

Program

Higher Learning 2025

HLC's Annual Conference

April 5-8 | Hyatt Regency Chicago



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

April 5, 2025



Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I welcome all those gathered for the Higher Learning Commission's Annual Conference.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation, and one of seven institutional accreditors in the United States. The work of HLC not only impacts current students, faculty, and administrators but also future generations of learners, thinkers, and teachers. The Higher Learning Commission ensures and upholds standards for quality education.

Higher Learning 2025 will explore the ways colleges and universities use higher learning to meet the needs of their students and society. Whether through imparting the skills and knowledge needed for today's workforce, fueling innovation, or exploring solutions to our most pressing problems, higher learning is the force that propels us all. Attendees from across the country will hear from HLC and leading thinkers, researchers and advocates during this multiday event. I commend the Higher Learning Commission for all of its involved inspired work in the greater community.

I hope that during your stay in Chicago you take the time to see all the city has to offer. Explore our downtown and lakefront areas, tour the vibrant neighborhoods across our city, sample our diverse cuisine, visit our distinguished universities, and our world class museums.

I hope you have an enjoyable event. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,



Mayor



Letter From the HLC President

Barbara Gellman-Danley

Welcome to Higher Learning 2025, HLC's Annual Conference.

This year's conference includes presentations from leading thought leaders, HLC staff, researchers and policy advocates during this multi-day event, planned to inspire your work on campus.

As stated by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." With that in mind, we are excited to welcome you to Chicago for an outstanding experience in learning, building community, and networking.

Higher education continues to face dynamic change, introducing many new innovations while continuing to balance the competing goals of a wide array of stakeholders. We try to bring those diverse views and opportunities to the conference, allowing attendees to follow an individualized journey through each day to meet your learning goals.

I encourage you to study the program(s) carefully and map out each day in advance. Be sure to leave time for those valuable hall conversations and social gatherings to advance the relationship building.

The many sessions available reflect the rapidly changing world of higher education. Speakers will address uniting campus communities, strategies to improve student success, and the current legislative environment.

We offer presentations about practical applications for GenAI in higher education, collaborative approaches to enrollment management, and leading systemic change using change leadership.

Throughout the conference, speakers will address the wide spectrum of learners, including candid

discussions on those that are overlooked and important solutions for serving everyone equitably. As part of new pathways for students, you will hear many cutting-edge ways colleges and universities are integrating short-term certificates and alternative credentials to create increased economic mobility. Attendees will be able to take the most relevant creative and important issues back to your campuses.

I look forward to sharing with you the latest trends in higher education and their impact. Many of you have used these trends to hold important discussions about those that impact your own strategic directions.

Attendees will also have the chance to discuss the revised Criteria for Accreditation. One of the greatest assets of HLC is the diversity of membership types, and the importance of telling your story through the lens of the different missions of our member colleges and universities.

The HLC board, staff, and I would like to extend a welcome to each of you, those returning to the conference and new attendees. We look forward to getting to know you as we all work together to advance higher learning.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Welcome to Higher Learning 2025

General Information

HLC Registration Desk

Hyatt East Tower

Grand Ballroom Foyer | Ballroom Level

Friday, April 4: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 7: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HLC Information Desks

Hyatt East Tower

Grand Ballroom Foyer | Ballroom Level

Friday, April 4: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: 7:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 7:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 7: 7:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8: 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Hyatt West Tower

Regency Ballroom Foyer | Ballroom Level

Saturday, April 5: 7:30 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 7: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Swissôtel

Zurich Ballroom Foyer, First Floor

Saturday, April 5: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 7: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coat Check

Hyatt East Tower (Behind Registration)

Grand Suites | Ballroom Level

HLC is not responsible for items left in the coat room. Any coats left after hours will be moved to hotel security or lost and found. Luggage is not permitted.

Saturday, April 5: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 7: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Bookstore

Hyatt East Tower (Expo Hall)

Grand Ballroom Foyer | Ballroom Level

Saturday, April 5: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6 & 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Monday, April 7: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Time Attendees

Attending Higher Learning for the first time?



Look for conference ambassadors wearing orange buttons to help you navigate the hotels. Sessions that may be beneficial for first time attendees or those new to their role are designated in the conference mobile app, website and this Program Book (see page 18).

Visit hlcommission.org/conferencefaq to see frequently asked questions for new attendees.

Stay Connected

Complimentary Wireless Internet

Sponsored in part by  Cengage

Higher Learning 2025 has Wi-Fi access throughout the public spaces and meeting rooms at both the Hyatt and Swissôtel.

Network: HLC 2025

Password (both networks): Cengage2025

Conference Mobile App

To log in to the mobile app or conference website for the first time, create an account and input event code **HLC2025**.

Use the mobile app to:

- Create your own personalized schedule by favoriting sessions.
- Take notes on and download presentation slides and handouts.
- Access your schedule on multiple devices.
- Scan Learn and Earn QR codes (see below for details).
- See the list of attendees and add personal appointments to your schedule.



Download the **EventScribe app**

Social Media

Stay in touch with HLC and other attendees throughout the conference. Follow us and use hashtag **#HLC2025** to join the conversation.

#HLC2025    **@hlcommission**

Food Options

In addition to lunch options provided at the conference on Sunday (pre-registration required), the Hyatt and Swissôtel have a variety of options for dining throughout the conference. The Illinois Center, accessible by indoor pedway from the Hyatt, also has a variety of quick-serve restaurants. **Please note that many dining options in the area are closed on Sunday.** See the mobile app for restaurant hours.



Hyatt

Big Bar | Skyway Level

Signature cocktails and light entrees

Stetsons Modern Steak + Sushi | Lobby

Non-traditional steakhouse offering internationally inspired dishes

Market Chicago | Lobby

Grab and go items

American Craft Kitchen and Bar | Lobby

Three-course meal dining, a-la-carte available

Swissôtel

The Palm

Lunch or dinner, carry-out available

Amuse Bar

Grab and go breakfast

Learn and Earn



Use the conference mobile app to “Learn and Earn” for a chance to win prizes! Scan QR codes at our sponsor booths, share fairs, certain presentations and more to answer questions and earn points. One correct answer = one point, and 10 points enters you in a drawing to win items including gift cards, books from our keynote speakers, or a complimentary registration for Higher Learning 2026.

Winners will be contacted individually after the conference. Learn more in the mobile app.

Pre-Conference Programs

(Pre-Registration Required)

Saturday, April 5

Peer Reviewer Updates and Training

(see page 12)

Conversations With Presidents and Trustees

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Zurich | First Floor | Swissôtel

Strategies for Experienced ALOs Workshop

12:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Vevey | Second Floor | Swissôtel

Centering Learning Workshop

12:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Montreux | Second Floor | Swissôtel

Seeking Accreditation Workshop

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Plaza Ballroom | Lobby Level | Hyatt East Tower

Affiliate Meetings

Join these informal sessions hosted by conference attendees. *These meetings are not part of HLC programming.*

Council on Advancement for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Plaza Ballroom | Lobby Level | Hyatt East Tower

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System Reception

Sunday, April 6, 4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Randolph 3 | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

HBCU/MSI Interest Group Meeting

Sunday, April 6, 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Plaza Ballroom | Lobby Level | Hyatt East Tower

Florida State University System Meeting

Sunday, April 6, 4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Michigan 3 | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

Wisconsin Technical College System Meeting

Monday, April 7, 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Michigan 3 | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

Meet Your Liaison

Office Hours: Sunday and Monday, 3:45–4:30 p.m.



During the General Program, attend “Office Hours with Liaisons” sessions to ask general questions of your HLC staff liaison. HLC liaisons will not be scheduling formal, individual appointments with institutional representatives at the conference. Please email your liaison separately if you would like to set up a call or virtual meeting outside of the conference. Find your assigned HLC liaison in Canopy.

Tom Bordenkircher and Andrew Lootens-White

Sunday:

Grand Ballroom D | Ballroom Level | Hyatt East Tower

Monday:

Regency D | Ballroom Level | Hyatt West Tower

Stephanie Brzuzy and Jamie Stanesa

Sunday and Monday:

Regency C | Ballroom Level | Hyatt West Tower

John Marr and Karen J. Solomon

Sunday and Monday:

Grand Ballroom B | Ballroom Level | Hyatt East Tower

Linnea A. Stenson and Anthea M. Sweeney

Sunday:

Regency A-B | Ballroom Level | Hyatt West Tower

Monday:

Grand Ballroom D | Ballroom Level | Hyatt East Tower

Learn From Your Peers



Academy Poster Fair (C-75)

Roosevelt 3AB | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

Sunday, April 6: 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

HLC's Academies support systematic improvement in prominent areas of concern for higher ed. View posters detailing the objectives and outcomes of projects completed by recent graduates of the Assessment Academy. Attend this session to connect with institutional representatives that participated in the Academy to learn about promising practices for institutional improvement.

Participants:

- Central New Mexico Community College
- College for Financial Planning, Inc.
- Dakota College at Bottineau
- Danville Area Community College
- Divine Word College
- Eastern Iowa Community College District
- Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City
- North Dakota State University
- Rock Valley College
- Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
- University of the Ozarks

Learn from institutions that have recently completed an accreditation activity during the **Accreditation and Quality Initiative Share Fairs**. Talk with representatives from a variety of institutions in an informal setting about their experience and lessons learned.

Please note: These are examples of how individual institutions have approached these activities and are not intended to be models of how to conduct the accreditation process. HLC thanks the institutional representatives for their participation.

Accreditation Share Fair (C-76)

Michigan 1 | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

Sunday, April 6: 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Participants:

- American InterContinental University System
- Fort Hays State University
- Indian Hills Community College
- Kirkwood Community College
- Lewis University
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Neosho County Community College
- Northeast Community College
- Sitting Bull College
- Southeast Community College Area
- University of Arkansas – East Arkansas Community College
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Michigan
- University of St. Thomas
- University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
- Wilmington College

Quality Initiative Share Fair (C-148)

Roosevelt 3AB | Concourse Level | Hyatt East Tower

Monday, April 7: 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Participants:

- Augsburg University
- Cowley College
- Goshen College
- Lansing Community College
- Loyola University of Chicago
- Ohio University
- San Juan College
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Truman State University
- University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Kansas

Thank You to the 2025 Conference Sponsors

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SILVER SPONSORS

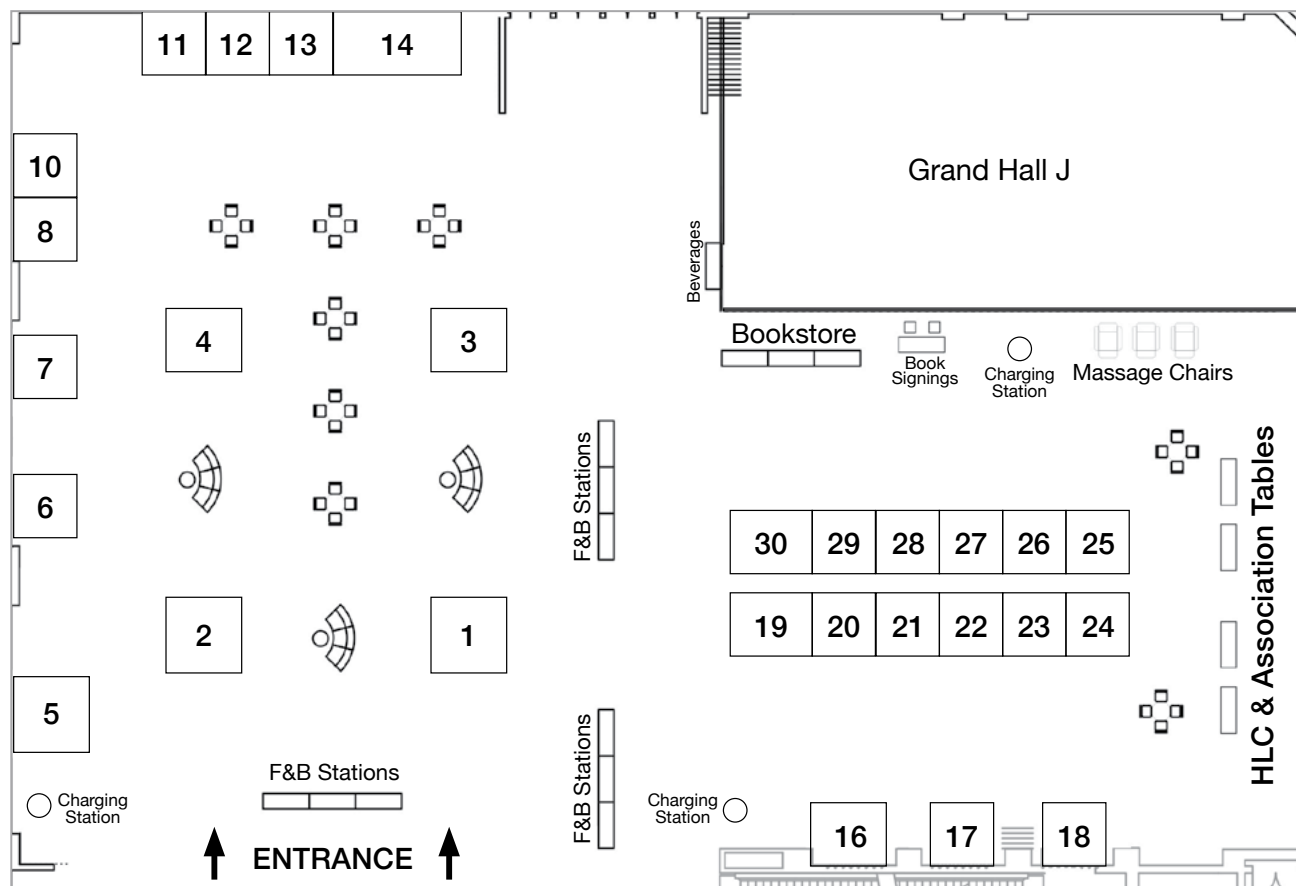
- Anthology
- BibliU
- HelioCampus
- Interfolio
- UQ Solutions, Inc.

