Abstract:
Professor David Laude presents an argument that the collaborative partnership between administrators, faculty and students to improve student success on a college campus should have as its starting point the expectation that every student will graduate. Efforts to create this environment at the University of Texas at Austin have employed predictive analytics, incentive-based scholarship programs, tools for pedagogical and curriculum reform and success programs geared to student mindset, and have resulted in historic highs in student persistence and graduation rates at the University.

David A. Laude has been a member of the faculty in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin since 1987. He has an established reputation for teaching excellence and curriculum innovation and has received many awards for his teaching, including membership in the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. In 2012, Dr. Laude joined the Provost’s Office to champion four-year graduation rates. His efforts have contributed to what are now the highest first and second year persistence rates in the university’s history.