LOCATION: SWISSOTEL CHICAGO
Saturday sessions for the Presidents Program will be held at the Swissotel Chicago, which is a short walk from the Hyatt.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE HYATT
Outdoor Route
Walk east along Wacker Drive. Cross Columbus Drive, and the Swissotel will be on your right about halfway down the block.

When you arrive at the Swissotel, walk through the lobby to the Event Centre and take the escalator down. Signs will be posted.

Indoor Pedway Route
From the Lobby Level of the Hyatt’s East Tower, take the escalators near the Plaza Ballroom down one level (see the Hyatt floor plan in the conference program book) and proceed out the glass doors at the bottom. Turn right, then left, and walk down the hallway to the Swissotel.

The Zurich Ballroom will be on your right as you enter the hotel. Signs will be posted.

SCHEDULE

7:30–8:30 AM / PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST
ZURICH BALLROOM E–G
Host: Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Dominican University (Chair, HLC Board of Trustees)

8:30–9:00 AM / HLC UPDATE
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Barbara Gellman-Danley, Higher Learning Commission
HLC President Barbara Gellman-Danley will provide an update on HLC’s strategic directions and discuss the current issues facing higher education and their impact on accreditation.
9:00–9:30 AM / WHAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Facilitator: Barbara Gellman-Danley, Higher Learning Commission
HLC wants to hear about the issues presidents are dealing with, in order to identify opportunities for HLC to collaborate in addressing them.

9:30–10:15 AM / PARTNERS FOR TRANSFORMATION: THE REVOLUTION OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Moderator: Rufus Glasper, League for Innovation in the Community College
Robert McMahan, Kettering University; Burck Smith, StraighterLine; Mark Milliron, Civitas Learning
Members of HLC’s think tank, Partners for Transformation, will discuss how the work of this group is looking at the dynamic world of higher education and how regional accreditors might respond.

10:30–11:30 AM / ACCREDITATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Facilitator: Ted Mitchell, American Council on Education
Ted Mitchell, President of the American Council on Education and former Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, will facilitate a discussion with presidents regarding the future of accreditation in higher education.

11:30 AM–12:15 PM / INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Moderator: Karen J. Solomon, Higher Learning Commission
Tawnie Cortez, Rasmussen College; Hank Radda, Grand Canyon University; Dev Venugopalan, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Members of HLC’s Innovation Zone initiative will discuss the areas they have identified as potential innovation opportunities that can be supported by accreditation.

12:15–1:00 PM / PRESIDENTS LUNCH
ZURICH BALLROOM E–G
Host: Rita Hartung Cheng, Northern Arizona University (Member, HLC Board of Trustees)

1:00–1:30 PM / THE FEDERAL OUTLOOK
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Terry Hartle, American Council on Education
Terry Hartle will once again provide the latest news on the federal landscape and advice on potential outcomes of federal legislation.

1:30–2:15 PM / THE STUDENT SUCCESS IMPERATIVE
ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Moderator: Karen J. Solomon, Higher Learning Commission
Debra Humphreys, Lumina Foundation; Vic Borden, Indiana University, Bloomington; Natasha Jankowski, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Members of HLC’s Defining Student Success Data initiative will examine the external influences affecting higher education’s approach to student success and propose a response from higher education in a unified voice. Invited speakers will include members of this initiative and of the staff of Lumina Foundation, which provided funding for the initiative.
2:15–3:15 PM / THE ADVOCACY AGENDA: WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Barbara Gellman-Danley, Higher Learning Commission

HLC established an advocacy agenda with input from college and university presidents and will talk through potential opportunities for partnering with presidents to achieve common goals.

3:15–3:30 PM / WRAP-UP: WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM HLC?

ZURICH BALLROOM A–D
Facilitator: Noah Finkelstein, University of Colorado Boulder (Member, HLC Board of Trustees)

HLC wants presidents’ feedback on how HLC may provide resources that address the issues that presidents face every day.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Cheryl Johnson-Odim is Provost Emerita and Professor of History at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, and Chair of the HLC Board of Trustees. Her prior experience includes Professor of History and Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Columbia College Chicago and Chairperson of the History Department at Loyola University Chicago. Johnson-Odim has served on the boards of the American Council of Learned Societies, the African Studies Association, and the Illinois Humanities Council, among other organizations.

Barbara Gellman-Danley assumed the presidency of the Higher Learning Commission in 2014. She also currently serves as chair of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions. Prior to joining HLC, Gellman-Danley was the president of University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College from 2009 to 2014. She has also served as Vice Chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents, President at Antioch University McGregor, Vice President at Monroe Community College, and Vice Chancellor at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Rufus Glasper is the President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College and Chancellor Emeritus of the Maricopa Community Colleges. He served as chancellor from 2003 through February 2016, and previously held district leadership positions for almost two decades. Glasper served from 2009 to 2012 as the committee co-chair for Lumina Foundation on Education’s Getting AHEAD Initiative. He also previously served as a member of the American Council on Education’s Commission on Higher Education Attainment.