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Anatomage
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- EAB
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- Instructure
- Lightcast
- Mission University
- New Revolution Tools
- Nuventive
- Rize Education
- Scholarly Software
- Simple Syllabus
- SPOL
- Territorium
- The Registry
- Upswing
- ZogoTech

ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
- NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising



Anatomage.....	11	Ellucian.....	24	Lightcast	7	SPOL.....	10
Anthology.....	30	eLumen	26	Mission University.....	17	Territorium	23
BibliU.....	16	Harmonize.....	21	New Revolution Tools.....	14	The Registry	6
Cengage.....	1	HelioCampus.....	19	Nuventive	13	Upswing	25
ClassRanked	29	Husch Blackwell.....	2	Rize Education	8	UQ Solutions, Inc.	3
Courserdog	18	Instructure	27	Scholarly Software	28	Watermark.....	5
EAB	22	Interfolio from Elseiver.....	4	Simple Syllabus.....	20	ZogoTech	12

Navigating the Hotels

Certain pre-conference programs and General Program sessions will be held at the Swissôtel and Radisson Blu Aqua, which are both a short walk from the Hyatt. These properties, as well as the Fairmont Chicago, are connected by a pedway staffed with HLC and security personnel during conference hours.

Outdoor Route: Walk east along Wacker Drive. For the Swissôtel, cross Columbus Drive and the hotel will be on your right about halfway down the block. For the Radisson, turn right on Columbus Drive and the hotel will be on your left about halfway down the block. Enter the lobby and follow signs to the HLC meeting rooms.

Indoor Pedway Route: An entrance to the pedway is located on the Concourse Level of the Hyatt's East Tower. The pedway is accessible 6:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Follow signs to the HLC meeting rooms.

Walking Between Sessions

Most breaks between sessions are at least 15 minutes long. If you are crossing between the East and West Towers of the Hyatt, or between the Hyatt and the Swissôtel, be sure to leave promptly in order to arrive at the next session on time. Look for HLC signage throughout the hotels for the best routes to meeting rooms.

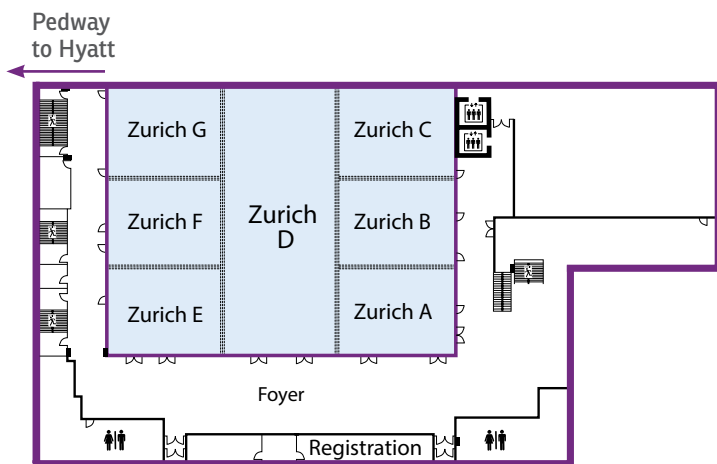
Access to Riverside Hall

Riverside Hall, the location of the complimentary breakfasts and Sunday boxed lunch pickup, is accessible from the Ballroom Level in the East Tower. Escalators to Riverside Hall are located near Grand Hall as well as behind the Grand Ballroom.

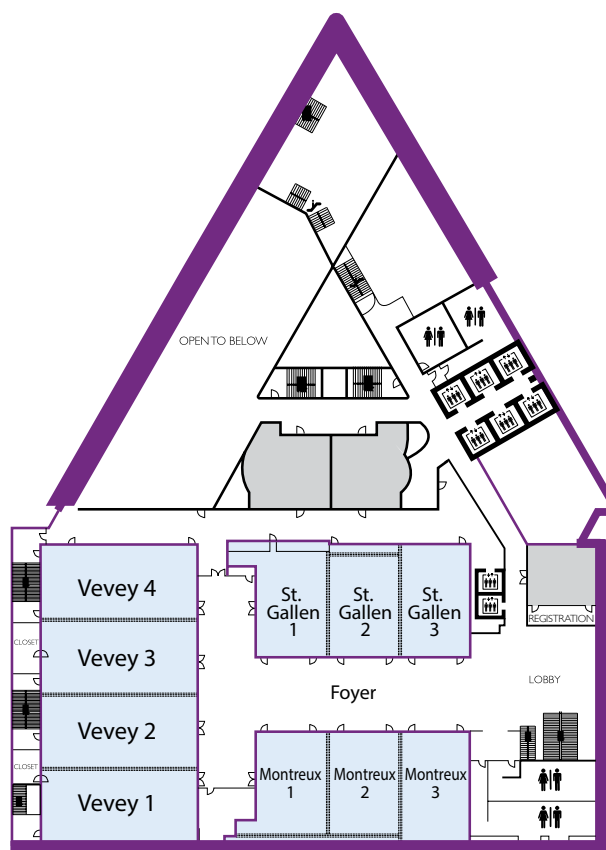
Overflow Viewing Options

The keynote presentations will be simultaneously broadcast to the Crystal Ballroom in the West Tower Lobby Level and the Regency Ballroom in the West Tower Ballroom Level. Additionally, the revised Criteria for Accreditation: Criterion 3 and 4 sessions will be broadcast to Regency C. Please note that Regency is a 5-10 minute walk from the Grand Hall.

swissôtel CHICAGO



First Floor



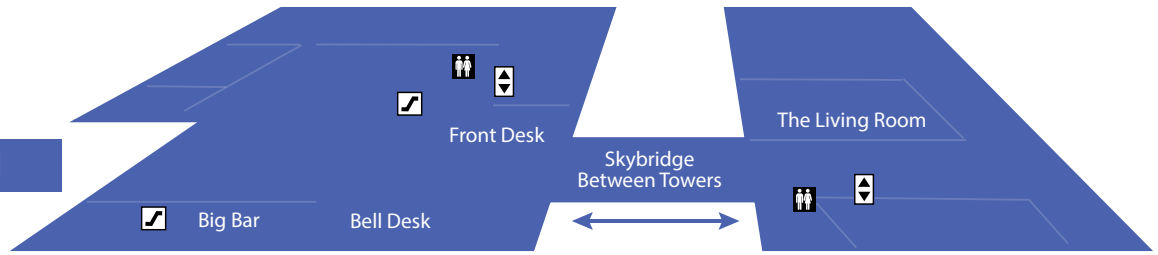
Second Floor

East Tower

West Tower

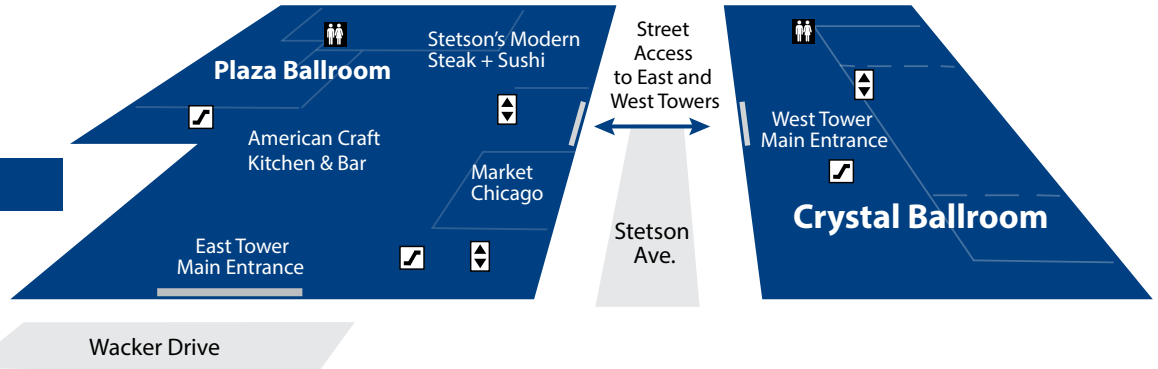
Skyway Level

- Big Bar
- The Living Room



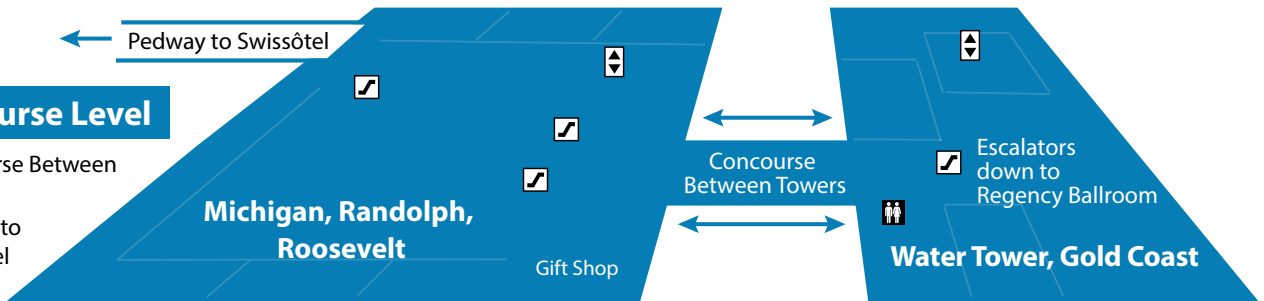
Lobby Level

- Restaurants
- Escalators down to Registration



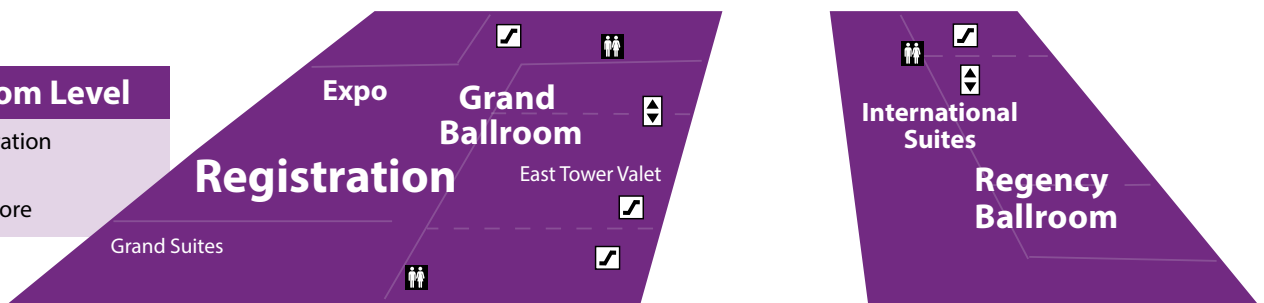
Concourse Level

- Concourse Between Towers
- Pedway to Swissôtel



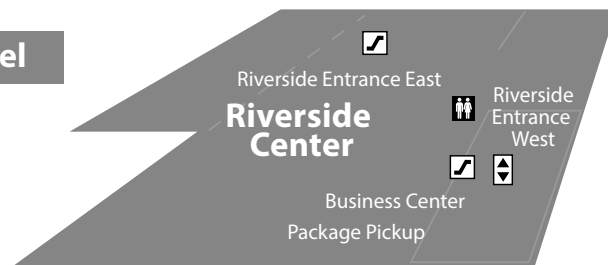
Ballroom Level

- Registration
- Expo
- Bookstore



Riverside Level

- Business Center
- Package Pickup



CROSSING BETWEEN TOWERS

Cross between towers via the Skybridge or the Concourse Levels.

You may also cross from the Lobby Level via the crosswalk on Stetson Avenue.

THE PEDWAY TO SWISSÔTEL is located in the East Tower/ Concourse Level.



ESCALATORS, ELEVATORS AND RESTROOMS are indicated on each floor. Elevators are conveniently located throughout the hotel for guests with disabilities or where no escalator is present.

Peer Reviewer Updates and Training

Pre-Conference Program (*Pre-Registration Required*)

Saturday, April 5 Day at a Glance

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Coffee and Networking

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

HLC Peer Corps Updates

9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Peer Corps Recognition Luncheon

1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FEATURED: Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Implications for Peer Reviewers

Sign In Required

Peer reviewers must sign in to sessions for certain types of reviews that are marked **SIGN IN REQUIRED**, as you'll receive the required training to conduct that type of review.

Sessions for Team Chairs

Some sessions are open only to team chairs. Each session indicates who can attend.

Saturday, April 5

Peer Reviewer Updates and Training Schedule

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Coffee and Networking

Regency Foyer Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

All peer reviewers are welcome to join us for coffee and networking.

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

HLC Peer Corps Updates

Regency A-C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

In this session, HLC staff members will share progress over the last year and insight on what is to come.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

PC-1 - Comprehensive Evaluations and Assurance Reviews in Canopy

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Comprehensive evaluations and Assurance Reviews are moving to Canopy! See how the system works from both the institution's and peer reviewer's perspectives. We will allow lots of time for Q&A.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*
William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-2 - Data from Comprehensive Evaluations: Key Insights for Peer Reviewers

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

In this session we will explore major trends in the outcomes of the comprehensive evaluations conducted in recent years and discuss the most often cited Core Components that require additional institutional attention.

