

**Are Your Students Ready for Their Next Steps?** 

Developing the Essential Skills for College and Career Readiness

February 2, 2022



## **Panelists**



**Leighann Lenti** 

Chief of Partnership
University of Virginia,
Partnership for Leaders in
Education



**Matt Montaño** 

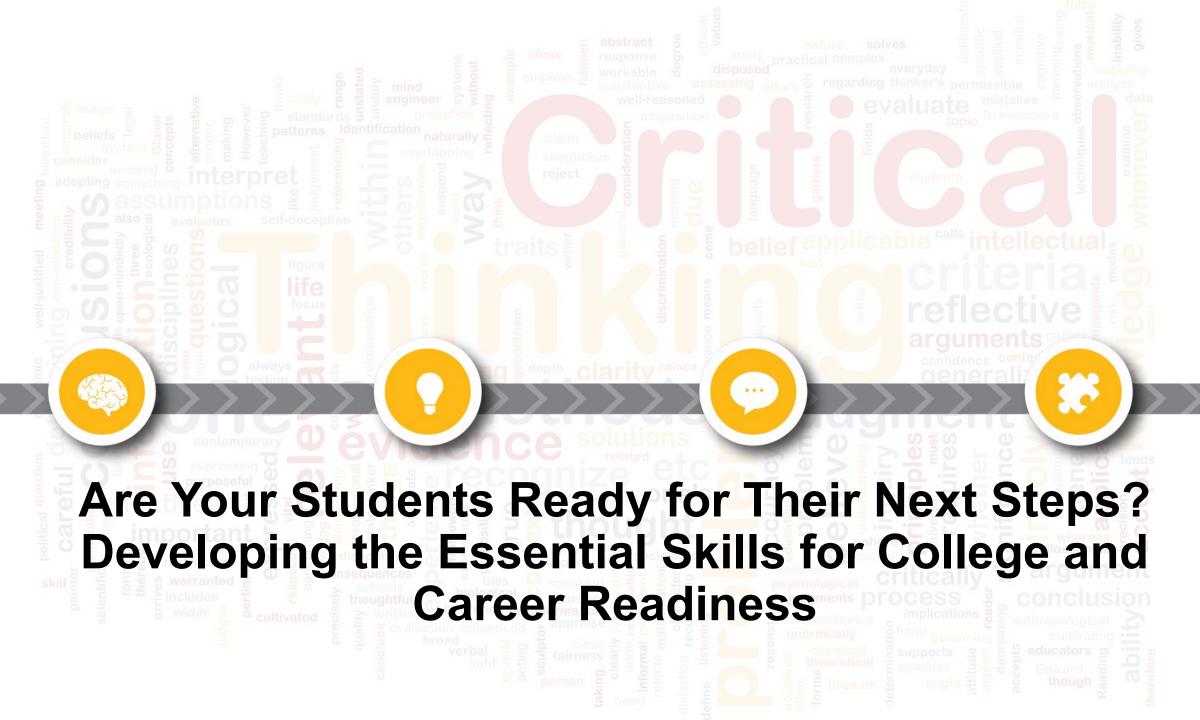
Superintendent of Bernalillo Public Schools New Mexico



Doris Zahner, PhD

Chief Academic Officer,
Council for Aid to Education







#### **Polling questions**

#### What is your role?

- a. Teacher/instructor
- b. School Counselor
- c. Social Worker or Psychologist
- d. Administrator
- e. Other





#### **Polling questions**

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = not valuable at all and 5 = extremely valuable, how valuable do you think critical thinking and problem-solving skills are for students'**academic**success?





#### **Polling questions**

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = not valuable at all and 5 = extremely valuable, how valuable do you think critical thinking and problem-solving skills are for students'**career**success?





#### **Polling questions**

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = not valuable at all and 5 = extremely valuable, how valuable do**your students**think critical thinking and problem-solving skills are for their own academic and/or career success?



