Bluenotes Global 2018 – travel approval information

Location: Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, KY 40202

Dates: 8:00 AM Tuesday, August 7 through 11:30 AM Friday, August 10

Conference registration fee:

- Presenter –$325
- Early Bird – $355 (ends May 1, 2018)
- Group Registration – Half price for every third attendee from a single institution
- Regular – $470

Please note that the conference registration fee includes the following meals/activities in addition to conference session attendance:

- attendance at the opening night reception (Tuesday, August 7)
- breakfast and lunch (Wednesday, August 8 and Thursday, August 9)
- breakfast (Friday, August 10)
- attendance at dinner and the social activity (Thursday, August 9)
    - Murder Mystery (Oak Room – Seelbach Hotel)
    - Casino Night (Rathskeller Room – Seelbach Hotel)

Transportation to and from the Seelbach Hotel: The Seelbach Hotel offers a complimentary shuttle service to and from the Louisville International Airport (SDF).

Benefit of attending: The Bluenotes Global 2018 conference provides higher education institutions from around the world an opportunity to meet and share their experiences implementing institution wide assessment tools and processes. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network and learn ways to maximize their institution's investment in Blue and Bluepulse. eXplorance-led workshops will be held to provide training for Blue and Bluepulse users. All conference attendees will have the opportunity to meet directly with eXplorance staff to seek customer support, give feedback relating to desired features, and learn about the functionality in upcoming releases of the software. Attendees will return to their institutions with the following benefits:

- Having directly influenced eXplorance's product development roadmap
- Acquiring actionable knowledge about Blue, Bluepulse and Blue Analytics
- Learning best practices in formative/summative assessment strategy, leveraging institutional analytics, supporting teaching, and engaging student in the cycle of continuous improvement
- Widening their network of likeminded colleagues and institutions for further development

Conference audience: The Bluenotes Global 2018 conference will have sessions available for direct end users of Blue and Bluepulse, individuals that provide technical support, as well as mid-level to senior-level university administrators responsible for developing and implementing university policies relating to assessment, institutional effectiveness, and faculty development.

Sessions schedule: Details regarding topics of conference sessions and the presenters will be posted on the Bluenotes Group website as they are finalized.

Contact: Please contact Becky Patterson (University of Louisville) at becky.patterson@louisville.edu or 502-852-3385 if you have any questions or need additional information for your travel approval.

Quotes from prior Bluenotes conference attendees

"As CEO at eXplorance, it brings me great pride to be part of such a dynamic and engaged group of higher education administrators and influencers. We are all joined by a common sense of values and mission that ensures a continuously improving student learning experience. I have attended hundreds of conferences and to date I have yet got to find one that comes close to Bluenotes in terms of familiarity, richness of content, relationships developed and friendships nurtured. I surely hope we can preserve the purity and flawlessness of its essence at it grows, and the support of the great staff at the University of Louisville, led by Becky Patterson and Bob Goldstein. I hope to see you there, next year."
– Samer Saab, CEO, eXplorance

"What makes the Bluenotes Conference great is the opportunity to meet other Blue users and learn from their experiences; compare notes about how the software is used and exchange contact information to promote future contact. Getting in depth information about new features and new use cases by attending the sessions is another terrific reason to go."
– Michael Cochrane, Customer Support Engineer, eXplorance

"To witness the Bluenotes Community live and breathe Blue for those few days in Louisville was an amazing experience for me. With passion for Blue and enthusiasm from Blue Users in abundance, Blue seemed to take on a life of it's own, generating for me a paradigm shift in my appreciation of your loyalty to Blue. I am so grateful to have shared your stories and feel privileged to continue the journey with you."
 – Mary Cash, Customer Relationship Manager, eXplorance

"The Bluenotes conference is a one of a kind opportunity to connect with Blue users from around the world, share our institutional experiences, and learn the upcoming features in Blue's roadmap. The conference allows users the chance to influence the development of Blue so the product continues to meet the growing needs of the customers."
– Becky Patterson, Executive Director for the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, University of Louisville

"I thoroughly enjoyed the BlueNotes Americas 2017 conference in Louisville. The host and the BlueNotes people were very accommodating and helpful. The ability to network with other colleges and Blue users was great. The many sessions were helpful and informational. I can't wait for the next conference! Thank you."
 – Cindra Phillips, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, Clark State Community College