Hoa Khuong, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-3 - Making the Case: Sharpening Your Team Report Writing Skills

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Writing clear, evidence-based reports is a skill that can always be improved. Come join your colleagues in an interactive workshop session on sharpening your team report writing skills. The facilitators will lead participants through analysis of case examples followed by small group collaboration to sharpen your writing.

Gail Jensen, *Creighton University*
Luis D. Montes, *University of Central Oklahoma*

PC-4 - The "Multiverse" of HLC Reviews

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

HLC staff members share how reviewers can become involved in a variety of review types beyond comprehensive evaluations.

Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*
Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-5 - **Bias Unmasked: Deep Dive into Bias Mitigation and Accreditation Integrity**

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

This workshop delves into practical strategies and case studies for mitigating bias in accreditation. We will explore advanced bias identification tools and methods while tackling confirmation bias, cognitive dissonance, and institutional stereotypes. This session is ideal for experienced peer reviewers to refine their understanding and explore solutions to maintain accreditation integrity.

Christon Arthur, *La Sierra University*
Jesse M. Bernal, *Grand Valley State University*
Remy Bruder, *Rochester University*

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

PC-7 - **Training for Substantive Change Processes: New Substantive Change Reviewers**

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

This session is foundational training for peer reviewers interested in reviewing substantive change applications. The session will include an overview of substantive change processes, reviewing program applications, and review elements. Peer reviewers who complete this session will be eligible to participate in traditional credit format program change reviews.

Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*
Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Tamas Horvath, *Higher Learning Commission*
Nicole Perez, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-8 - **Building Finance Understanding for Non-Finance Peer Reviewers**

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

This session is designed for peer reviewers who are not finance professionals. Experienced peer reviewers will cover the basics of what to look for at an institution and will include a case study (both enrollment and finances) of an imaginary college.

Kathy Parkison, *Indiana University Kokomo*
Deanna McCormick, *Simpson College*

PC-6 - **The Triad: Federal Government, States and Accreditors**

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

HLC will present an overview of the higher education regulatory oversight framework known as the Triad. Topics will include the relationships among members of the Triad, HLC's Advocacy Agenda and priorities, and how HLC communicates and collaborates with each Triad member.

Robert Rucker, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-9 - **HLC Peer Reviewer Procedures Versus Team Chair Preferences**

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO TEAM CHAIRS

Consistency across reviews is important for peer reviewers to effectively implement HLC's procedures and for institutions to appropriately prepare for a review. This session explores required approaches, areas where team chairs have more flexibility to choose based on specific aspects of the review, and logistical decisions based on preference.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*
Janet Smith, *Pittsburg State University*

PC-10 - **Revised 3.C Spotlight: Peer Review Insights**

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

This session will examine possible approaches for peer reviewers evaluating institutions with the revised Core Component 3.C.

Tim Cruz, *Pima County Community College District*
Sarah B. Westfall, *Kalamazoo College*

PC-11 - **Using SAP Concur Expense**

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Stop in for an introduction or refresher to Concur, a virtual option for expense reporting. HLC staff members will demonstrate reviewing profiles, capturing receipts and submitting expense reports, followed by time for questions.

Susan Pyne-Torres, *Higher Learning Commission*

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Peer Corps Recognition Luncheon

Regency A-C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Enjoy a plated lunch while HLC staff members thank members of the Peer Corps for another great year of service and celebrate milestones and achievements.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*

Julia Goeke, *Higher Learning Commission*

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PC-12 - Conducting Location, Branch Campus, Multi-Location and Multi-Campus Visits

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

This session prepares peer reviewers to conduct location visits. HLC assures the quality of additional locations and campuses through its initial approval process and subsequently through multi-location and multi-campus visits. Target audience: Reviewers who wish to be trained to conduct location visits.

Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*

Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*

Nicole Perez, *Higher Learning Commission*

Yahaira G. Hall, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-13 - Building and Maintaining Quality Distance Education Programs

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Staff liaisons will discuss recent initiatives in distance education and how HLC determines quality and compliance when evaluating distance education programs. This session will also examine national trends and quality metrics.

Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-14 - Pell-Eligible Prison Education Programs: Training for Peer Reviewers

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

Training to become Pell-eligible Prison Education Program (PEP) reviewers. We will cover HLC's policy, substantive change application, additional location confirmation visit for PEP, substantive change panel review form and additional guidance.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*

Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

Belinda Wheeler, *Vera Institute of Justice*

Maria Miller, *Illinois State Department of Corrections*

PC-15 - Being Active in the Peer Corps During Retirement

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Peer reviewers who are retired from employment at an institution provide a wealth of expertise and experience in the Peer Corps. This session describes how retirees can continue to be active in the Peer Corps and correctly report retirement status in Canopy.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*

Julia Goeke, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-16 - Met With Concerns: When Teams Face Unexpected Challenges

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO TEAM CHAIRS

Despite the best planning, teams sometimes face unexpected challenges. Join us for this interactive session and “scrimmage” with cases where last minute institutional changes or unexpected team dynamics add to the complexity of a visit. We will discuss strategies to help lead the team and prepare should the unexpected happen.

Rita Gulstad, *Central Methodist University*

Reggies Wenyika, *Arizona Christian University*

PC-17 - SAP Concur Office Hours: Ask Us Anything

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Drop in during this time to ask questions about SAP Concur, an online platform and app that allows peer reviewers to submit travel expenses for reimbursement. HLC staff members will have a live connection to Concur for demonstration purposes.

Susan Pyne-Torres, *Higher Learning Commission*

Ofelia Martinez, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-18 - **Assigning Sanctions**

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS, RECOMMENDED FOR TEAM CHAIRS AND IAC MEMBERS

How do peer reviewers determine when to recommend a sanction following an evaluative visit? In this session, an HLC staff member and an experienced peer reviewer will explain the differences between Notice, Probation, Show Cause and Withdrawal of Accreditation, and provide practical guidance on formulating recommendations regarding sanctions.

Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*
Luis D. Montes, *University of Central Oklahoma*

PC-19 - **Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Implications for Peer Reviewers**

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

Peer reviewers are required to attend retraining for the revised Criteria for Accreditation. This session reviews the revised Criteria and implications on peer review practice. HLC staff and an experienced peer reviewer will provide insights and answer questions. (Note: retraining for peer reviewers will also be offered virtually in spring 2025.)

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*
John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*
Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*
Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*
Sarah B. Westfall, *Kalamazoo College*

PC-20 - **Panel Discussion about Conducting Reviews at Correctional Facilities**

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Join representatives from Vera Institute of Justice, Department of Corrections, HLC staff and Peer Corps to discuss considerations when conducting reviews at correctional facilities. Attention will also be given to engaging students and correctional staff. Come with questions and shared experiences.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*
Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*
Belinda Wheeler, *Vera Institute of Justice*
Maria Miller, *Illinois State Department of Corrections*

PC-21 - **Finding Balance: The Year 4 Open Pathway Assurance Review**

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO TEAM CHAIRS

Representing HLC staff and team chair perspectives, this session explores how teams find balance in Year 4 Open Pathway Reviews by understanding the distinction from comprehensive evaluations, being selective when requesting information, embracing concision in their report writing, and offering consultation for future reviews. Note: This session is for Team Chairs only.

Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*
Marie Baehr, *Coe College*
Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-22 - **Let's Talk Team Dynamics and Effective Practices for Peer Reviewers**

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Join our roundtable discussion on exercising leadership in peer review, focusing on best practices and effective team dynamics. Topics include navigating the Assurance System, reviewing materials, Open Forum questions, the visit schedule, organizing around Criteria, professionalism, collaboration, gaining consensus and other activities. Attendees will be asked to participate in discussion.

Lisa Perez-Miller, *Pratt Community College*
Scott W. Epstein, *Davenport University*

PC-23 - **The Essential Canopy for Institutions and Peer Reviewers**

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Join HLC staff for an overview of Canopy, HLC's system for institutional representatives and peer reviewers to easily update their records and stay informed about upcoming reviews and other requirements. Presenters will demonstrate key features and tutorials, and provide details on future developments.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*
William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-24 - Student Success Outcomes Training for Peer Reviewers

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

Peer reviewers will be trained on HLC's new process for student success outcomes. This training will provide an overview of institutional peer groups and how three institutional measures of student success will be benchmarked, as well as how to review improvement plans and updates connected to the measures.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*
Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-25 - Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Implications for Peer Reviewers

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

Peer reviewers are required to attend retraining for the revised Criteria for Accreditation. This session reviews the revised Criteria and implications on peer review practice. HLC staff and an experienced peer reviewer will provide insights and answer questions. (Note: retraining for peer reviewers will also be offered virtually in spring 2025.)

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*
John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*
Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*
Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*
Lisa Perez-Miller, *Pratt Community College*

PC-26 - Assigning Interim Monitoring

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Assigning interim monitoring plays an important role in the decision-making process. Participants will have the opportunity to work through real life scenarios to help make determinations about what monitoring is appropriate, write recommendations that are time-sensitive, aligned with areas of concern and focus, and well-crafted.

Lee Bash, *Graceland University*
Jackie L. Freeze, *Western Wyoming Community College*
Sherilyn W. Poole, *Governors State University*

PC-27 - Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Program Training for Peer Reviewers

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS **SIGN IN REQUIRED**

Experienced change peer reviewers are invited to attend a training on reduced-credit bachelor's degree programs. Completing this training qualifies peer reviewers to serve on change visits and change panels reviewing these applications.

Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*
Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*

PC-28 - What Peer Reviewers Should Know About Tribal Colleges & Universities

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

This session will inform peer reviewers about the history of Tribal Colleges & Universities and the aspects that make them unique institutions of higher education. It will also provide insight into how the uniqueness of these institutions relate to the HLC evaluation process within the Criteria.

Koreen Ressler, *Sitting Bull College*
Jana Hanson, *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*

PC-29 - Canopy Office Hours: Ask Us Anything

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

OPEN TO ALL PEER REVIEWERS

Drop in during this time to ask questions about HLC's Canopy system. Canopy allows institutional representatives and peer reviewers to easily update their records and stay informed about upcoming reviews and other requirements. HLC staff members will have a live connection to Canopy for demonstration purposes.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

General Program

The General Program for Higher Learning 2025 kicks off at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 with a keynote presentation from David Allison, followed by a welcome reception.

HLC President Barbara Gellman-Danley begins the first full day of the General Program with a welcome address on Sunday, April 6.

The conference concludes at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8.

Navigating the General Program

Presentation Types

HLC Presentation

Presentation delivered by HLC staff member(s).

Institutional Presentation

Presentation delivered by representatives from HLC member institutions.

Keynote / Featured Presentation

Presentation delivered by invited researchers and thought leaders in higher ed.

Viewpoint Presentation

Presentation delivered by higher education experts from outside HLC's institutional membership.

Showcase Presentation

Presentation delivered by a Higher Learning 2025 sponsor.

Networking Opportunity

Opportunity to engage with peers and colleagues in an informal setting. Some social/networking events require pre-registration or are invitation only.

Tracks

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

Teaching and Learning in a Changed Environment

Promoting Student Success

Leading and Managing for the Future

First-Time Attendees

If you're new to accreditation or the conference, these sessions may help you get acquainted with HLC policies, procedures and expectations.

HLC Academy Sessions

These sessions are related to HLC's Student Success and Assessment Academies, including presentations by Academy graduates. Join these sessions to engage with Academy scholars, mentors and participants, learn about promising practices that can be applied at your institution, and discover the benefits of participation in these multi-year programs for institutional improvement.

Saturday, April 5

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

First Time Attendees

Orientation for First Time Conference Attendees

Regency A-C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Is this your first time attending HLC's Annual Conference or are you in a new accreditation role at your institution? This session highlights the basics of accreditation and HLC, and how you can best navigate the conference to support your institution's efforts in the accreditation process.

Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

Janet Smith, *Pittsburg State University*

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Keynote: Uniting Campus Communities: Finding Common Ground With Shared Values

Grand Ballroom Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower **CC**

From new students and new leaders to new policies and new influence, change has become a constant for higher education in the United States. This endless current has created a breeding ground for conflicting ideologies and interests, leading to misunderstandings, tensions, divisions, and even hostility. In this keynote, David Allison, the foremost authority on human values and founder of the Valuegraphics Project, will explore how shared values can bridge the ideological divides that threaten to destabilize campuses and communities. By identifying the values we share, rather than what separates us, Dr. Allison will equip attendees with practical tools to proactively prevent conflict, effectively manage disagreements, and create an environment where everyone can thrive.

David Allison, *Valuegraphics Project*

This presentation will also be broadcast to:

Crystal Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

Regency Ballroom Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Grand Hall and Expo Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

Sponsored in part by

**HUSCH
BLACKWELL**

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and bar service while connecting with fellow attendees and conference sponsors.

General Program

Sunday, April 6

Sunday, April 6

Day at a Glance

7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Complimentary Continental Breakfast

Sponsored in part by  **BibliU**

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Welcome Address

Barbara Gellman-Danley, *Higher Learning Commission*

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Networking Break and Expo

10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

FEATURED: Washington Update

12:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunches and Boxed Lunch

(Pre-Registration Required)

Sponsored in part by



1:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

FEATURED: Practical Applications for GenAI in Higher Education

3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

Networking Break and Expo

3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Sunday, April 6

General Program Schedule

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Riverside Hall Exhibit Level Hyatt | East Tower

Sponsored in part by



NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Welcome Address

Grand Ballroom Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

HLC President Barbara Gellman-Danley welcomes General Program attendees with an overview of the dynamic change HLC's community is facing, as well as opportunities the future offers.

