140 countries, IU Bloomington is a vibrant place to learn and connect with people from all backgrounds.
- **Part of the Big Ten:** As a Big Ten school, IU has a strong academic and athletic tradition, creating a dynamic campus community.
- **IU Nursing Program:** The IU School of Nursing in Bloomington prepares students for impactful careers through hands-on learning and research, contributing to the healthcare workforce locally and nationally. We are part of a Core that includes 3 campuses.

Introducing Indiana  
University







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## Core Values

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### Respect

We create a positive environment by treating all people with mutual respect and sensitivity, recognizing the importance of their contributions and diversity.

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### Trust

We foster trust by acting with honesty, integrity, and openness.

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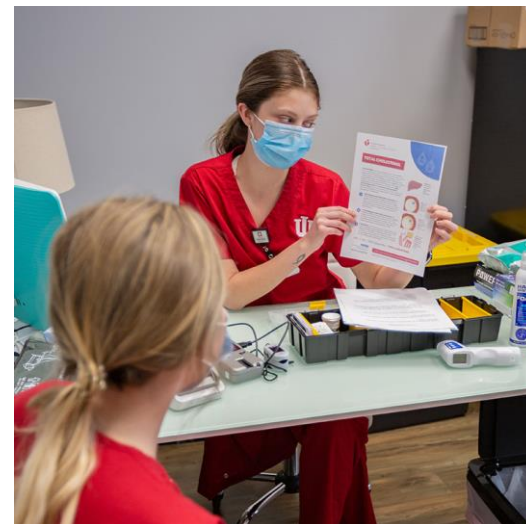
### Responsibility

We accept responsibility for our actions.

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### Dialogue

We build community through dialogue by sharing and respecting our diversity of opinions, views, and expertise.





**Advising Model Shift (Fall 2022)** A transition to a holistic, coaching-based approach that emphasizes personalized and developmental advising for student success.

**Holistic Advising** Holistic academic advising focuses on the student's complete development by integrating academic, personal, and career guidance, helping them make well-rounded decisions for success.

**Coaching Integration** Coaching provides personalized support to help individuals reach their education and career goals, empowering them to overcome challenges and build on their strengths.

**Mandatory Advising Sessions** All students must attend advising sessions each semester to ensure they receive personalized support tailored to their academic and career goals.

**Desired Outcome** This advising model fosters stronger student engagement, accountability, and success by emphasizing a collaborative and empowering approach. It moves away from the traditional prescriptive, transactional style of advising to create a more meaningful and holistic experience for students.



# Our Advising Approach and Timeline

## Spring 2022

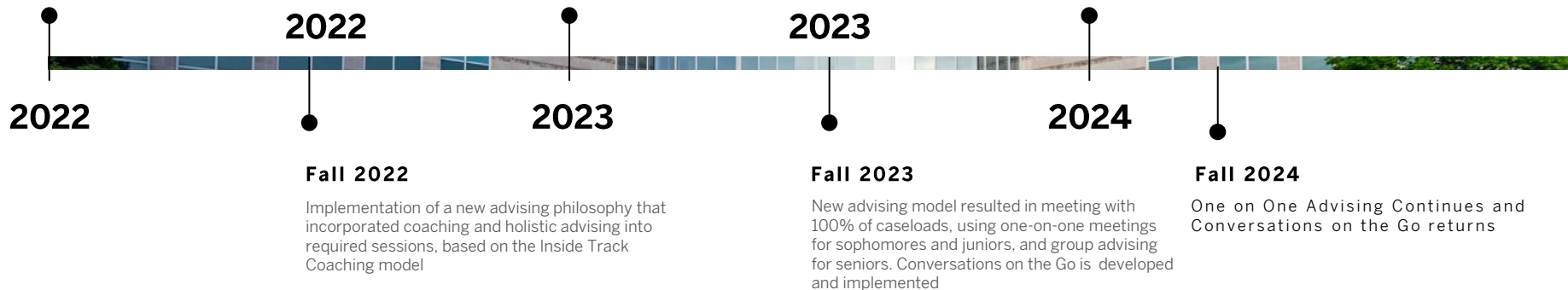
Newly Implemented Director of Advising

## Spring 2023

Continued coaching conversations training. Programming initiatives introduced based on fall conversations with students. Introduced Group Advising.