# Critical Thinking & Writing Skills







## Mastery Levels

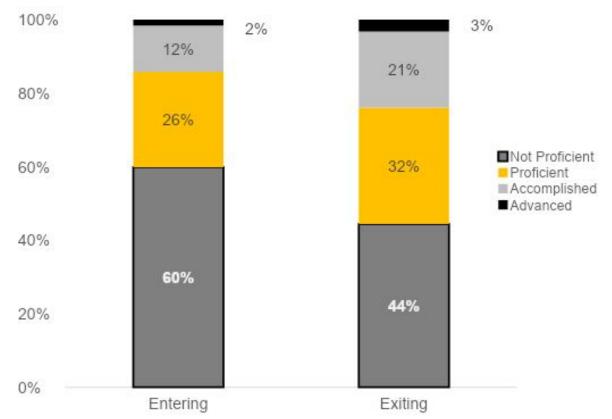
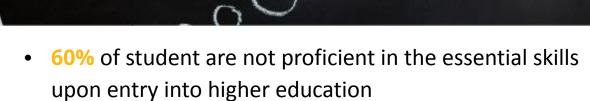


Figure 1: Percentage of Students by CLA+ Mastery Level and Year in School for Fall 2013 through Spring 2019 Note.  $n \approx 70,000$  for entering students;  $n \approx 52,000$  for exiting students



- By the time students graduate, 44% are still not proficient.
- There is room for improvement even within the group of students who are proficient. Only 2% of entering and 3% of exiting students achieve the highest level of mastery.
- Our research shows students who perform better on our higher education assessment are more likely to have higher cumulative GPAs at the end of their senior year and are more likely to have positive post-university outcomes as measured by employment, salary, and graduate school enrollment (Zahner & James, 2015).



#### **Employers**

- 95% of entering undergraduate higher education students at a leading business school believe that critical thinking and problem-solving skills are valuable.<sup>1</sup>
- According to employer research by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, while the top-ranked outcomes vary from year-to-year, critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, teamwork, and communication through writing and speaking have consistently been ranked by employers as the most important skills over time.<sup>2</sup>
- 60% of hiring managers say that recent college graduates do not have the necessary critical thinking and problem-solving skills and 44% saying graduates lack writing proficiency.<sup>3</sup>

