**SPEAKER BIO & PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION**

**ROBIN PAIGE**

Robin is an Associate Director at Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Sociology at Rice University. She received her doctorate in Development Sociology from Cornell University in 2008. Robin has a diverse background in undergraduate and graduate education teaching at a wide variety of educational institutions from the community college to land grant and private universities. At the CTE she works with faculty in the areas of course design, inclusive and diverse pedagogies, collaborative and experiential learning, and program development across the disciplines. Her scholarship on teaching and learning focuses on the sociality of learning. In addition she teaches pedagogy courses for the CTE’s accredited Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning. As a member of the Sociology department, Robin conducts research and teaches courses on globalization, food systems, and gender.

**SESSION NAME: Plenary II**

**PRESENTATION TITLE: Why Collaborative Learning Works and How to Make it Happen**

Is group work an effective means to teach disciplinary content and skills or does it simply teach cooperation and teamwork? In this talk I will present research on how carefully organized student interaction through collaborative learning techniques enable students to engage in knowledge production, develop complex and critical thinking, and build fluency with the course material. I will discuss strategies for planning, managing, and assessing collaborative learning.