Robert McMahan is President and Professor of Physics at Kettering University. Among other academic and corporate roles, McMahan was previously founding Dean and Professor of Engineering of the Kimmel School (the College of Engineering) at Western Carolina University; Senior Advisor to the Governor of North Carolina for Science and Technology; Senior Technology Strategist and Venture Capitalist for In-Q-Tel, a private venture capital firm funded by the CIA; and founder of McMahan Research Laboratories.

Burck Smith is the CEO and founder of StraighterLine. Ten years before launching StraighterLine in 2009, he co-founded SMARTHINKING, the largest online tutoring provider for schools and colleges. Smith has written chapters for three books on education policy for the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and is a member of AEI’s Higher Education Working Group. Prior to starting SMARTHINKING, Smith was an independent consultant and journalist whose clients included the Gates Foundation, Microsoft, Computer Curriculum Corporation, and more.

Mark Milliron is Co-founder and Chief Learning Officer of Civitas Learning, a social-purpose corporation committed to using the best of data science and design thinking to help students learn well and finish strong on education pathways. He also serves as Executive Director of the Next-Gen Leadership Academy, a program dedicated to grounding rising educational leaders in the issues and innovations of the day and the leadership skills necessary to help institutions thrive in dynamic times.

Ted Mitchell is president of the American Council on Education (ACE). Prior to joining ACE in 2017, he served as U.S. Under Secretary of Education, overseeing postsecondary education policies and programs. Mitchell also has served as Chief Executive of the New Schools Venture; President of Occidental College; Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles; and Professor and Chair of the Department of Education at Dartmouth College.

Karen J. Solomon is Vice President for Accreditation Relations and Director, Standard Pathway, at HLC. Solomon joined HLC in 2003 and has served as a liaison to more than 220 member and applying institutions. Previously, she was Coordinator of Research and Evaluation in Adult Continuing Education at Northern Illinois University; Education Associate in Outcomes Assessment for ACT Inc.; founding Executive Director of Illinois Campus Compact for Community Service; and Associate Dean of Student Development at Benedictine University.
Tawnie Cortez is Senior Vice President, External and College Relations, at Rasmussen College. During her 25 years at Rasmussen, she has served in multiple leadership roles at the campus, regional and central levels. Cortez began her career in K–12 education as an English teacher and worked as an admission representative at a private liberal arts college prior to joining Rasmussen.

Hank Radda is Provost at Grand Canyon University. He has extensive experience creating organizations and systems to educate and serve people, based on scholarship and best practices. Previously, Radda served in senior management positions in both the social welfare system and education as the co-founder of John Dewey Academy, a therapeutic college preparatory school for high-potential, at-risk youth.

Dev Venugopalan is Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He is also an Associate Professor of Materials Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS). His research interests are in the area of materials processing and manufacturing. He has previously served as a Department Chair and as an Associate Dean in CEAS. As Associate Dean, Venugopalan had administrative oversight responsibilities for instructional budget, technology, and program development, review and assessment.

Rita Hartung Cheng is President of Northern Arizona University and a member of the HLC Board of Trustees. Cheng previously served as Chancellor of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and was a professor of accounting from 2010 to 2014. She also spent 22 years in teaching and administrative roles at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, including five years as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Terry W. Hartle is Senior Vice President, Division of Government and Public Affairs, at the American Council on Education (ACE), where he directs comprehensive efforts to engage federal policymakers on a broad range of issues including student aid, government regulation, scientific research and tax policy. Prior to joining ACE, Hartle served as education staff director for the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources and as director of social policy studies and resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Debra Humphreys is Vice President of Strategic Engagement at Lumina Foundation. She previously served as Senior Vice President for Academic Planning and Public Engagement at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), after serving as Vice President of Communications, Policy, and Public Engagement and as Vice President for Communication and Public Affairs. Prior to 2001, she served as Director of Programs in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Global Initiatives at AAC&U.

Vic Borden is Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. He also directs the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as well as the Project on Academic Success, both within the IU Center for Postsecondary Research. His professional activities include consulting and teaching workshops on accountability and improvement, program assessment, statistics, survey research, and the use of technology for assessment, decision support and institutional analysis.

Natasha Jankowski is Director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has presented at numerous national conferences and written various reports for NILOA. Her main research interests include assessment and evaluation, organizational evidence use and evidence-based storytelling. She previously worked for GEAR UP Learning Centers at Western Michigan University and with the Office of Community College Research and Leadership studying community colleges and public policy.

Noah Finkelstein has taught in the Physics Department at the University of Colorado Boulder since 2003 and became a full professor in 2012. He serves as a director of the Physics Education Research group at Colorado, one of the largest research groups in physics education in the country. Finkelstein is also a director of the national-scale Center for STEM Learning, which has become one of eight national demonstration sites for the Association of American Universities’ STEM Education Initiative. He has also served as a Research Consultant at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a Research Associate and Instructor at Princeton University.