

Below is a speaker introduction for before the program. Feel free to add or tweak based on the program and to include any opening introductions or announcements.

Our speaker today is Austin Arias – a leadership educator, facilitator, and speaker who works with students and campuses across the country.

Austin has spent more than 14 years working in higher education, including roles in leadership development, student engagement, fraternity and sorority life, and orientation at institutions large and small. He's taught leadership studies at the university level and partners with colleges and universities to develop communities where leaders are free to explore and mess up, and individuals can find their people and feel they belong.

What makes Austin's work personal is that he's been where many of us are. He was the over-involved student leader who couldn't say no – believing that doing more meant being more. He raised his hand for every opportunity until he burned out and had to relearn what healthy leadership looks like. The mentors who really saw him and invested in him changed his trajectory – and he views this work as his way of paying that forward.

Austin is known for bringing warm, positive energy, real talk, and practical tools that actually make sense for the student experience. He creates spaces where students feel supported, encouraged, and comfortable showing up as themselves – and he's committed to making sure everyone leaves with a plan of action. And today, he is committed to doing just that for us and our community.

Please welcome our speaker today, Austin Arias.