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Career Trajectory and Aspiring Deans

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1. **Presentation Title-** Career Trajectory and Aspiring Deans

2. **Presenter Information-** Below is a biographical paragraph on each presenter (and full CV is included at the end of the document)

John Buckwalter (Boise State University)- currently serves as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Boise State University. Over the past ~15 years Dr. Buckwalter has held a number of progressively higher administrative positions serving as the Betty L. Tointon Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University (2013-2021), as well as Associate Dean and Department Chair in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Texas at Arlington (2007-2013). For the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Buckwalter was one of roughly 50 individuals nationwide selected for the American Council on Education's Fellowship program, one of the nation's oldest programs designed to train senior academic leaders. Originally from Arkansas, Dr. Buckwalter earned a B.A. in Spanish and B.S. in Health and Physical Education at Centenary College in Shreveport Louisiana and both a MS and PhD in Kinesiology from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Dr. Buckwalter first academic appointment was at the Medical College of Wisconsin where he began as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and eventually rose to the rank of Associate Professor of Anesthesiology. His primary research agenda supported by grants from both the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association related to the autonomic and cardiovascular control of blood flow during exercise. Dr. Buckwalter is a Fellow of both the American Physiological Society and the American College of Sports Medicine.

Dr. George S. Low (Georgia Gwinnett College) is Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs/Provost, at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia, one of the 26 campuses of the University System of Georgia, where he has served since January, 2021. Prior to GGC, he was dean of the College of Business and Economics and professor of marketing at California State University, East Bay, from 2018 to 2021. From 2014 to 2018, Low was dean of the College of Business and Economics and professor of marketing at Radford University, Radford, Virginia. He was also a tenured faculty member, department chair, ACE Fellow (University of Texas at Arlington), and associate dean during his eighteen years at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth Texas. Low earned a PhD in business administration from the University of Colorado-Boulder, MBA from the Ivey School of Business at Western University, London, Ontario, and a BA in advertising from Brigham Young University.

Leslie Durham (Boise State University)- was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Boise State University in January 2022. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. from the University of Kansas in Theatre, and a B.A. from the University of Virginia in English and Drama. During her three-year term as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, she implemented a variety of new initiatives including a school design process that yielded the transdisciplinary

School of the Environment, and she launched the Bronco Gap Year program, which gives students with some credits but no credential an intentional pause to reimagine their college trajectories. She previously served as Founding Director of Boise State's School of the Arts and Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Her home department is Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing. She is the author of three books, and her current research on universities as cultural anchors in the Intermountain West is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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3. **Disciplines**- Higher Educational Leadership, Career Development and Advancement, Higher Education Administration.

4. **Theme**- Career Trajectory (which is listed under the broad theme of Becoming an Effective Servant Leader).

5. **Presentation Type**- Interactive Workshop (105 minutes)

6. **Abstract**- While higher educational institutions have well developed processes to assist faculty as they progress through their academic careers, most colleges and universities provide little formal assistance to department heads and chairs considering career progression to a deanship or other higher level administrative leadership positions. This interactive session will provide practical guidance in an interactive format to those contemplating pursuing an advanced academic leadership position.

7. **Keywords**- Career Trajectory, Leadership Advancement, Executive Leadership, Deanship

8. **Creative Commons License**- We are open to sharing our materials and look for guidance on appropriate tactics from the conference organizers.

9. **Presentation Documents**- Description of Session (300-500 words)

This interactive session will provide practical guidance in a collaborative format to those contemplating pursuing an advanced academic leadership position.

Searches for senior leaders in higher education have long been challenging because of a shallow pool of willing, qualified candidates. This reality has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. While higher educational institutions have well developed processes to assist faculty as they progress through their academic careers, most colleges and universities provide little formal assistance to department heads and chairs considering career progression to a deanship or other higher-level administrative leadership positions. The following interactive session is designed to assist department chairs with practical recommendations and clear and concise examples as they consider and prepare for senior academic leadership positions.

Examples of items to be covered include (but are not limited to): 1. career planning, acquiring essential new skills, and professional development for advancement in higher educational leadership; 2. presenting oneself in letters of applications, administrative CVs, interviews with individuals and committees, on campus presentations, and preparing application materials; 3. searching for opportunities, researching institutions, interacting with search firms and negotiating. In addition to structured presentations by the expert panel, attendees will be given ample time to interact with each other and the

presenters as they work through a series of questions and decision points as they examine their readiness for their next step in career advancement.

The senior educational leaders conducting this session come from a variety of academic disciplines and have served at numerous levels of leadership at both private and public institutions from across the country. For this interactive session the leaders will draw on both personal experiences and evidence-based examples. The information presented in this session will be applicable to department chairs from all disciplines and backgrounds, as well as from public and private institutions of various sizes and missions.