Barbara Gellman-Danley, *Higher Learning Commission*

This presentation will also be broadcast to:

Crystal Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

Regency Ballroom Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Networking Break and Expo

Grand Hall and Expo Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

Regency Ballroom Foyer Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

Zurich Ballroom Foyer First Floor Swissôtel

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

C-1 - Accreditation Liaison Officers: An Overview of the Role

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session is designed for new Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs) who have not participated in the ALO orientation course, but all ALOs are welcome. Presenters will provide an overview of the role, share resources available to ALOs, review relevant HLC processes and share important components of the HLC accreditation relationship.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*
Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-2 - Commitment to Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join this session to learn about HLC's ongoing collaboration with the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Coalition, as well as the results of our recent research regarding campus-wide and department-level initiatives.

Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*
David Paris, *Hamilton College*
Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-3 - HLC and Other Recognized Accreditors and Government Agencies

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

An overview of how HLC reviews actions taken by other accreditors and government agencies in relation to HLC standards.

Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Sarah Hallett, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-4 - HLC Member Education and Training: Commitment to Quality Improvement

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

As a value and commitment to our members, HLC offers a wide range of learning opportunities to help institutions prepare for evaluations and improve the quality of their

educational offerings. Attend this session to learn about our framework for education and training, as well as our available and upcoming programming.

Claire Berkley, *Higher Learning Commission*
Kim Davis, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-5 - Key Insights: Team Determinations for Comprehensive Evaluations

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This presentation provides highlights from a retrospective analysis of HLC comprehensive evaluations, including the most cited Core Components of the Criteria for Accreditation and peer review teams' reasons for determining that Core Components were met with concerns or not met.

Hoa Khuong, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-6 - The Essential Canopy for Institutions and Peer Reviewers

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Join HLC staff for an overview of Canopy, HLC's system for institutional representatives and peer reviewers to easily update their records and stay informed about upcoming reviews and other requirements. Presenters will demonstrate key features and tutorials, and provide details on future developments.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*
William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-7 - The HLC Credential Lab: Supporting Changes in the Learn/Work Ecosystem

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session will share an overview and update on the work of the HLC Credential Lab, including the Education and Training Provider Endorsement and the Credential Lab Innovation Center.

Melanie Booth, *HLC's Credential Lab Consultant*
Eva Sitek, *Higher Learning Commission*
Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

Leading & Managing for the Future**C-8 - Adapting to Leadership Changes in Higher Education****Michigan 1** Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

The effects of rapid changes in higher education leadership personnel can have a profound impact upon organizational culture, morale, sustainability, workload and output. This presentation discusses strategies for leadership transition and onboarding during multiple presidential changes along with key strategies for success.

Suzanne C. Brown, *Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing*

Carole J. Eatock, *Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing*

Charlene S. Aaron, *Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing*

Promoting Student Success**C-9 - Can We Know the Future? Machine Learning and Student Success****Crystal A** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This presentation showcases the development of machine learning algorithms to predict a prospect's or student's likelihood to apply, matriculate, retain, and graduate. Presenters will demonstrate how this tool empowers enrollment management and student affairs teams by providing predictive insights to optimize student success programs.

Heath A. Howard, *Fairmont State University*
Alexander C. Elliott, *Fairmont State University*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation**C-10 - Comprehensive Evaluation Unplugged: Tales, Tips, and Triumphs****Zurich E-G** First Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

In this session, we present tips, strategies, and lessons learned in preparing for a successful comprehensive evaluation at a large community college. We address the challenges and share strategies and effective practices for writing an argument, collecting the evidence, and engaging the campus community in the process.

Judith B. Tomasson, *Central New Mexico Community College*
Amardeep Kahlon, *Central New Mexico Community College*

Promoting Student Success**C-11 - Data Drives Decisions: Using Dashboards to Inform Institutional Strategy****Crystal B** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION**

Community colleges have ambitious goals for student success but generally lack a data-informed approach to establishing them. This session will share how the Michigan Community College Association and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges have developed interactive data dashboards to support community college student success goals.

Erica L. Orians, *Michigan Community College Association*

Bob Haas, *Marion Technical College*

Kimberly Hurns, *Oakland Community College*

Promoting Student Success**C-12 - Grading for Equity in Higher Education: Implications for Minority-Serving Institutions****Vevey 1-2** Second Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This session explores equitable grading within the context of higher education, focusing on its implications for tribal colleges and minority-serving institutions. The presenters examine challenges and opportunities associated with implementing equitable grading practices. Attendees will gain insights into how grading for equity can contribute to student success and academic achievement.

Ursula Pawlowski, *Navajo Technical University*

Coleen Arviso, *Navajo Technical University*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment**C-13 - Implementing Responsible AI Use: Illinois State University's Approach****Vevey 3-4** Second Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Illinois State University established a comprehensive Committee for Responsible AI Use, addressing ethical, academic, and operational concerns. This presentation outlines our committee structure, key initiatives, and initial outcomes, including AI guidance for pedagogy and research. We'll share insights on implementing a proactive, institution-wide approach to AI in higher education.

Roy D. Magnuson, *Illinois State University*

Kristin Carlson, *Illinois State University*

John C. Cutting, *Illinois State University*

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. continued

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-14 - More Than Counting Beans: Cultivating a Meaningful Approach to Assessment

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation discusses our efforts to shift the approach to assessment on our campus, emphasizing the meaning and actionability of data. Based on our QIP, we share how we challenged entrenched views of assessment as merely quantifying student learning by implementing changes in our assessment processes and faculty development programs.

George F. McHendry, *Creighton University*

Lou Jensen, *Creighton University*

Gail M. Jensen, *Creighton University*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-15 - Partnering for the Future: Addressing Bachelor Completion Through Institutional Collaboration

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This program highlights steps taken to forge partnerships between two higher education institutions that manage

change and lead toward the future. This partnership has provided an avenue to address workforce needs, strengthen degree completion opportunities and provide pathways that retain the talent pipeline in a remote area.

Ryan J. Ruda, *Garden City Community College*

Alden Stout, *Newman University*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-16 - Rising from the Ashes: Leveraging Challenges to Attain Accreditation Success

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Learn how one institution's leaders leveraged institutional challenges to attain accreditation success through a proactive, grassroots approach and a strategic mindset. Rocky Vista University's nine-step approach transformed its challenges into opportunities and illuminated the institution's commitment to excellence, innovation, and integrity.

Janna L. Oakes, *Rocky Vista University*

David Forstein, *Rocky Vista University*

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

C-17 - Featured: Washington Update

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Join ACE's Jon Fansmith for a federal legislative and regulatory update focused on the latest developments in higher education. Topics will include priority issues for federal policymakers and what to expect in the coming year.

Jon Fansmith, *American Council on Education*

will share its journey to becoming an agile, data-driven organization, along with insights and recommendations for those embarking on their own agile transformation.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*

Landon J. DePasquale, *Americaneagle.com*

HLC's Academies

C-19 - Assessment Academy: Lessons Learned From Mentors and Scholars

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, participants will learn and share best practices for developing, implementing and sustaining assessment processes to improve student learning. Led by an experienced Mentor and Scholar from HLC's Assessment Academy, strategies for successful assessment efforts will be highlighted.

Susan Murphy, *Central New Mexico Community College*

Julie Furst-Bowe, *Winona State University*

C-18 - Achieving Organizational Success Through Agile Principles and Practices

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Join HLC and Americaneagle.com to learn about organizational agility, agile practices and how to apply these concepts to all aspects of your institution's work. HLC

C-20 - Distinctive Competency-Based Education (CBE) Models: Meeting Learner and Employer Needs

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Though CBE models have key characteristics — learner-centric, faculty-driven engagement and validated learning — there are different approaches in building CBE programs. Speakers will share core foundations and the use of the Competency-Based Education Network's (C-BEN's) Quality Framework in program design. Discover examples built to institutional goals, programs and culture.

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*
Deb Bushway, *Northwestern Health Sciences University*
Laurie G. Dodge, *Competency-Based Education Network*

C-21 - HLC Updates for Accreditation Liaison Officers

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session for new and experienced ALOs, presenters address a variety of topics, including the Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report, Canopy, new information related to policy updates and more.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*
Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-22 - Offering Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

This session will provide an overview of the substantive change process for seeking approval to offer a reduced-credit bachelor's degree program, as well as an in-depth explanation of how various HLC requirements apply in the context of such a program.

Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*
Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-23 - The Open Pathway

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This presentation will review the activities and events that take place on the Open Pathway, addressing the eligibility factors that permit institutions to participate in this pathway, the Quality Initiative process, the unique qualities of the Year 4 Assurance Review, and the Year 10 comprehensive evaluation.

Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-24 - Toward North Star: Membership Input on HLC's Next Strategic Plan

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session seeks membership input and guidance on the opportunities and challenges facing HLC as it transitions from its current strategic plan, EVOLVE 2025, to its next strategic plan, North Star. Updates on EVOLVE and other trends will foster discussion and spark ideas for HLC's priorities and possible next steps.

Eric Martin, *Higher Learning Commission*
Heather Berg, *Higher Learning Commission*
Sarah Byrne, *Higher Learning Commission*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-25 - Aligning Assessment Strategies with Campus Strengths for Greater Engagement

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Drawing from our Assessment Academy experience, we'll share three practical strategies that enhanced our assessment process: clearly defining outcomes, applying a developmental approach to student progress, and distinguishing between program quality and student learning assessment. We'll show how aligning with our community's strengths led to deeper engagement and better results.

Eric J. Barth, *Kalamazoo College*
Tara Webb, *Kalamazoo College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-27 - An Engaging Multi-Campus Preparation for a Successful Accreditation Visit

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Colorado Mountain College, a rural dual-mission, Hispanic-Serving Institution with 11 campuses, recently participated in its Year 10 comprehensive evaluation visit that included a multi-campus visit and a Federal Compliance review. Learn how we had fun preparing for and executing a successful visit with HLC reviewers.

Karla Hardesty, *Colorado Mountain College*
Kathryn S. Regjo, *Colorado Mountain College*
Belle van 't Hoff, *Colorado Mountain College*

Leading & Managing for the Future**C-28 - Analog to Digital: Redefining Teamwork Across Generations****Michigan 1** Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Analog to Digital: Redefining Teamwork Across Generations explores the shift from traditional to digital work environments and its impact on team dynamics. Led by Millennial Directors Kia and Nicole, this session covers generational differences, Millennial leadership styles, and strategies for managing multi-generational teams, emphasizing inclusivity, technology, and adaptive leadership.

Nicole LaCognata, *College of DuPage***Kiantra Loza**, *College of DuPage***Promoting Student Success****C-29 - Balancing Academic Rigor and Student Success****Crystal A** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

When balancing academic rigor and student success, faculty and student success professionals do not always agree. Let's examine the tug-of-war centered on topics such as due date flexibility, incompletes, and withdrawals. Case studies will be used to show how faculty and student success professionals work together to benefit struggling students.

Betsy J. Bannier, *Lake Region State College***Andy Wakeford**, *Lake Region State College***Leading & Managing for the Future****C-30 - Building a Structurally Sound Budget with Strategic Data and Collaboration****Plaza Ballroom** Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This presentation will explain how the application of key data and intentional collaboration led to significant budget reductions in curriculum and academic programs, achieving financial goals. Examples of strategic data and their application will be shared, along with strategies to ensure a collaborative process of decision-making and structural budgeting.

Janet B. Sommers, *University of Northwestern - St. Paul***Joel T. Johnson**, *University of Northwestern - St. Paul***Kirk D. Moss**, *University of Northwestern - St. Paul***Promoting Student Success****C-31 - Empowering Learning: Leveraging AI for Smarter Test Preparation****Crystal C** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This workshop explores AI's impact on curriculum, teaching, and certification exam preparation. Participants will gain strategies for integrating AI to improve efficiency, equity, and engagement. Designed for educators and academic leaders, the session highlights personalized learning, scalable tools, and actionable insights to enhance student success and reduce disparities.

Lindy Gaudiano, *Grand Canyon University***Emily Pottinger**, *Grand Canyon University***Leading & Managing for the Future****C-32 - Reimagining Academic Organizational Design: Planning, Predicaments, and Payoffs****Grand Hall J** Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

After two years of planning, Indiana University South Bend reorganized from five academic units to two colleges, each housing three schools. With a robust shared governance environment, our story is one of collaboration, communication, and serendipitous outcomes. This presentation will provide practical strategies and insights for those considering similar changes.

Jill R. Pearson, *Indiana University South Bend***Hope E. Smith Davis**, *Indiana University South Bend***Institutional Experiences with Accreditation****C-33 - Rethinking Faculty Qualifications: One University's Approach to Evaluation and Documentation****Zurich E-G** First Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This presentation will feature Aurora University's wholly redesigned process for qualifying faculty. It will describe how the university updated its processes for documenting, verifying, and evaluating faculty qualifications, including faculty qualified on the basis of equivalent experience; engaged the campus community in this work; and allocated resources to its completion.

Matthew S. Dabros, *Aurora University*

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Boxed Lunch

Riverside Hall Exhibit Level Hyatt | East Tower

Pre-registration required. **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Please note: Networking Lunches are held at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. See page 6 and the mobile app for more information about getting to the hotel.

Sunday Networking Lunch #1: Institutional Mission in Action

Atlantic Ballroom A Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel

Sponsored in part by

Pre-registration required. **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**



Sunday Networking Lunch #2: Strategies for Uniting Campus Communities

Atlantic Ballroom B Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel

Sponsored in part by

Pre-registration required. **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**



1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

First Time Attendees

C-34 - Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Criteria 1 and 2

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, an HLC staff liaison and experienced peer reviewers will explore revised Criterion 1. Mission and Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct.