## Spring 2024

Continuation of the holistic approach to advising. Developed more group advising opportunities. Developed programming initiatives based on discussions during Fall Advising sessions

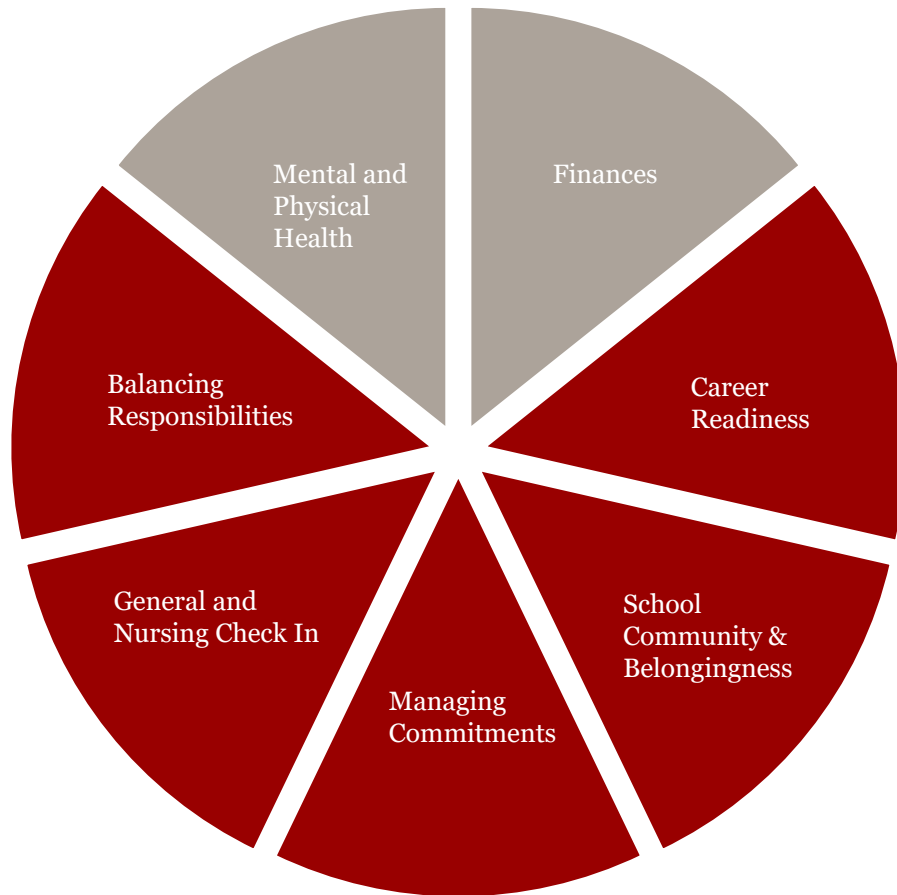




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## The Focus Wheel

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# Advising Sessions

## Fall Semester:

- **Format:** 45-minute individual advising sessions (virtual or in-person).
- **Focus:** Building connections, checking in with students, and providing guidance as they transition into the semester.

## Spring Semester:

- **Format:** 45-minute advising sessions available in individual or group formats (virtual or in-person).
- **Focus:** Flexibility and deeper engagement to cater to diverse student needs. Focus in on specific areas including Graduation, Career, Health and Wellness, etc.

## Holistic Advising Approach

1. **Holistic Conversations:**
  - Foster open discussions that address students' academic, personal, and career aspirations.
2. **Check-In:**
  - Review students' current progress, challenges, and any necessary adjustments to their plans.
3. **Goal Setting:**
  - Assist students in defining both short-term and long-term goals for their academic and personal growth.
4. **Follow-Up with In-Depth Advising Notes:**
  - Document key points and action items to ensure ongoing development and continuity in advising. Meeting notes are then sent to students on the same day of the appointment.

## Appointment Options

- **Student Preference:** Currently, students prefer virtual appointments at a rate of 60%, with 40% opting for in-person sessions.

# **DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**



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## Problem Statement- Basis for Conversations on The Go!

**Declining Participation in Drop-In Advising:** Many students are not taking advantage of traditional drop-in advising sessions, leading to missed opportunities for support and guidance.

**Desire for Informal Faculty Connections:** Students have expressed a strong desire for more opportunities to connect with faculty through informal settings beyond the classroom. This indicates a need for a more approachable and engaging way for students to interact with their instructors.

To address these challenges, we developed **Conversations on the Go!**, an initiative aimed at enhancing faculty-student connections and encouraging greater student participation in advising.



