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President Update

Hello INAIR Colleagues!

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and full of hope as we see vaccines administered throughout the state. It is so hard to believe that it was a year ago that we were together in Indianapolis for our 34th Annual Conference. What a year it has been! For me INAIR 2020 will forever mark the beginning of this challenging pandemic, a year that brought us new appreciation for a well-fitting mask, good take-out, Netflix binging, and our favorite brands of toilet paper.

This past year has also made me appreciate each of you, our INAIR members, for your continuing support and involvement in our organization. We all spent last summer adjusting to a new "normal" of long days spent on zoom, and it was clear by fall that many of us felt the need to connect and support each other in our work. We have had amazing turnouts in our Friday Forum series, learning from, reconnecting with, and recharging each other. I am truly grateful to all of you who have attended, presented, and participated! I look forward to our last Friday Forum on Assessment on March 5.

While we are all disappointed that we cannot be in person for our 35th Annual Conference, we are excited about the new opportunities that our virtual conference platform provides. By keeping the conference free for INAIR members, we are hopeful that many who may not have been able to travel to Indianapolis can now join us! Huge thanks are due to Jordan Mays, our Vice President and Conference Chair, for his hard work in designing our virtual experience. Make sure you read Jordan's conference updates in this newsletter!

I would also like to thank all of the 2020-2021 INAIR Board members who have met monthly to keep our organization moving forward. This great team has designed and delivered newsletters, kept our finances in order, maintained our web presence to keep everyone informed, and more. Your INAIR Board is always looking for individuals to serve in various roles. If you are interested in getting involved, adding to your resume, and serving on the Board, please reach out to any Board member.

One final note. I would like to ask each of you to set aside time to engage fully in our virtual conference experience on April 8 and 9. For starters, register today if you have not already! Next, block your calendar for the days of the conference. Create an "out of office" message for your email. Take the time to enjoy our keynote, learn from and support your colleagues who are presenting, and participate in our business meeting. It's so easy to sign up for virtual events and then let our crazy work lives get in the way of us actively engaging in a meaningful conference experience. I hope that each of us can commit to investing our time in a great INAIR conference. "See" you there!

--Sharon Wavle, INAIR President



35th Annual INAIR Conference

April 8 – 9, 2021

Can you believe that INAIR 2021 is only a little more than a month away? Take the time **today** to [Register](#) for the INAIR 2021 Annual Conference now, as **early registration expires on 3/1/2021**. Also, if you are not planning on attending the 2021 Conference but would like to maintain your membership, please utilize the same [Registration](#) link. Once again, the INAIR 2021 Conference is FREE for members. Annual membership is only \$30.

Schedule of Events for the 2021 INAIR Conference

Thursday 4/8

<i>Pre-Conference Workshops</i>	<i>10 AM – 11:50AM</i>
<i>Keynote Presentation</i>	<i>12 PM - 1:15 PM</i>
<i>Concurrent Sessions</i>	<i>1:30 PM - 3:15 PM</i>
<i>Networking/Coffee Break</i>	<i>3:30 PM - 4:30 PM</i>

Friday 4/9

<i>Morning Wakeup Networking</i>	<i>9 AM – 9:30 AM</i>
<i>Concurrent Sessions</i>	<i>10 AM – 11:45 AM</i>
<i>Business Meeting / Awards Presentation</i>	<i>12 PM – 1 PM</i>

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to hear the keynote presentation, network with IR professionals, and engage in sessions presented by INAIR members.

[Register](#) now for the 2021 Conference.
FREE for INAIR members.
Annual Membership only \$30.

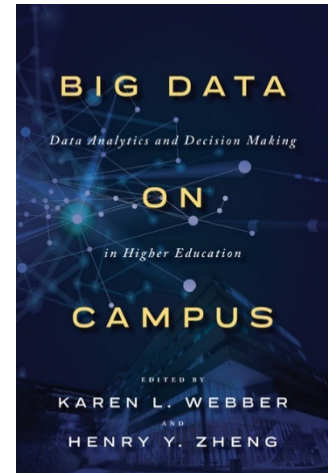
Announcing Keynote Address!