Anthea M. Sweeney, Higher Learning Commission
Lisa Perez-Miller, Pratt Community College
Rita Gulstad, Central Methodist University

C-35 - Change of Control, Structure or Organization: Part 1

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Institutions often explore changes that fall within HLC's policy on Change of Control, Structure or Organization. HLC staff will provide an overview of this policy across a two-part session. Part 1 will focus on the various types of Change of Control, Structure or Organization and HLC's review procedures.

Robert Rucker, Higher Learning Commission
Sarah Hallett, Higher Learning Commission
John Marr, Higher Learning Commission

C-36 - Graduate Education: Considerations for Program Development

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Thinking about starting a graduate program for the first time, or moving from master's to doctoral level programs? Join this session for an overview of the elements necessary for proposing and offering high-quality, rigorous graduate education.

Jamie Stanesa, Higher Learning Commission
Steph Brzuzy, Higher Learning Commission

HLC's Academies

C-37 - Enhancing Student Success Using Gen Ed Assessment

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Recent HLC Assessment Academy Graduates share how general education assessment is a vital tool for understanding and enhancing student learning and student success. The panel will also cover practices and strategies used to overcome common challenges in general education assessment.

Rosemary Niedens, Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas Health Science Center
Lexi Kvasnicka-Gates, Dakota College at Bottineau
Ken Matthews, St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Steve Oatis, University of the Ozarks

HLC's Academies

C-38 - Student Success Academy: Challenging Institutional Assumptions Through the Inventory Process

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Recent graduates of HLC's Student Success Academy will share how the program's structure helped them assess their institution's initiatives, policies, practices, and culture to determine if they supported the needs of students. Panelists will also highlight how their findings uncovered opportunities to reshape institutional actions to better support student success.

Janice Denton, *University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College*

Nadine L. Ashton, *College for Creative Studies*

Rosalind Hibbs, *Principia College*

Mark Kinney, *West Shore Community College*

C-39 - The Focused Visit

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Focused visits examine specific aspects of an institution or follow up on concerns identified by a previous evaluation process. This session will discuss preparation of the institutional report, the on-site visit and the decision-making process.

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

Steve Eckman, *Bethany College*

C-40 - What Happens After an HLC Evaluation Occurs?

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This panel, representing HLC and institutional perspectives, highlights the due process steps involved following a team or panel recommendation. The session will cover logistics and related timelines, and explore how the institutional response can be leveraged to provide additional perspective to IAC or HLC's Board before final action is taken.

Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*

Janet Smith, *Pittsburg State University*

Sharon Ulmer, *Higher Learning Commission*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-41 - Unpacking the New Carnegie Classifications

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

The Carnegie Classifications are undergoing their most significant revision in its 50 year history. Please join us to learn the details of the changes and what the new classifications will mean for your institutions.

Mushtaq Gunja, *American Council on Education*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-42 - 5 Strategies that Worked: Accreditation in a Fully Remote Environment

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The College for Financial Planning serves approximately 10,000 online students with a fully remote team of faculty, staff, and administrators. This interactive session offers reflections on five strategies that influenced an engaging and collaborative accreditation experience within a remote environment during the College's Mid-Cycle Evaluation in 2024.

Bethany Alden-Rivers, *College for Financial Planning, Inc.*

Cindy Riecke, *College for Financial Planning, Inc.*

Jeffrey Barnette, *College for Financial Planning, Inc.*

Promoting Student Success

C-43 - Career Pathways: An Interactive Roadmap for Student Success

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Amid shifting public views on higher education, the Kaskaskia College Career Pathways tool offers prospective students an interactive resource for career exploration, personalized education planning, cost savings analysis, university transfer, and employment options. Join us to learn how this tool promotes higher education, student success, and helps drive local economy.

Julie Obermark, *Kaskaskia College*

Amy Zanton, *Kaskaskia College*

George Evans, *Kaskaskia College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-44 - Collaborative Development of Assurance Arguments: Concrete Examples from the Field

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation will focus on how various colleges navigate the process of preparing an Assurance Argument. In addition to concrete examples from the field provided by two individuals who serve as ALOs, CAOs, and Peer Reviewers, the session will include a best practice share out.

Kristine M. Sudbeck, *Nebraska Indian Community College*
Charlene Widener, *Northeast Community College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-45 - Enhancing Accreditation Success: Harnessing Generative AI for Effective Assurance Arguments

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Discover how Generative AI transformed SFCC's Assurance Argument process in 2023. Learn how to strengthen arguments, reduce workload, and streamline processes for improved clarity and alignment with HLC Criteria. This session includes hands-on practice (bring your computer), equipping you with actionable skills to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in accreditation efforts.

Yash Morimoto, *Santa Fe Community College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-46 - Implementing, Assessing, and Aligning General Education Learning Outcomes

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The University shifted from defining general education as a list of courses to a set of learning outcomes. This presentation focuses on the implementation of those learning outcomes and the process to assess them. We also will discuss the alignment of the outcomes with career competencies, state core, and cocurriculars.

Deborah A. Korth, *University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*
James Gigantino, *University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*
Christopher M. Schulte, *University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-47 - Leading Program Status Processes that Drive Curricular Evolution

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This session will describe how the University of Mount Union created a comprehensive, continuous system to establish, evolve and, when warranted, discontinue programs. Although the effort grew out of structural reorganization and a call to rethink our portfolio, we recognize that status processes must incentivize change and collaboration.

Sandra I. Madar, *University of Mount Union*
Bryan J. Boatright, *University of Mount Union*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-48 - Minnesota State Academic Program Review Process: Systemwide Guidance, Institutional Autonomy

Zurich E-G First Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This presentation will explore the development and implementation of Minnesota State's systemwide Academic Program Review (APR) process, designed to balance consistent system-wide guidance without taking away autonomy of 33 diverse institutions. Attendees will learn how the process respects institutional missions while ensuring meaningful and robust program reviews across the system.

Daniel de Moraes, *Minnesota State College and Universities System*
Satasha Green-Stephen, *Minnesota State College and Universities System*
Jesse Mason, Jr., *Minnesota State College and Universities System*

Build your network
#HLC2025

   @hlcommission

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. continued

Promoting Student Success

C-49 - **More Than Just Words: DEI Action and Civic Engagement**

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Join us to gain valuable insights and actionable strategies to elevate your institution's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through civic engagement. This interactive workshop will allow us share our process, successes, challenges, and give you an opportunity to practice how you can incorporate a similar process at your institution.

Rikkisha L. Gilmore-Byrd, *Rasmussen University*

Mee Lee, *Rasmussen University*

Meagan Mueller, *Rasmussen University*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-50 - **Quality Initiative Project Determination: Campus Input, Feedback, and Buy-in**

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

For our Quality Initiative project we wanted to choose a project geared towards institutional strategic goals and which would have buy-in across campus. We will describe our process in gathering input and narrowing our focus, and finally choosing a specific project. We will also share early indications of campus buy-in.

Ellen Fagerstrom, *Minnesota State University Moorhead*

Jered Pigeon, *Minnesota State University Moorhead*

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

C-51 - **Featured: Practical Applications for GenAI in Higher Education**

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Each of us approach Generative AI (GenAI) with a mix of curiosity and concern. Hear a panel of experts address the realities of GenAI and discuss ethical considerations for its usage in higher education. Hear how the panel members leveraged this technology to achieve new levels of efficiency in their disciplines and discover innovative applications for GenAI in your own work.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*

Ryan Low, *University of Maine System*

Kathe Pelletier, *EDUCAUSE*

Christopher D. van der Kaay, *Castle Consulting*

C-53 - **Change of Control, Structure or Organization: Part 2**

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Part 2 will explore special considerations for certain types of Change of Control, Structure or Organization, including those constituting an acquisition followed by a merger or consolidation. This part will also discuss changes to HLC procedure in light of recent guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

Robert Rucker, *Higher Learning Commission*

Sarah Hallett, *Higher Learning Commission*

John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-54 - **Considerations for Interim Reports**

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Presenters offer an overview of the interim report process, providing insights into how the analysis is done and exploring the most frequently assigned report topics.

Lee Bash, *Graceland University*

Jackie Freeze, *Western Wyoming Community College*

Sherilyn W. Poole, *Governors State University*

Sharon Ulmer, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-52 - **Benchmarking and Review of Student Success Outcome Measures**

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

HLC staff will share an update on Phase 1 of our Evaluating Student Success Outcomes initiative, with a focus on HLC's new student success indicators. Presenters will describe how HLC will evaluate three institutional measures of student success, including assigning institutions to peer groups and setting benchmarks for each measure.

Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*

Vince Coraci, *Higher Learning Commission*

Hoa Khuong, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-55 - Proactive Planning To Be a Teach-Out Receiving Institution

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join this session to learn about HLC's policies and guidance for institutions interested in serving as teach-out receiving institutions, as well as lessons learned from institutions that developed and executed successful teach-out agreements and plans for serving students from closing institutions.

Jamie Stanesa, Higher Learning Commission
James H. Moore, West Virginia Wesleyan College
Marla Morgen, Higher Learning Commission
Tracy Schuster-Matlock, St. Ambrose University

First Time Attendees

C-56 - Substantive Change: Part 1

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Intended for institutional representatives who are new to substantive change, this presentation will cover various aspects of substantive change including review processes, screening forms, application overview, off-campus activities, official letter process and more.

Stephanie Kramer, Higher Learning Commission
Tom Bordenkircher, Higher Learning Commission
Tamas Horvath, Higher Learning Commission
Nicole Perez, Higher Learning Commission

Promoting Student Success

C-57 - Access and Opportunity Revolution: Global Learning, Intercultural Fluency, Career Readiness

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Global learning, intercultural fluency, and career readiness are vital to the success of our graduates. Through active learning, professional projects, industry partnerships, and real-world case studies, we've implemented strategies that foster the attainment of requisite skills and competencies needed to maximize student success.

Antoinette Boyd, Maryville University of St. Louis
Brian Gant, Maryville University of St. Louis

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-58 - Assessing Student Learning: Engaging Faculty Through Collaborative Rubric Design

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation centers on collaborative development of program-level student learning outcome rubrics as a part of

an innovative program assessment process that has been shown to be effective for implementing meaningful, iterative, assessment and in building faculty buy-in for assessment in large, decentralized, multi-campus, online programs.

Allison K. Chatterjee, Indiana University Bloomington

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-59 - Revised Criteria 1 & 2: Colleague Conversation

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join a conversation with your colleagues to discuss what the revised Criteria for Accreditation mean for your institution. Guided by experienced peer reviewers, explore evidence you could use to demonstrate your institution meets the Criteria. The session will start with a framing by peer reviewers, then turn to wider discussion.

Lisa Perez-Miller, Pratt Community College
Rita Gulstad, Central Methodist University

Promoting Student Success

C-60 - Developing a Responsive AI Generative Mental Health Triage Website

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

With high levels of stress, trauma exposure, and isolation, American Public University students, particularly military and full-time workers, face unique challenges. The presentation will discuss the creation of a requirements document for a dynamic, responsive mental health triage AI generative website (Reflective Care) tailored specifically for APUS students.

Cynthia R. Lindenmeyer, American Public University System
Ahmed Abaza, American Public University System
Bizuayehu Nigatu, American Public University System

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-61 - From Surviving to Thriving: Lessons Learned from Probation

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Being placed on Probation can seemingly add to the challenges that led to Probation in the first place. But Great Lakes Christian College was able to use it as an opportunity to rally internal and external improvement efforts to ameliorate concerns and to build a framework for ongoing, sustained success.

Frank Weller, Great Lakes Christian College

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-62 - Improving Planning Process with Change Management

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Leading for the future requires institutions to adapt to changing economic conditions, regulatory environments, and student bodies. Through an iterative continuous improvement process, planning at Minnesota State Community and Technical College has adapted to changing conditions through integration of lean manufacturing tools and change management principles to the planning process.

Steve Erickson, *Minnesota State Community and Technical College*

Carrie Brimhall, *Minnesota State Community and Technical College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-63 - Reimagining GenEd to Empower Students and Align with Marketplace Needs

Zurich E-G First Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This session illuminates work in Colorado and North Carolina to promote the value of general education to students and employers, including credentials that validate the knowledge and competencies developed through GenEd and customization of an “essential skills experience” that aligns with the needs of employers and professionals in specific industries.

Chris Rasmussen, *West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission*

Keith E. Babuszcak, *Wake Technical Community College*

Kathryn S. Regjo, *Colorado Mountain College*

Promoting Student Success

C-64 - State Responses to Dual Credit Credentialing Requirements

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

States and institutions have responded in significantly different ways to guidelines for credentialing high school dual credit instructors. This session will provide an overview of the spectrum of responses and the implications for dual credit access and quality.

Jennifer Zinth, *Zinth Consulting, LLC*

Jenny L. Parks, *Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)*

Carrie Wandler, *Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-65 - The Comprehensive Evaluation: A Panel Presentation

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Attend this panel session to get insights from institutional representatives on the experience of going through the comprehensive evaluation process, from preparation to visit.

Jamal Scott, *National Louis University*

Tonia Bock, *University of St. Thomas*

Caroline Geary, *University of Wisconsin Oshkosh*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-66 - The Year 4 Open Pathway Assurance Review: A Panel Presentation

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Attend this panel session to get insights from institutional representatives on the experience of going through the Year 4 Open Pathway Assurance Review.

C. David Moon, *University of Colorado Colorado Springs*

Jill Budde, *Indian Hills Community College*

Bill Chura, *Lewis University*

Catherine Golden, *Purdue University*

Kristi Kuntz, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-67 - Wanted a Director, Got a Committee: Student Success Academy Retrospective

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation explores Saginaw Valley State University's post-HLC Student Success Academy journey, highlighting strategic balance between vertical and shared leadership. By shifting between these approaches, SVSU accessed resources and garnered support, achieving significant successes despite resource constraints. Key initiatives and their impact on student success will be discussed.

