**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

**Sunday, October 21**

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| Sprinting Towards Solutions: An Applied Introduction to Design Thinking and Design Sprints for Institutional Researchers | 8:30 am - 11:30 am | Corey Buchanan, SAIT; Candice Carillo, SAIT; Jacqueline Lambert, SAIT; Walter Moreno-Pachon, SAIT | As Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) offices branch out from their traditional roles, coordinating teams in developing new initiatives to incorporate emerging technologies and answer complex questions can be overwhelming. Design thinking and design sprints can make solving even the most complex IRP challenges easier, more enjoyable and more efficient – all without computers. In this workshop, IRP practitioners will learn to problem-solve using Google Venture’s design sprint methodology and how to effectively develop new IRP tools, collaborate with institutional stakeholders, and champion data-driven decision-making. Be prepared to leave this workshop with tips and tricks to host your own IRP sprint. |
| Data Carpentry: Using R to Analyze and Visualize Data - A Hands-On Workshop | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | Stephen Childs, York University; Evan Cortens, Mount Royal University | In recent years, the statistical programming language R has become one of the foremost open source technologies in data science. Institutional Researchers can take advantage of this language and related tools to build capacity in data management, analysis, and visualization. In this hands-on workshop, bring your laptops and we’ll walk you through the whole process, right from installing the software you’ll need to analyzing data. No previous experiences with R or programming is necessary. Participants will be able to take home materials from the workshop to continue honing their skills. |
| Bluenotes Community Regional Workshop: End-to-end automation of your feedback process using Blue. From data preparation to insights. | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Krimo Bouaou, eXplorance | Feedback data is an important source for institutions looking to improve their teaching and learning experience. Gathering course, instructor, and student data from various systems, making feedback surveys (such as course evaluations) available to students and other survey recipients at the right time, and producing reports with meaningful insights for all levels of the institution can be streamlined with Blue’s automation features. The key benefit of such automation is a shortened cycle time from the data preparation to report availability for fact-based decision making. Participants in the workshop will use automation features and build reports that include qualitative and quantitative analysis for stakeholders at various levels. You will also get hands-on experience with the reporting features in Blue 7, as well as other Blue companion products such as the new Instructor Feedback Dashboard, Bluepulse, and BlueX that can facilitate “the right combination of data and analysis to make your data sing.” |
| Exploring the possibilities of IRP and CIRPA: A Workshop for Newcomers | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | CIRPA Board of Director Members | Whether you’re new to institutional research or an IR veteran attending your first CIRPA-ACPRI conference, this free half-day workshop is the perfect introduction to CIRPA-ACPRI and the IRP profession. Discover how to get the most from your conference experience as veteran members provide tips and tricks for optimizing your networking and learning. Address the challenges and possibilities of institutional research and planning in round-table discussions, and learn lessons from the painful and sometimes humorous experiences of long-time CIRPA members in our “True Confessions of an Institutional Researcher” segment. |