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HOLISTIC ADVISING IN ACTION

# Empowering Student Voices

**Student Ambassadors** played a crucial role in gathering feedback through informal peer conversations, focus groups, and formal surveys

**The recurring theme:** Students consistently voiced a need for informal, social interactions with faculty to build stronger community ties and connections.







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HOLISTIC ADVISING IN ACTION

## Empowering Student Voices

The program also originated from holistic advising discussions where students expressed a desire for greater connections with faculty outside the traditional classroom setting.

Advisors used these insights to design a new approach that went beyond academic guidance and created a platform for fostering deeper, more meaningful relationships





# Conversations on the Go: What is it?

1

## **Informal Atmosphere for Drop-in advising**

Within this relaxed setup, students and advisors engage in brief discussions and informal “get-to-know-you” opportunities. It offers an approachable environment to address immediate queries and making students more comfortable seeking support in the future

2

## **Enhanced Student Faculty Social Interaction**

These weekly sessions provide a platform for students to connect with faculty outside traditional classrooms. They foster informal, interactive connections, nurturing stronger relationships and creating opportunities for more meaningful engagement beyond academic settings.

3

## **Faculty and Advisor Collaboration Sessions**

These sessions create a shared space for faculty and the advising team to collaborate. This setup helps both parties gain a deeper understanding of each other’s roles and builds a stronger collaborative foundation for future endeavors in supporting students



# Literature and Theoretical Frameworks

DEVELOPMENT AND  
IMPLEMENTATION

- **Vincent Tinto: Theory of Institutional Departure**
  - Retention and completion rates increase when students actively engage in both academic and social activities on campus, including informal interactions with faculty and staff outside the classroom
- **Ernest Pascarella: Model for Assessing Student Change**
  - Campus culture and environment, along with social interactions with faculty and student affairs professionals, significantly impact students' academic progress and overall development in college
- **Alexander Astin: Theory of Involvement**
  - Active participation in college life, which includes interaction with staff and faculty, enhances students' academic and social satisfaction, leading to increased involvement, a stronger sense of belonging, and higher rates of retention





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## The Essentials

**Time:**

Every Wednesday from 11:30am-1pm

**Location:**

First Floor, Main Hallway, Health Sciences Building

**Weekly Engagement:**

25-50 students interacting

**Interaction Duration:**

Varies from 2-10 Minutes

**Budget Friendly:**

\$75-\$100 for the entire semester





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## Promoting COTG

- Canvas announcements each week
- Eye catching posters
- Faculty endorsements
- Social media buzz
- Reference in advising sessions if relevant
- Staff and Faculty Meetings





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# Conversation Topics

- 01 | Financial Literacy: Budgeting, student loans, managing expenses
- 02 | Clinical Preparation and Time Management: Tips for effective clinical rotations and balancing coursework
- 03 | Balancing Responsibilities: Managing academics, work, and personal life
- 04 | Mental Health and Well-being: Coping strategies, stress management, self-care
- 05 | Transitioning to Professional Practice
- 06 | Research and Scholarship Opportunities



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# Conversation Topics

- 07 | Diversity and Inclusion: Promoting a culturally inclusive and diverse healthcare environment
- 08 | Graduate School and Advanced Education: Pursuing further education and specialization
- 09 | Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Working with other healthcare professionals
- 10 | Career Development and Networking: Faculty can offer tips for resume building, job search, and networking
- 11 | Effective Communication and Ethical Decision-Making
- 12 | Effective Study and Test-taking Strategies



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## Conversation Topics

- 13 | Faculty Hidden Talent Time
- 14 | Book or Movie Reviews
- 15 | Pet Parade: Faculty share pictures, videos, and stories about their pets
- 16 | Creative Crafting and DIY projects
- 17 | Show and Tell
- 18 | Language Exchange: Faculty teach basic phrases in different languages







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## Conversation Topics

- 19 | Outdoor Adventures and Travel Experiences
- 20 | Plant Care Workshop
- 21 | DIY Home Repairs
- 22 | Magic and Illusions
- 23 | Faculty stories: firsthand accounts about nursing school to current role
- 24 | Healthy and Affordable Cooking for Students on a Budget





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HOLISTIC ADVISING IN ACTION

# Community Engagement

- Student Organizations
- Student Ambassador Promotional Events
- IU School of Nursing Development Office
- Health Partners
- Study Abroad
- Love on a Leash (dog therapy)



# **OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENTS**



## Assessment Results

**Future Outlook:** With nearly all students expressing interest, Conversations on the Go is a regular weekly event for Fall 2024!