Brian Thomas, *Indiana University East*

Dawn Hinton, *Saginaw Valley State University*

Erik Trump, *Saginaw Valley State University*

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Networking Break and Expo

Grand Hall and Expo	Ballroom Level	Hyatt East Tower
Regency Ballroom Foyer	Ballroom Level	Hyatt West Tower
Zurich Ballroom Foyer	First Floor	Swissôtel

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

S-1 - Recent Supreme Court Decisions and the Impact on Higher Education

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE

Join Husch Blackwell attorney, Hayley Hanson, as she discusses recent Supreme Court decisions impacting admission, donor gift, discrimination, Title VII, Title IX, and the regulatory landscape. Hayley will analyze the rulings and the immediate and long-term implications for colleges and universities. She also will address how the changes in the law should be implemented on campus.

**HUSCH
BLACKWELL**

Hayley Hanson, *Husch Blackwell*

S-2 - Not Your Mama's Assessment Strategy: Innovative Ways to Assess Gen Ed

Grand Ballroom F Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE

General education assessment can be fresh and innovative! Join the Watermark team and a handful of our institutional friends as we discuss strategies such as global curriculum mapping, embedded assessment, student surveys, student competitions, and faculty-driven assessment models.

 **watermark**

Glenn Phillips, *Watermark*

S-3 - Building Effective Data-Informed Decision-Making Processes for New and Current Programs

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE

Join UQ and leaders from Central Lakes College, Lawrence University, and Indiana University Indianapolis in a conversation on effective data-informed decision-making. We will share recommended metrics, benchmarks, frameworks, and processes that facilitate continuous improvement and help colleges and universities respond more effectively to changes in student interests and institutional resources.



UQSOLUTIONS

Seth Houston, *UQ Solutions*

C-68 - Analytics for Student Success: Opportunities and Challenges for IR/IE Practitioners

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this interactive session, HLC's director of institutional research will facilitate discussions with attendees to explore opportunities, challenges and strategies for institutional research (IR), institutional effectiveness (IE), assessment and planning professionals to empower their institutions with data and analytics to improve student success.

Hoa Khuong, *Higher Learning Commission*

Paula Kinney, *St. Paul College*

Paul Savory, *American College of Education*

Download the Conference Mobile App!

To log in to the mobile app or conference website for the first time, create an account and input event code **HLC2025**.



C-69 - Comprehensive Evaluations and Assurance Reviews in Canopy

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Comprehensive evaluations and Assurance Reviews are moving to Canopy! See how the system works from both the institution's and peer reviewer's perspectives. We will allow lots of time for Q&A.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-70 - HLC Peer Corps: What It Is and How to Apply

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, HLC staff will introduce the role of the Peer Corps and expectations for peer reviewers. The application, selection and training process for new peer reviewers will also be presented.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*
Julia Goeke, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-71 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Bordenkircher and Lootens-White

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-72 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Brzuzy and Stanesa

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Steph Brzuzy, *Higher Learning Commission*
Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*



Need help tackling your most complex student success or assessment issues?

Get guidance from experts in
HLC's Academies

The Academies provide a framework and guidance for institutions to address leading areas of concern. Learn and implement evidence-based strategies that support sustainable institutional improvement in HLC's multi-year Student Success and Assessment Academies.

HLC is currently accepting applications for the 2025 fall cohort through June 13, 2025. Apply today!

Learn more at hlccommission.org/academies

First Time Attendees

C-73 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Marr and Solomon

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-74 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Stenson and Sweeney

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

HLC's Academies

First Time Attendees

C-75 - Academy Poster Fair

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

HLC's Academies support systematic improvement in prominent areas of concern for higher ed. Discuss the objectives and outcomes of projects completed in HLC's multi-year program, the Assessment Academy, with recent graduates during this session. View these posters to learn about promising practices for institutional improvement. See page 8 for the list of participating institutions.

First Time Attendees

C-76 - Accreditation Share Fair

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Learn from institutions that have recently completed an accreditation activity during the Accreditation Share Fair. Talk with representatives from a variety of institutions in an informal setting about their experience and lessons learned after successfully completing an evaluation or review on the Standard or Open Pathway. See page 8 for the list of participating institutions.



Distinctive and Connected

Updated resource for HLC peer reviewers with considerations for evaluating Tribal Colleges and Universities

HLC is committed to promoting a solid understanding of the unique characteristics of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and their contribution to higher education. We've developed a paper to provide peer reviewers with considerations that may be helpful regarding types of evidence to review to ensure that TCUs are meeting HLC's requirements.

As with any evaluation, the peer review team will need to understand the attributes of the institution and how HLC's requirements may be met in the unique history, mission, culture and circumstances of TCUs.

Read the new resource at hlcommission.org/peer-review-TCU



General Program

Monday, April 7

Monday, April 7

Day at a Glance

7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Complimentary Continental Breakfast

Sponsored in part by  **HelioCAMPUS**
High stakes. Higher education.

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Keynote: Strategizing Around Teaching, Learning and Student Success

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Networking Break and Expo

10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

FEATURED: Strategic Enrollment Management: A Collaborative Leadership Approach for the Future of Higher Education

12:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

Lunch and Discussion With Tribal College Representatives

(Pre-Registration Required, Tribal Colleges Only)

1:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

FEATURED: Leading Systemic Change Using the Change Leadership Toolkit

3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

Networking Break and Expo

3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Monday, April 7

General Program Schedule

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Complimentary Continental Breakfast

Riverside Hall Exhibit Level Hyatt | East Tower

Sponsored in part by

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY



9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Keynote: Strategizing Around Teaching, Learning and Student Success

Grand Ballroom

Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower



Every college strives to improve outcomes for their students. This fireside chat, with two national leaders representing the experiences of academic and student affairs professionals, will spotlight strategies for improving support for student learning and effective teaching, and explore how that support can translate to improved student outcomes.

Amelia Parnell, *NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education*

Charles Welch, *American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)*

Moderated by **John Marr**, *Higher Learning Commission*

This presentation will also be broadcast to:

Crystal Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

Regency Ballroom Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Networking Break and Expo

Grand Hall and Expo	Ballroom Level	Hyatt East Tower
Regency Ballroom Foyer	Ballroom Level	Hyatt West Tower
Zurich Ballroom Foyer	First Floor	Swissôtel

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

First Time Attendees

C-77 - Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Criterion 4

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

The presentation will also be broadcast to Regency C.

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, an HLC staff liaison and experienced peer reviewers will explore revised Criterion 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning.

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

Deanna McCormick, *Simpson College*

Lisa Perez-Miller, *Pratt Community College*

C-78 - Building and Maintaining Quality Distance Education Programs

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Staff liaisons will discuss recent initiatives in distance education and how HLC determines quality and compliance when evaluating distance education programs. This session will also examine national trends and quality metrics.

Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-79 - Collaborations for Quality: From Providers, to Microcredentials, to Outcomes

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

The number of microcredential providers is increasing, all aiming to fill gaps between education supply and labor market demands. This session will highlight the HLC Credential Lab's Education and Training Provider Endorsement, as well as the work of two other organizations focused on microcredential quality assurance and outcomes analyses.

Melanie Booth, *HLC's Credential Lab Consultant*

Jon Furr, *Strada Education Foundation*

Kelly Hoyland, *1EdTech*

C-80 - Comprehensive Evaluations and Assurance Reviews in Canopy

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Comprehensive evaluations and Assurance Reviews are moving to Canopy! See how the system works from both the institution's and peer reviewer's perspectives. We will allow lots of time for Q&A.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*

William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

HLC's Academies

C-81 - Engaging a Campus Community to Sustain a Culture of Learning

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this moderated panel discussion, recent graduates of HLC's Assessment Academy will share the strategies they use to inspire ongoing collaboration between faculty, staff and campus leaders to grow and sustain systemic efforts to assess and improve student learning.

Jenny Schanker, *Michigan Community College Association (Retired)*

Jeff Boyer, *North Dakota State University*

Regina Bias, *Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College*

Judith B. Tomasson, *Central New Mexico Community College*

C-82 - Tracking and Reporting Changes to Existing Educational Programs

Zurich E-G First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

HLC policy and federal regulations require that institutions notify HLC of certain changes to existing educational programs. This session will review HLC requirements, and a panel of institutional representatives will share their methods for tracking programmatic changes so that timely notification to HLC can be made when required.

Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

Jill F. Russell, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Emily R. Stuckenbruck, *Northcentral Technical College*

Loralyn Taylor, *Northcentral Technical College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-83 - Assessing Interdisciplinary Programs: Challenges and Opportunities

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Interdisciplinary degree programs have gained significant traction in higher education across the United States, offering students a holistic approach to learning that transcends traditional academic boundaries. This study explores the effectiveness of these programs by examining how assessment processes promote equitable learning experiences and opportunities.

Felix O. Wao, *University of Oklahoma*

Promoting Student Success

C-84 - **Being Student Success Champions: A Strengths-based Approach to Retention**

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

University of Findlay's Student Success Champions initiative bridges student and academic affairs, and involves several distinct projects aligned with UF's strategic plan. Endeavoring to better understand retention through a more authentic picture of the student experience, UF shifted the focus from why students leave to examining why they stay.

Kristen R. Lindsay, *University of Findlay*

Liz Sabel, *University of Findlay*

Promoting Student Success

C-85 - **Charting the Intersection of Student Success and Strategic Finance**

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

What does it mean to "center students" in strategic financial practices? This session explores how collaboration between higher education professionals and their campus finance leaders improves student outcomes. It draws from NACUBO's work to provide practical tools and strategies for aligning financial practices with student success, enhancing overall institutional performance.

Randy Roberson, *NACUBO*

Shannon LaCount, *Campus Labs*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-86 - **Creating a Sustainable Structure for Accreditation**

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The purpose of this presentation is to share Parkland College's experience creating an Accreditation Steering Committee to organize the work of preparing for the comprehensive evaluation and self-study completed in 2022 with the goal of making the accreditation process organized and manageable and creating a sustainable organizing structure moving forward.

Julie Weishar, *Parkland College*

Matthew Hurt, *Parkland College*

Kevin Knott, *Parkland College*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-87 - **Cultivating Future Leaders: A Holistic Approach to Succession Planning**

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Succession planning can be challenging based on budget constraints, lack of organizational culture, high turnover rates, and other factors. In this presentation, senior leaders from Human Resources and Academics describe how their collaborative and holistic process helps foster leadership development, maintain stability, and support the institution's long-term mission and goals.

Eric Klein, *American College of Education*

Natalie Pelham, *American College of Education*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-88 - **Grant Opportunities: Say NO Now to Say YES Later**

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Grant opportunities are necessary for colleges to thrive and allow new projects and programs to prosper. What happens when an organization seeks out grants without a solid plan of action? Community College of Aurora's director of grants development will reflect on experiences developing processes, determining capacity, and tracking accountability.

Jazmine Bjelland, *Community College of Aurora*

Kathryn L. Skulley, *Community College of Aurora*

Promoting Student Success

C-89 - **Increase Persistence, Success, and Retention: 16-week to 8-week Courses**

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation is based on the data surrounding our college's initiative that shorter, more focused academic terms can enhance student engagement, reduce burnout, and increase overall academic success. We will present that 16-week courses can be redesigned to an 8-week course format by eliminating assignments and improving assessments.

Mike White, *Marion Technical College*

Amy Stahl, *Marion Technical College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-90 - QIP Workshops: Foundation for Continuous Improvement in Graduate Program Assessment

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The current QIP initiative for Missouri State University has coincided with rapid growth in graduate programs. Annual assessment workshops have been an opportunity to foster interdisciplinary communication and establish positive relationships between assessment and faculty. Another objective is building on and sharing program-specific interventions for student success.

Mark Woolsey, *Missouri State University*
Richard Amberg, *Missouri State University*
Mary Bohlen, *Missouri State University*

Promoting Student Success

C-91 - Transforming the Gateway Course Experience: A Call to Action

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This session, based on Transforming the Gateway Course Experience: A Call to Action, presents national data on why foundational course redesign is vital for student success, offers a scalable redesign model, and shares how Capital University applied it to enhance student learning and improve outcomes.

Jody S. Fournier, *Capital University*
Andrew K. Koch, *Gardner Institute*
Deanna N. Wagner, *Capital University*

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

C-92 - Featured: Strategic Enrollment Management: A Collaborative Leadership Approach for the Future of Higher Education

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

FEATURED PRESENTATION

The future of higher education will depend upon institutions' ability to respond to demographic, economic, industrial, and societal needs. This engaging and interactive demonstration will focus on leveraging strategic enrollment management as a data-driven collaborative leadership approach to future-proof institutions.

Tomikia P. LeGrande, *Prairie View A&M University*

First Time Attendees

C-94 - Federal Compliance Overview

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session provides an overview of HLC's Federal Compliance requirements with an emphasis on practical tips for preparing a Federal Compliance Filing.

Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*
Bob Haas, *Marion Technical College*
Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-95 - Generative AI: Getting Past the Hype to Achieve Value

Zurich E-G First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Generative AI (GAI) is everywhere we look. How can organizations see through the hype to translate this emergent technology into real value? What is it good for, where does it fall short? Hear HLC's position on GAI and glean some practical do's and don'ts from HLC and Americaneagle.com.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*
Landon J. DePasquale, *Americaneagle.com*

C-93 - Embedding Certifications Within Degrees

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Several HLC community colleges are in their third year of a grant, sponsored by Workcred with funding from ECMC Foundation, to assist institutions as they strive to embed industry-recognized certifications in new degree programs. The session will outline the successes and lessons learned.