"As a first-time attendee I was very impressed with the organization, the commitment to the costumer, the willingness of everyone to share their best practices. I have learned a lot during this week, by attending the workshops and the different conferences, and also by meeting people, it was such a great networking opportunity. Everything was informative and interesting. I am looking forward to attending the 2018."
 – Kelita Mayorga, Technical Support Specialist, University of Kentucky

"Kent State University is dedicated to the highest standards in academics and being able to network with colleagues from other academic institutions who work with Blue ensures that best practices are shared to ensure the best survey experience for our students and faculty."
 – Paul Creed III, Technology Project Director, Kent State University

"It was an AMAZING experience."
 – Piyaporn Nawarat, Associate Director of Data and Analysis, Mercy College

"The Bluenotes Americas conference is a highlight for me, as it is one of the most useful and enjoyable conferences I attend. The conference is incredibly valuable because it provides great networking opportunities, useful workshops on how to use Blue, and an opportunity to learn what's next regarding the roadmap of Blue. The University of Louisville does a fantastic job of hosting the conference, and Louisville is a great city to visit. Also, many staff

members from eXplorance participate in the conference, and it's great to have a chance to connect with them. I highly recommend this conference to anyone who manages Blue for their institution."
– Larry Williams, Education Technology Specialist, Oregon Health and Science University

"Conference was well-organized. Sessions were very informative – could select sessions that best met informational needs. Keynote speakers provided excellent overviews of topics of major interest to participants. I plan to attend next year's conference and would recommend this to others."
– Thomas Dohm, Director, University of Minnesota

"Bluenotes Conference is our best chance to meet and exchange information with others who face the same challenges and opportunities with Blue that we do. Comparing and contrasting practices with other institutions is a great way to develop a better sense of how we can improve."
– Joshua Yeidel, Information Systems Manager, Washington State University

"This conference focuses on creating a community of people who care deeply about the improvement of teaching and the enhancement of learning. It was a pleasure to participate and to connect with new colleagues!"
– Carol Rolheiser, Director, University of Toronto

"The Bluenotes conference offers tons of useful information and a chance to meet other users from around the world. As a new user, everyone was welcoming and eager to share their experiences."
– Kyle Chapman, Research Associate, East Carolina University

"The conference was great this year. It was good to see old friends and make new ones. The importance of community involvement is very important to the conference and supporting the product on our campuses."
– Brett McDaniel, IT Manager, University of Kentucky

"Being part of the Bluenotes Group community is one of the many advantages of being an eXplorance customer. The Bluenotes conferences are a great way to network with colleagues, to share our experiences, learn from others, and be the collective voice for the future of Blue. It is a privilege to be part of such a great community of professionals."
– Becky Patterson, Executive Director for the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, University of Louisville

"eXplorance knows how to treat their clients"
– Anonymous

"The Bluenotes Conference is held in a charming venue. The size provides a more personal experience, allowing users to easily connect with all levels of the company as well as their peers from around the world."
– Anonymous

"A wonderful conference – great networking opportunities!"
– Vicki Sahr, Systems Administrator - Center for Instructional Excellence, Fox Valley Technical College

"I was very enlightened by all of Blue's capabilities. We attended the conference primarily for a different option for course evaluations but I found myself most excited about the online survey portion!"
– Chad Adkins, Interim Director - Institutional Research, Eastern Kentucky University

"I found the conference well organized and a great experience. Upon returning to our University, I recommended that we move to the product for course evaluations and to replace our current survey tool."
– Chad Adkins, Interim Director - Institutional Research, Eastern Kentucky University

"I love attending Blue Americas conference. Since Blue is such a large part of my professional live, it is worthwhile to network with other users and to learn how they are using the software. This past conference inspired me to use Blue in ways I had not before and my productivity has soared."
– Shelley Gibson, Program Coordinator Senior, School of Medicine, University of Louisville

"My experience at the 2015 Blue Americas conference was very positive. The sessions at the conference were informational, entertaining, and valuable. I also had the opportunity to present at the conference, in panel discussion, and it was a terrific experience. I highly recommend this conference to any university or college faculty member or administrator who works/manages Blue. It's a great opportunity, and I look forward to attending future conferences!"
– Larry Williams, Education Technology Specialist, Oregon Health and Sciences University