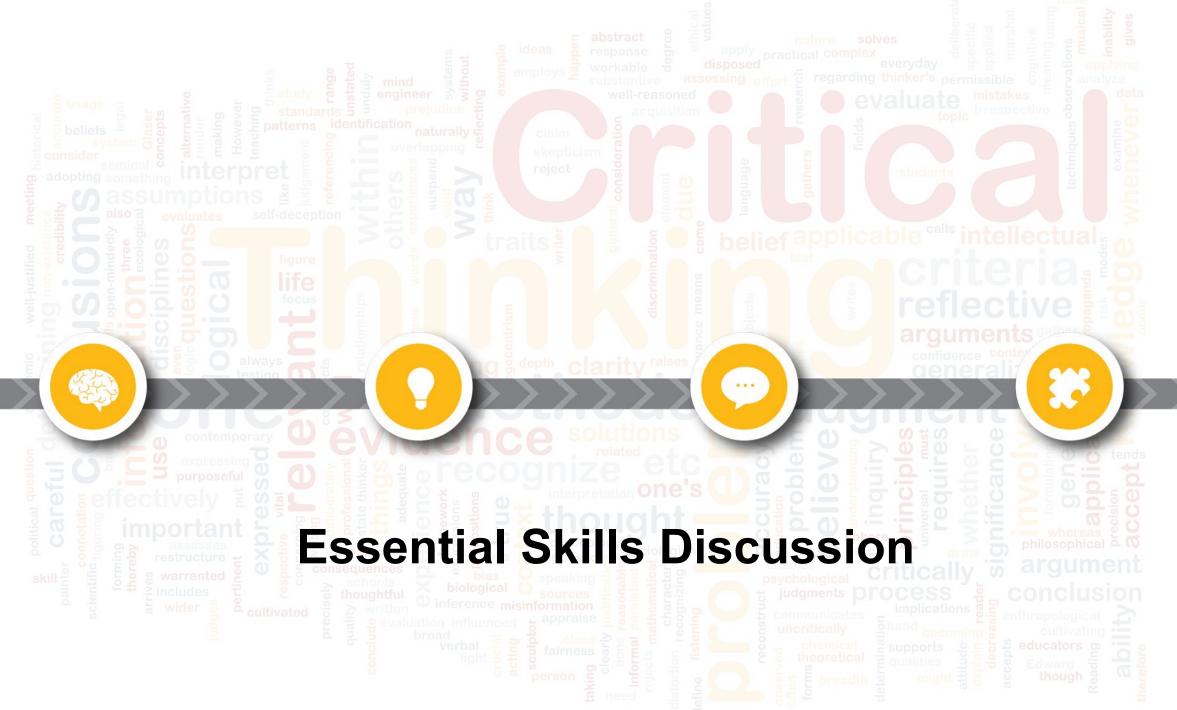




<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Survey of 552 students entering a leading business school at a public university in the United States in Fall 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>AAC&U, How College Contributes to Workforce Success, 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>PayScale (2016) survey of ~64k managers





#### **Polling questions**

How is instruction of these essential skills given?

- a. As separate modules within a class
- b. As a separate class
- c. Completely integrated within a class
- d. It is not specifically provided
- e. Other





#### **Polling questions**

How are you assessing students' critical thinking skills?

- a. A third-party assessment of skills (e.g., CCRA+)
- b. A third-party survey
- c. An internally developed assessment
- d. An internally developed survey
- e. Other/None