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*
Colette Atkins, *Kirkwood Community College*
Bobby Pace, *Community College of Aurora*
Eduardo Suniga, *Delta College*

HLC's Academies

C-96 - HLC Academies: Connecting Teaching, Learning and Student Success

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

HLC's Academies assist institutions in developing and implementing tailored improvement of student learning and

student success. In this session, leaders from the Academies will discuss the critical connections between teaching, learning, and student success.

Claire Berkley, *Higher Learning Commission*
Susan Hatfield, *Winona State University*
Janice Denton, *University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College*

C-97 - Writing a Good Interim Report

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, HLC's interim report analysts will describe the essential ingredients and factors that institutions should consider in producing an interim report.

Lee Bash, *Graceland University*
Jackie Freeze, *Western Wyoming Community College*
Sherilyn Poole, *Governors State University*
Sharon Ulmer, *Higher Learning Commission*

Promoting Student Success

C-98 - Assessing Academic Mindsets for Holistic Success in the Co-Curriculum

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation discusses UTTC's process for measuring student learning related to "Academic Mindset" in the co-curriculum. Presenters will share how UTTC developed, tested, and is now implementing its co-curricular student learning assessment.

Leah Woodke, *United Tribes Technical College*
Jolene M. DeCoteau, *United Tribes Technical College*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-99 - Change Leadership to Improve Undergraduate Education: A Toolkit and Resources

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This panel presents a new toolkit for change that includes approaches and strategies that leaders can use to systemically improve undergraduate education, developed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Modules provide short accessible guidance and actionable resources for leaders and instructors at 2- and 4-year institutions.

Noah Finkelstein, *University of Colorado Boulder*
Ann E. Austin, *Michigan State University*
Kerry Brenner, *Board on Science Education, National Academies*
Marielena DeSanctis, *Community College of Denver*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-100 - Collaborative Leadership in Action: Creating a System-Wide Consortium Agreement

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This session explores the collaborative process undertaken by the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) colleges to develop a comprehensive consortium agreement for the new Colorado Online Consortium. We will discuss strategic drivers, consortial planning, governance and decision-making, and implications for institutional accreditation.

Tina J. Parscal, *Colorado Community College System*
Peter Lindstrom, *Community College of Denver*
Kathryn L. Skulley, *Community College of Aurora*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-101 - Revised Criterion 4: Colleague Conversation

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join a conversation with your colleagues to discuss what the revised Criteria for Accreditation mean for your institution. Guided by experienced peer reviewers, explore evidence you could use to demonstrate your institution meets the Criteria. The session will start with a framing by peer reviewers, then turn to wider discussion.

Deanna McCormick, *Simpson College*
Lisa Perez-Miller, *Pratt Community College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-102 - Enhancing Engagement and Meaningful Connections Through Virtual Communities in Courses

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This session explores how virtual communities enhance student engagement and foster connections across various course modalities. By examining a large asynchronous online MBA course, participants will learn how virtual community principles support student success. The session covers best practices, technologies, and strategies that promote engagement, belonging, and autonomy.

Jean E. Starobin, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
Aimee Barbeau, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
Megan Russ, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-103 - From “Meh” to Meaning: Energizing Assessment Effort Through Faculty Governance

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Experience and literature confirm that faculty often resist assessment, viewing it as bureaucratic, reductive, and lacking scholarly value. This session explores how, through shared governance, we are reimagining assessment as a communal, creative, and reflective process—a tool for discovery, storytelling, and engagement that fosters faithful stewardship of student learning.

Olga Dietlin, *Wheaton College*

Karen An-hwei Lee, *Wheaton College*

Marcus Braziel, *Wheaton College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-104 - From Compliance to Continuous Improvement: Normalizing the Accreditation Process

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Rock Valley College began preparing for its Year 10 comprehensive evaluation nearly immediately following its mid-cycle review. This approach has broadened accreditation participation and strengthens fulfillment of the Criteria. In this session you will learn how this model normalizes accreditation activities and shifts the focus from compliance to continuous improvement.

Heather M. Snider, *Rock Valley College*

Lisa Mehlig, *Rock Valley College*

Promoting Student Success

C-105 - Leveraging a Cross-Divisional Partnership to Foster Student Well-Being

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Student well-being is an urgent topic in higher education, particularly post-pandemic. Research indicates that well-being is directly linked to positive learner outcomes, yet more examples of institutional response to the well-being crisis are needed. This session shares how Iowa State University leveraged an academic affairs-student affairs collaboration to foster change.

Paul S. Hengesteg, *Iowa State University of Science and Technology*

Erin Baldwin, *Iowa State University of Science and Technology*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-106 - Understanding the Legislative Pushback on DEI in Higher Education

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This presentation provides a summary and explanation of the administrative, legal, and political pushback on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives and programs in higher education over the last two years. It also provides strategies for how best to navigate state and federal laws related to DEI.

Clifford Humphrey, *Florida Department of Education*

Braden Boucek, *Southeastern Legal Foundation*

Scott Yenor, *Claremont Institute / Boise State University*

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Lunch and Discussion With Tribal College Representatives *(Pre-Registration Required)*

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Welcome to attendees from Tribal Colleges as we gather for this year's update and conversation. The session immediately follows the annual luncheon gathering.

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

Barbara Gellman-Danley, *Higher Learning Commission*

Robert Martin, *Institute of American Indian Arts*

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

First Time Attendees

C-107 - Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Criterion 3

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

The presentation will also be broadcast to Regency C.

HLC PRESENTATION

In this session, an HLC staff liaison and experienced peer reviewers will explore revised Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success.

John Marr, Higher Learning Commission
Remy Bruder, Rochester University
Monica Varner, University of Tulsa

C-108 - Accelerating Adoption of Digital Credentials: The LER Accelerator Coalition

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Representatives from postsecondary organizations that have joined forces in the LER Accelerator Coalition will discuss the coalition's purpose and goals. The coalition aims to overhaul the educational credential, create awareness of skills-based credentials, reduce adoption obstacles, develop usage guidelines, foster collaboration and demonstrate successful models that accelerate quality credentials.

Melanie Booth, HLC's Credential Lab Consultant
Melanie Gottlieb, AACRAO
Kathe Pelletier, EDUCAUSE
Julie Uranis, UPCEA
Shawn VanDerziel, NACE

C-109 - HLC's Complaints Policy and Procedure: An Overview and Practical Guidance

Zurich E-G First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

This presentation will help institutional representatives understand HLC's policy and procedure related to complaints. This includes an overview of how HLC receives, reviews and follows up on complaints, as well as information on how institutions should review and respond to complaints received by HLC.

Robert Rucker, Higher Learning Commission
Sarah Hallett, Higher Learning Commission

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   @hlcommission

C-110 - Integrating Civic Learning as a Core Feature in Academic Programs

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Attend this panel to learn how two institutions have deployed civic learning and democratic engagement as a key feature of their academic curriculum and student learning outcomes.

Jamie Stanesa, Higher Learning Commission
Scott Peters, University of Northern Iowa
Koreen Ressler, Sitting Bull College

C-111 - Lessons Learned Since Pell Grants Were Reinstated for Incarcerated Students

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

A lot has happened since July 1, 2023. This panel will discuss lessons learned and highlight opportunities for institutions to successfully navigate higher education in correctional facilities.

Pat Newton-Curran, Higher Learning Commission
Anthea M. Sweeney, Higher Learning Commission
Belinda Wheeler, Vera Institute of Justice
Maria Miller, Illinois State Department of Corrections

C-112 - Open Pathway Updates: Student Success Quality Initiative

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session provides an overview of an upcoming change to the Open Pathway that will permit eligible institutions to conduct a Student Success Quality Initiative in place of the Year 4 Assurance Review. Topics include eligibility criteria to select this new option, timing of activities and other considerations.

Andrew Lootens-White, Higher Learning Commission

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-113 - Back from the Brink: How to Turn Around a Struggling University

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

In the early 2010s, Friends University was an institution struggling with mission drift, financial mismanagement, poor planning, and ineffective leadership. Now ten years after a critical turning point, this presentation will share ten key elements of turnaround success, identified through a reflective self-study, which charted a path to recovery.

Amy Bragg Carey, Friends University
Brent Yoder, Friends University

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-114 - Developing a Future-Proof, End-to-End Assessment Tool and Process for Universities

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation outlines the development and implementation of The University of Missouri's in-house Educational Assessment App and process, designed to streamline curriculum mapping and assessment processes across 300+ degree programs. Attendees will gain insights into creating customized, scalable assessment tools and processes that enhance student learning outcomes and institutional efficiency.

Jonathan Cisco, *University of Missouri-Columbia*
Misty Haskamp, *University of Missouri-Columbia*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-115 - Developing Learning Leadership Pathways for Optimal Retention and Succession Planning

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Discover how Northcentral Technical College's Learning Leadership Pathways enhance leadership retention, succession planning, and institutional knowledge preservation. This session explores agile leadership models, strategies for addressing workforce and accreditation demands, and actionable insights to strengthen leadership stability and responsiveness in higher education's evolving landscape. A replicable model for institutional success.

Emily R. Stuckenbruck, *Northcentral Technical College*
Angela M. Roesler, *Northcentral Technical College*

Promoting Student Success

C-116 - Enhancing Higher Education Access and Workforce Development in Oklahoma

Vevey 1-2 Second Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This session will explore initiatives developed for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education—UpskillOK, Reach Higher, and ShowWhatYouKnow—that expand higher education access and workforce development. Participants will discover strategies for aligning microcredentials, degree completion programs, and skills validation and institutional goals, improving student outcomes and meeting workforce demands.

Brad Griffith, *Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*
Stephanie Beauchamp, *Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

Promoting Student Success

C-117 - From Recommendations to Implementation: Student Success as Quality Initiative

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

In today's environment, colleges and universities must intentionally reimagine approaches to moving away from boutique retention programs to transformational, student-centered practices. This session will explore how one institution has developed, implemented, and assessed a student success and persistence initiative as its Quality Initiative to improve graduation rates for all students.

Brett L. Bruner, *Wichita State University*
Ashlie R. Jack, *Wichita State University*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-118 - Integrating Career Readiness Skills into Academic and Co-Curricular Programs

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

In today's fast-changing job market, preparing students with essential skills is critical. Aurora University's Skills Infusion Program connects academic learning with employer demands by aligning courses with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) core competencies. Partnering with Career Services, employers, and alumni, the program ensures students are workforce-ready.

Jennifer L. Buckley, *Aurora University*
Arin Carter, *Aurora University*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-119 - Leading Big Scary Change: Mergers, Acquisitions and Closures

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

In the current environment, mergers are opportunities for colleges and universities to survive and thrive. Leveraging extensive research, the session will address two key questions: (1) Why and how should higher ed leaders consider mergers; and (2) What is the role of leadership in major institutional restructuring?

Ricardo Azziz, *Center for Higher Education Mergers & Acquisitions*
Karla K. Leeper, *Center for Higher Education Mergers & Acquisitions*

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. continued

Promoting Student Success

C-120 - No More Developmental Math: Increasing Access to College Level Math

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The low success rates of developmental math courses along with the time and money they require widen our equity gap for our most at-risk students. In response, Lake Land College has eliminated developmental math courses. By redeveloping our math sequences all students are now placed into a college-level math course.

Bambi C. Jones, *Lake Land College*
Sarah Harley, *Lake Land College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-121 - Reflecting on a Successful Site Visit: Strategies, Processes, and Synergy

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation discusses the strategic choices, collaborations, processes, and navigation that led to a

successful comprehensive evaluation. The presenters discuss key stages and decisions, emphasizing the synergies built among stakeholders, and reflect on what made the site visit a success, lessons learned, and ways to maintain the momentum post-visit.

Ritu Subramony, *University of Illinois Chicago*
Eric Schwarze, *University of Illinois Chicago*
Nikos Varelas, *University of Illinois Chicago*

Promoting Student Success

C-122 - Unlikely Allies: Admissions and Academics for First-Session Retention

Michigan 1 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Our data revealed a decline in student success, engagement and retention during the first session, affecting first-year courses. To address the issue, we implemented an Admissions and Academics model focused on First-Session Retention. This presentation will showcase the positive impact of this model on our institution's success metrics.

Anna Selga, *American InterContinental University System*
Aimee S. Dujua, *American InterContinental University System*

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

C-123 - Featured: Leading Systemic Change Using the Change Leadership Toolkit

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

FEATURED PRESENTATION

The higher education environment continues to evolve in new and unpredictable ways. It is important that leaders have tools to drive proactive, strategic and systemic change. Learn how the research-based Change Leadership Toolkit (CLT) can help leaders identify change levers and create a change leadership plan that creates lasting change.

Susan Elrod, *Indiana University South Bend (Emerita)*

First Time Attendees

C-124 - Asking for a Friend: Anonymous ALO Questions From the Field

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

HLC staff members will respond to questions gathered anonymously in this fun and informative session for ALOs. Submit your questions in advance at the registration desk in the Grand Ballroom Foyer.

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*
Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*
Pat Newton-Curran, *Higher Learning Commission*

HLC's Academies

C-125 - Creating an Assessment Plan: Some Assembly Required

Zurich D First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

Presenters will share an outline for an assessment plan designed to support cycles of general education and program assessment. Common elements will be discussed as a model to build your own plan that fits your offerings. The outline intends to prompt thinking on how best to create your own plan.