We are excited to announce our 2021 Keynote Speakers are **Dr. Karen Webber & Dr. Henry Zheng**, Editors of [*Big Data on Campus: Data Analytics and Decision Making in Higher Education*](#).

Keynote: Thursday, April 8 12:00 – 1:15 PM (EST)

As an institutional researcher, have you thought about what are the differences between data-driven vs data-informed decision-making? What are the different stages of analytics maturity? How can institutional researchers become strong contributors to campus planning and decision support?

In this presentation, co-editors of the new book, “Big Data on Campus”, Webber and Zheng will discuss some overarching concepts related to data analytics in higher education. They will share a few examples of current uses, the importance of strong data governance, discuss the need for ethical and responsible use of data, and highlight three main factors that can help higher education institutions build a culture of data-informed decision making.



Don't miss out – join us on Thursday, April 8 to learn more!

About the Presenters



Karen L. Webber is Professor Emeritus in The Institute of Higher Education at The University of Georgia. Prior to her faculty appointment, Karen served in Institutional research at The University of Delaware and The University of Georgia and has been active in AIR and regional IR groups for over 30 years. She teaches courses on institutional research, data analytics, and use of the national datasets in higher education. Her research covers a variety of topics related to institutional effectiveness including STEM student success, graduate student debt, and faculty



Henry Y. Zheng is an associate vice president for strategic analytics at the Ohio State University. He oversees the Institutional Research, Research Intelligence, and Strategic Analytics functions at Ohio State. Henry works collaboratively with IT and analytics leaders across the campus on major data analytics projects, including the important COVID-19 dashboard and decision scenario development process. Prior to Ohio State University, Dr. Zheng served as Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Strategic Analytics at Lehigh University. Dr. Zheng is the co-editor of a book by Johns Hopkins University Press: *Big Data on Campus – Data Analytics and Decision Making in Higher Education*. Dr. Zheng was awarded a national research fellowship in 1995 and completed his fellowship at the National Center for Education Statistics.

Executive Board Elections 2021-22

During our business meet at our 2021 Annual Conference, the membership will be voting on a slate of candidates for the 2021-22 INAIR Executive Committee.

Five members of the Executive Committee advance to the 2021-22 committee. These members are:

- Jordan Mays, University of Evansville, will serve a 1-year term as President – succeeding to this position after appointed to the Vice President/Conference Chair by the Executive Board in Fall 2020.
- Sharon Wavle, Indiana University Online, will serve a 1-year term as Past President.
- Amy Ribera, Indiana University School of Medicine, will serve her second year as Secretary.
- Ken Pattillo, Indiana University, will serve his second year as Treasurer.
- Sean Tierney will continue to serve as the ICHE Liaison.

The Nominating Committee proposing the following slate of new officers:

- Vice President/2022 Conference Chair: vacant – 1 year term, succeeding to the position of President in following year
- Member-At-Large (Web Administration): Jennifer Holscher (Vincennes University)- 2-year term
- Member-At-Large (Conference Planning): Sara Spalding (IU Southeast)- 2-year term
- Member-At-Large (Conference Planning): Kim Meeks (Vincennes University)- 2-year term

Please note that the Vice President/2022 Conference Chair position is vacant. Anyone interesting in serving in INAIR in this role or nominating another deserving member, contact Sharon Wavle (swavle@iu.edu).

The following have completed their terms of service and now passing on the torch to new members. We all thank you for your time and service. Our INAIR community is stronger because of you!

Norma Fewell, IUPUI, served as a Member-at Large since 2018 and providing great leadership in planning our last four INAIR conferences. Thank you, Norma!

Robbie Janik, IUPUI, served three roles since 2018 as Past President, President, and Member-At-Large for Conference Planning. Thank you for all that you have done to strengthen our INAIR community, Robbie!

David Robledo, Purdue University, served a 2-year role as Member-At-Large for Web Administration and provided great support and insights to the Board as quickly shifted to an online conference this past year. Thank you for your thoughtful leadership, David!