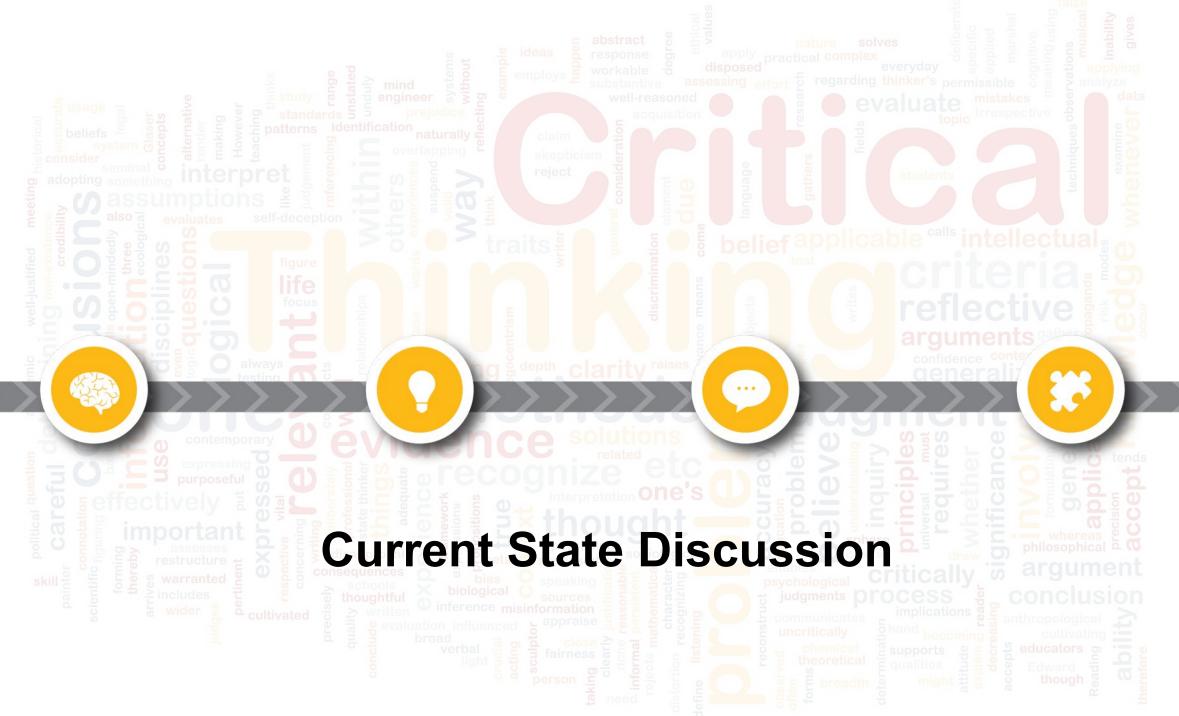


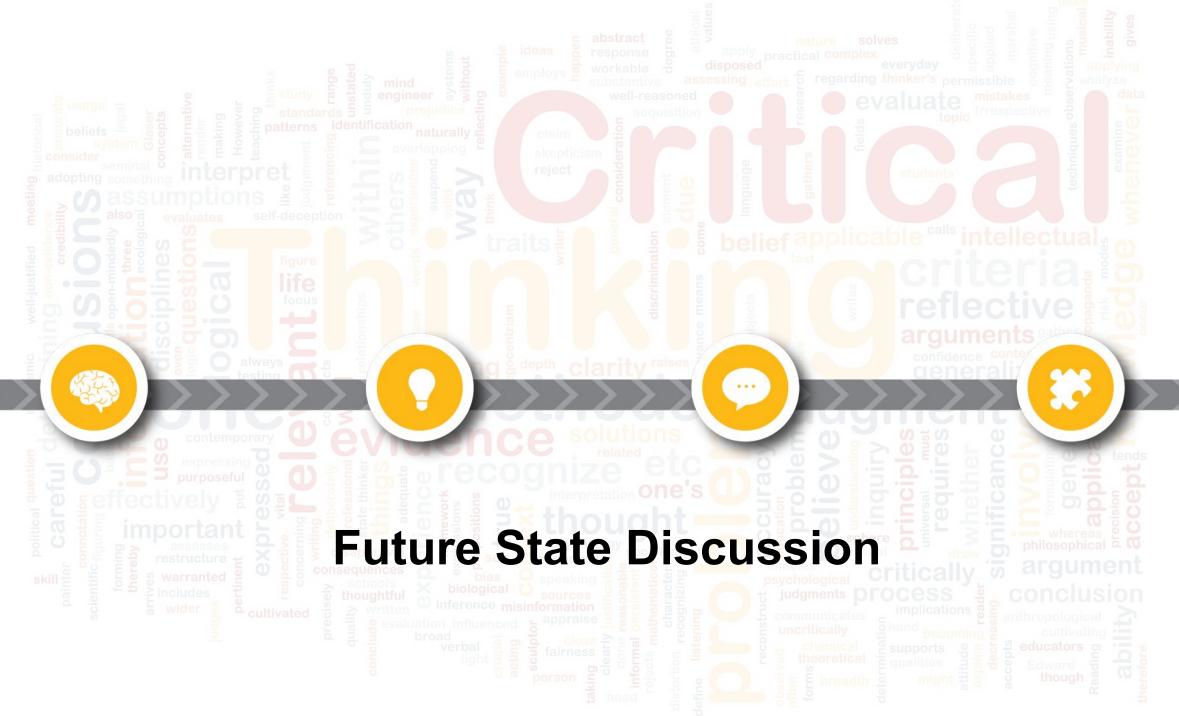
#### **Polling questions**

How are you primarily using the results of the assessments?

- a. For district-level policy decisions
- b. For institutional-level quality assurance
- C. For implementing curriculum
- d. For faculty and/or student feedback
- e. Other/None









# CAE

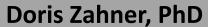
### **THANK YOU!**

**Leighann Lenti** 

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