"I have attended the Blue Americas conference for the past two years and our hosts at the University of Louisville have done an incredible job of creating such a professional, informative and engaging conference!"
– Kate Forrest, EDP Supervisor - Testing Center, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

"What I liked most about attending the Blue Americas 2015 Conference was the usefulness and quality of the sessions, excellent speakers, and opportunity to network. As a Blue user, there's no better place to hone your skills, learn new things, and network directly with colleagues who are using Blue. If you are truly serious about using Blue products from eXplorance, then this is the conference for you."
– Howard Mzumara, Director of Testing Center, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

"Whether you are a seasoned or brand new Blue user, Blue Americas is an essential conference to place on your schedule. It is the perfect opportunity to meet the eXplorance team to explore with them, and other users, the full potential of what Blue can do. You will hear from users who have maximized its full potential, as well as those users who are addressing challenges associated with adopting new evaluation strategies.   As a new user I was able to leverage the knowledge gained with our implementation in a way that significantly streamlined our work. It is good to know that 2016 will once again be hosted by UofL – they knocked it out of the park in 2015, which explains why we're back in Louisville in 16.   The unique Brown Hotel, and its proximity to downtown, is a winning venue for the event."
– Tim Matthews, Executive Director – Office of e-Campus Learning, Eastern Kentucky University

"The 2015 Blue Americas Conference provided an incredible opportunity to learn more about eXplorance and Blue. The sessions were well organized and informative. The conference atmosphere also gave me a chance me to meet a wonderful group of users who shared their experiences and offered valuable insights."
– Lisa Votodian, Assistant to the Director – Office of Measurement & Evaluation of Teaching, University of Pittsburgh

"The 2015 Blue Americas conference helped us put into place a full-university implementation plan, which includes certification of our primary Blue administrator. We appreciate the networking opportunities, discovering how other universities use Blue. One fact: there are currently four public institutions in our state using Blue. I would not have known this without attending the conference!"
– Donna Davis, Blue Course Evaluation Administrator – Center for Instructional Technology, James Madison University

"There aren't many of us on campus dealing with the details of collecting and reporting these data. While each institution has a unique situation of governance, item detail, and reporting requirements others institutions have seen parts of each of these areas that we have or will encounter. With such a robust tool as eXplorance Blue, the networking opportunities, the ability to trade ideas and gain insights from other institutions and the eXplorance staff at the Blue Americas Conference has been very helpful in reducing time on task and anticipating solutions to as yet unasked questions. Besides, it's just plain FUN to be around others who are just as interested in all these details as I am."
– Daniel Glover, IT Specialist – Office of Measurement Services, University of Minnesota

"For me, Blue Americas 2015 conference was a venue to validate several teaching and learning initiatives taking place at Mary Washington. Having a one on one conversation with vendors and colleagues who are passionate about infusing technology into teaching and learning was invaluable. I'm so delighted to be part of a group committed to the future of higher education."
– Taiwo Ande, Assistant Provost, University of Mary Washington

"I've attended other well-planned, extremely informative IT conferences in the recent past, but they could not compare with the Blue America's conference in terms of the eXplorance team members constant availability and steadfast commitment to serving their customers. I came away thinking that this conference was as much for the clients to learn new product enhancements and interesting strategies used by other schools, as it was for the Blue representatives to genuinely try to understand their customers' needs and to make a commitment to follow through with client suggestions. The folks from University of Louisville did an outstanding job at coordinating this event. The superior accommodations, food and social events were top notch. I look forward to attending the 2016 event and hope to see some familiar faces and meet new attendees."
– Karen Seach, Ed Tech Application Specialist II, Duquesne University

"The annual Blue Americas conference provides me with a unique opportunity to engage with and learn from other academic professionals like myself – administrators that are responsible for course evaluations on their campus. I always come away from the conference with at least a few new ideas for how to improve our local campus evaluation process."
– Christine Chavez, Interim Director of Institutional Research, Loyola Marymount University

"This year's conference included really helpful discussions and breakout sessions. It is great to see such a strong cohesive community focused on evaluation and improvement being built across institutions."
– Krisy Mahome, Assistant Director - Bloomington Evaluation Services & Testing, Indiana University Bloomington