

III | NORTHWESTERN STATE ADVISING WORKSHOP: **NSU Momentum Advising Summit**

**Sylvan Friedman Student Union
Lucile M. Hendrick Room**
FIRST FLOOR

**TUESDAY
01-06-26**

SCHEDULE:

- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Faculty Advisors Arrive / Breakfast pastries
Enjoy coffee and pastries and network with colleagues.
- 8:30 AM – 8:50 AM: Welcome from Elevate-U & Introduction
Samantha Culver Martin
- 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM: Dr. Leslie Gruesbeck, *"Your Future—I'm Listening": Applying Active Listening to Undergraduate Advising.*
- 9:50 AM – 10:00 AM: BREAK
- 10:00AM – 10:50 AM: Sonya Rigaud Johnson and Gabriele Patterson, *"The Beyond Graduation Program"*
- 10:50 AM – 11:00 AM: BREAK
- 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM: Dr. Kristen Walker Authement, *"Empowering Academic Advisors: Strategies for Professional Growth and Success."*
- 11:50 AM – 12:00 PM: Closing with Elevate-U.
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch and networking.

PRESENTERS:



Dr. Kristen Walker Authement

is an Assistant Professor at Northwestern State University, where she currently teaches EDUC 2020, EDUC 3100, EDUC 3210/3220, EDUC 4010, and EDUC 5371/5381. She also serves as the Secondary Coordinator and faculty sponsor for Educators Rising.



Leslie G. Gruesbeck, EdD,

is the Department Head of the Department of Fine + Graphic Arts and is an Associate Professor of Art. Gruesbeck is the departmental advisor for all art majors and the primary advisor for Freshmen and Sophomores in Fine + Graphic Arts. She is the recipient of the Fall 2025 NSULA Faculty Excellence in Academic Advising award.



Sonya Rigaud Johnson

is a 1989 graduate of Northwestern State University, where she earned her degree in Public Relations and Journalism Education with a minor in English. With over 23 years of experience teaching high school English, journalism, and fine arts, she has dedicated her career to inspiring and guiding students in their educational journeys. Now in her fourth year with NSU's Beyond Graduation Program.



Gabriele Patterson

is a dedicated professional with over 15 years of diversified experience in data entry, document management, government services, and enrollment and eligibility. A two-time graduate of Northwestern State University, she holds a Master's degree in Adult Education with a concentration in Homeland Security and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

**SCAN QR
to SIGN UP!**



Please sign up by December 3, 2025