100%

Agreed Conversations on the Go is a great way to connect with advisors

100%

Agreed it's an excellent way to connect with faculty

92%

Said it's a good way to connect with peers



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## Assessment Results

**52%**

Of attendees participated  
5+ times

**39%**

Attended 2 - 4 times

**9%**

Joined for 1 session



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## Most Popular Sessions

1

Mental Health and Well Being: Love on a Leash

2

Healthy and Affordable Cooking and Recipe Exchange

3

Creative Crafting and Crocheting

4

Sewing with Dr Wyatt! Making your own heating pads for stress management.

# Things to Consider

## OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENTS

- **Timing the weekly sessions**
  - Analyzed student schedules and class breaks to choose optimal time of Wednesdays 11:30-1pm when most students were present in the building and likely to pass by
- **Faculty Buy-In**
  - Flexible scheduling to accommodate faculty availability
  - Word of mouth from experienced faculty
  - Faculty had positive experiences last year
  - New faculty expressed interest to connect with students early fostering their sense of belonging in the School of Nursing
- **Marketing and Promotion**
  - Promoting during Nursing Program Orientation set the expectation for students to stop by.
  - Ongoing weekly reminders via Canvas, faculty promotion, signage, word of mouth, and advising appointment reminders
- **Student Buy-In**
  - Attracted students with candy, interactive whiteboards, and informal surveys
  - Invited student groups to promote their organizations and events
  - Promoted heavily at Nursing Program Orientation
  - Faculty promotion

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“I enjoyed connecting with students through Conversations on the Go. It provided an opportunity to engage students from diverse programs in conversations about their own fiber arts and service projects such as donating hand-crafted hats for local schools”

– Dr. Amy Wonder – Assistant Dean





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“Conversations on the Go was a great way to connect with students outside of the classroom. Food is so important to our lives and can evoke many positive memories. I enjoyed giving the students some tips on affordable and easy to make homemade beef vegetable soup and it almost felt like we were gathering in my kitchen to discuss and sample a favorite recipe.” – Dr. Beth Murray





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## Student Feedback

“This was my favorite part of Wednesdays. I always looked forward to learning something interesting, talking to staff, and of course getting candy” --**IUSON Sophomore**

“I especially enjoyed Conversations on the Go for the treats, prizes, and all the sessions were nice”  
--**IUSON Sophomore**





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## Student Feedback

“Conversations on the Go has facilitated meaningful interactions between students and faculty, fostering deeper connections beyond the classroom. Our Advisors have significantly contributed to cultivating a distinctive atmosphere within our student body, one that stands out among all others on campus” --**IUSON Senior**



# **CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATIONS**



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## Lessons Learned

- Design tabling activities that engage both introverts and extroverts
- Encourage faculty and community partners to offer interactive activities to attract more students
- Use weekly survey boards with new questions to spark conversation
- Display event photos so students can see themselves and their friends
- Involve student leaders and organizations to draw more of their peers to the tables.



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## Informal Conversations leading to greater use of Office Hours

**Reduces Formality:** COTG shifts from formal office hours to a friendly, informal chat, making faculty feel more approachable.

**Eases Anxiety:** Meeting faculty in familiar spaces reduces the intimidation of visiting an office and helps students feel at ease.

**Breaks Structural Barriers:** COTG removes the need for appointments, offering accessible, casual interactions.

**Creates Positive Impressions:** By starting with friendly conversations, COTG encourages positive experiences that make students more likely to attend office hours.



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## Lessons Learned

- Consistency matters
- Choose times/locations where you're most visible and accessible
- Maintain a casual, approachable atmosphere
- Maximize impact with minimal resources
- Faculty can participate- just ask
- Strengthen student-advisor connections beyond formal advising



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## Challenges

- Faculty preparation levels varied
- Select optimal times and locations for weekly sessions
- Factor in potential conflicts (e.g. exams, dead week, cancelled classes, other events, etc.)
- Interactive and engaging content works best
- Coordinate with faculty to confirm availability





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## How can this work at your institution?

- Share your name, role and an overview of advising strategies
- Discuss how your office might adapt a program like Conversations on the Go
- What specific challenges do you anticipate in developing this initiative?
- Brainstorm solutions to challenges
- Share out

Thank You and  
Safe Travels  
Home!

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