Susan Murphy, *Central New Mexico Community College*
Julie Furst-Bowe, *Winona State University*

C-126 - From Risk to Closure: HLC's Analysis of Factors Informing Sustainability

Zurich A-C First Floor Swissôtel

HLC PRESENTATION

HLC continues to analyze factors that contribute to financial risk and sustainability challenges at member institutions. This session will look at the effect of these challenges on students, data points and patterns related to closure, as well as provide helpful resources for institutions.

Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*
Sarah Hallett, *Higher Learning Commission*
Deanna McCormick, *Simpson College*

C-127 - HLC's Institutional Update**Regency C** Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower**HLC PRESENTATION**

Member institutions provide data on their operations and educational offerings in the annual Institutional Update. During this session, HLC staff members will provide an overview of the process, including what data is collected and how we use this data to assess institutional health and identify trends.

Steph Brzuzy, *Higher Learning Commission***Vince Coraci**, *Higher Learning Commission***C-128 - Substantive Change: Part 2****Regency D** Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower**HLC PRESENTATION**

Intended for institutional representatives who are new to substantive change, this presentation will cover various aspects of HLC's requirements and processes, including: review processes, screening forms, applications, off-campus activities, official letter requests and more.

Stephanie Kramer, *Higher Learning Commission***Tom Bordenkircher**, *Higher Learning Commission***Tamas Horvath**, *Higher Learning Commission***Nicole Perez**, *Higher Learning Commission***Promoting Student Success****C-129 - Advancing Student Success Through a Centralized Advising Strategy****Vevey 1-2** Second Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Midland University moved to an intentional, centralized advising experience in 2012. Since then we have seen improvements in undergraduate student retention, completion, and satisfaction. This presentation will provide information regarding implementing centralized advising, key decision points to consider during implementation, and metrics to measure success and student learning.

Keith Kramme, *Midland University***Amanda Timmerman**, *Midland University***Beth Shultz**, *Midland University***Institutional Experiences with Accreditation****C-130 - Closing a Door, Opening a Window: Location Closures and Openings****Crystal A** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

We discuss the inter and intra-institutional collaboration, communication, and HLC applications needed for UW-Milwaukee to create better transfer pathways for technical college graduates to bachelor's degree completion, and for

UWM to restructure away from offering its own associate degree programming to supporting bachelor's degree completion onsite at regional technical colleges.

Suzanne L. Boyd, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee***Margo Leone**, *Waukesha County Technical College***Bobbi J. Fields**, *Nicolet Area Technical College***Leading & Managing for the Future****C-131 - Collaborating to Advance Adult Attainment: Regional Transformation and State Innovation****Plaza Ballroom** Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower**VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION**

This session will explore the Michigan – Regional Adult Initiative for Skills and Education (MI-RAISE) Design Lab's collaborative approach to enhancing adult learner success through strategic institutional support and state funding. Attendees will learn innovative strategies to improve enrollment and completion for adult learners and how to leverage funding opportunities.

Michelle R. Burke, *Michigan Center for Adult College Success***Christine Barrow**, *Education Strategy Group***Jamie A. Vandenburg**, *Jackson College***Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment****C-132 - Enhancing Program Assessment Processes through Meta-Assessment****Zurich E-G** First Floor Swissôtel**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Creating a positive assessment culture requires integral knowledge of the faculty pulse in the assessment processes. We evaluated our assessment process, shared results and evidence-based insights, and outlined actions to make the process more effective, aligning with our goal of improving educational programs through the assessment of student learning outcomes.

Sean Lancaster, *Grand Valley State University***Phuong Vo**, *Grand Valley State University***Institutional Experiences with Accreditation****C-133 - It's a Marathon, not a Sprint!****Crystal C** Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION**

This dynamic session will show how leveraging accreditation can transform Program Review into a meaningful continuous improvement journey. Discover how a marathon approach with necessary preparation, motivation, and achievement can lead to sustained excellence and growth. Warning: there will be hills, valleys, blisters, and emergency pitstops!

Cammie Pollastro, *Western Wyoming Community College***Mark Rembacz**, *Western Wyoming Community College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-134 - Mastering the Year 4 Update: Strategies for Accreditation Success

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This session will explore our institution's Year 4 Assurance Review on the Open Pathway. Participants will gain insights into organizing the update process, strategies for managing assurance documents, and collaborative tools used for drafting assurance arguments. Practical examples of evidence supporting accreditation compliance and continuous improvement will also be discussed.

Ute S. Lahaie, *Walsh University*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-135 - Revised Criterion 3: Colleague Conversation

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join a conversation with your colleagues to discuss what the revised Criteria for Accreditation mean for your institution. Guided by experienced peer reviewers, explore evidence you could use to demonstrate your institution meets the Criteria. The session will start with a framing by peer reviewers, then turn to wider discussion.

Remy Bruder, *Rochester University*
Monica Varner, *University of Tulsa*

Promoting Student Success

C-136 - Supporting Student Success One App at a Time

Vevey 3-4 Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

A better future for education requires innovative technology with meaningful data to enhance learning. The challenge lies in selecting, acquiring, implementing, and maintaining applications—and ensuring they work together. Learn practical approaches to adopting trusted technology to support academic quality, resources and planning.

Sonya E. Watkins, *University of Central Oklahoma*
Steven J. Hawks, *University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
Jason Rivera, *Ball State University*

Promoting Student Success

C-137 - The Retention/Enrollment Forum: A Cross-Campus Approach to Student Success

Montreux Second Floor Swissôtel

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Retention/Enrollment Forum, established in 2020, provides a venue for faculty representatives and Student Services personnel to collaborate on student recruitment, retention, and enrollment efforts. The Forum offers a fertile cross-departmental and interdisciplinary space for incubating and sharing student success strategies while bridging the academic/student services divide.

James L. Bell, *Northwestern Oklahoma State University*
Steven J. Maier, *Northwestern Oklahoma State University*
Calieb Mosburg, *Northwestern Oklahoma State University*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-138 - The Value of SARA: Cost Savings and Compliance

St. Gallen Second Floor Swissôtel

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

Teaching students across state lines can be complex, costly and difficult to understand. Join us to learn about how State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) provides cost savings, streamlines state authorization processes, and offers tools and resources to lead and manage change in an environment that is constantly changing and evolving.

Emilie Crawford, *NC-SARA*
Rachel Christeson, *NC-SARA*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-139 - The What and How of Quality Initiatives

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Attend this panel session to get insights from institutional representatives on the experience of completing a Quality Initiative.

Denise McCory, *Cuyahoga Community College*
Justin Heinzekehr, *Goshen College*
Loralyn Taylor, *Ohio University*
Mark D. Kelland, *Lansing Community College*

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Networking Break and Expo

Grand Hall and Expo	Ballroom Level	Hyatt East Tower
Regency Ballroom Foyer	Ballroom Level	Hyatt West Tower
Zurich Ballroom Foyer	First Floor	Swissôtel

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

S-4 - The Agile Leader's Guide to Accreditation Visits

Regency A-B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE



Join Dr. Emily Stuckenbruck as she shares an insightful case study in agile leadership from an institutional accreditation site visit. You'll learn practical strategies for managing change, fostering a culture of adaptability, techniques for effective communication, collaboration before and during accreditation visits, and tools to drive consistency, achieve academic excellence.

Emily Stuckenbruck, *Northcentral Technical College*

S-5 - The Changing Landscape in Higher Education

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE



Husch Blackwell attorneys, Hayley Hanson and Lisa Parker, will provide up to date information on Executive Orders issued by President Trump, proposed regulatory changes, and the litigation resulting from these changes. Hayley and Lisa will assess and anticipate the legal landscape as we navigate the ongoing challenges in higher education.

Hayley Hanson, *Husch Blackwell*

Lisa Parker, *Husch Blackwell*

S-6 - Harness Data to Tell the Full Story of Faculty Success

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

SPONSOR SHOWCASE



Faculty are the backbone of your institution. It's often difficult to centralize, access, and manage data to demonstrate their influence in the lab, classroom, and community. Join this Interfolio session to explore how a Faculty Information System can make reporting easy and transparent for faculty and staff to demonstrate impact.

Josh Gianitsis, *Interfolio*

C-141 - Canopy Office Hours: Ask Us Anything

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in during this time to ask questions about HLC's Canopy system. Canopy allows institutional representatives and peer reviewers to easily update their records and stay informed about upcoming reviews and other requirements. HLC staff members will have a live connection to Canopy for demonstration purposes.

Jon Davenport, *Higher Learning Commission*

William Mahoney, *Higher Learning Commission*

C-142 - Change Leadership and New Credential Models for New Majority Learners

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Following up on Dr. Elrod's featured Change Leadership Toolkit session, this session will explore the toolkit's ecosystem model with members of HLC's Credential Lab team. Consider contexts, levers and actions to translate learning outcomes to validated competencies, design for labor market needs, engage employers and digitize learning records.

Melanie Booth, *HLC's Credential Lab Consultant*

Susan Elrod, *Indiana University South Bend*

C-143 - Government Relations and Advocacy

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

This session will provide an overview of HLC's work related to advocacy and government relations. The session will also include a high-level summary of various updates on state and federal legislation and regulations.

Marla Morgen, *Higher Learning Commission*

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. continued

First Time Attendees

C-144 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Bordenkircher and Lootens-White

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Tom Bordenkircher, *Higher Learning Commission*
Andrew Lootens-White, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-145 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Brzuzy and Stanesa

Regency C Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Steph Brzuzy, *Higher Learning Commission*
Jamie Stanesa, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-146 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Marr and Solomon

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*
Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-147 - Office Hours With Liaisons: Stenson and Sweeney

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Drop in to this informal Q&A session to ask general questions of HLC staff liaisons.

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*
Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-148 - Quality Initiative Share Fair

Roosevelt 3AB Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Visit the Quality Initiative Share Fair to learn from institutions that have completed a Quality Initiative in the past year. Stop by to meet representatives from a variety of institutions and discuss their experience with the Quality Initiatives. See page 8 for the list of participating institutions.

C-149 - Writing the Narrative for the Assurance Argument

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Join HLC staff members, experienced peer reviewers and ALOs as they share strategies for telling your institution's unique story, effectively linking evidence to the revised Criteria for Accreditation, and navigating the revised Criteria with clarity and confidence.

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*
Lydia Thebeau, *Missouri Baptist University*
Meridith Wentz, *University of Wisconsin-Stout*

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

State Partners Reception *(By Invitation Only)*

Randolph 3 Concourse Level Hyatt | East Tower

General Program

Tuesday, April 8

Tuesday, April 8

Day at a Glance

8:00 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

ALO Coffee and Conversation

Sponsored in part by  interfolio
from Elsevier

9:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

FEATURED WORKSHOP: The Courage to Convene: Facilitating Conversations That Can't Wait

9:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Tuesday, April 8

General Program Schedule

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

ALO Coffee and Conversation

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Join fellow ALOs at a complimentary coffee networking hour to connect and engage about matters related to your role.

Sponsored in part by



9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

C-150 - **Featured Workshop: The Courage to Convene: Facilitating the Conversations That Can't Wait**

Grand Ballroom F Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

In a time when tough conversations and transformative dialogue are essential to the future of our institutions, higher education leaders must embrace the role of courageous conveners. This session delves into the five foundational principles of effective facilitation, empowering leaders to navigate complexity, foster inclusion, and address urgent challenges with confidence. Attendees will leave equipped with actionable tools and strategies to create spaces for authentic dialogue, amplify diverse perspectives, and drive meaningful, lasting change within their teams and institutions.

Erik Skogsberg, *Voltage Control*

Destiny M. Quintero, *Higher Learning Commission*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

C-151 - **Institutional Team Debrief and Next Steps**

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

In this facilitated working session designed for institutions with two or more conference attendees, conversation prompts will help you engage with colleagues from your own institution to reflect on lessons learned during the conference. Institutional teams will discuss key takeaways that can inform future priorities and next steps.

Janet Smith, *Pittsburg State University*

Diane Nyhammer, *Waubensee Community College*

First Time Attendees

C-152 - **Revised Criteria for Accreditation: General Q&A**

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Have a lingering question about the revised Criteria? This session will provide an opportunity for follow-up queries about the Criteria that may remain after the first two days of the conference.

John Marr, *Higher Learning Commission*

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

First Time Attendees

C-153 - The Standard Pathway

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Interested in learning the basics about the Standard Pathway? This session will review various elements of the 10-year cycle and requirements for maintaining accreditation.

Karen J. Solomon, *Higher Learning Commission*
Reggies Wenyika, *Arizona Christian University*

Promoting Student Success

C-154 - Café Approach to Mental Health Across Campus and the Community

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The purpose of the presentation is to describe how a professor turned a café idea into a training academy to address mental illness and promote inclusivity and learning on campus. It started in an office and grew to benefit the wider community, leading to improved student well-being and program expansion.

Jonathon A. Wade, *Danville Area Community College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-156 - Harnessing the Power of AI to Improve Assessment

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Educational institutions are constantly seeking innovative ways to enhance the learning experience for both students and faculty, while also ensuring academic integrity. Artificial intelligence (AI) presents an opportunity to help faculty improve assessment planning, allow students to understand acceptable AI use, and provide analysis and follow-up ideas.

Justin D. Jutting, *Western Dakota Technical College*
Tami Dewes, *Western Dakota Technical College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-157 - Lessons Learned: Preparing the Reaffirmation of Accreditation Project

Regency A Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation will explain the two-year leadership process and five teams of 20+ faculty and staff who prepared the college's Reaffirmation of Accreditation. From provost to project manager and author to Criterion teams, preparation will be explained as a project—with timelines, factors of dynamic influence, leadership succession, and transition.

Paul R. Burmeister, *Wisconsin Lutheran College*
Martin Miller, *Wisconsin Lutheran College*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-158 - Navigating the ALO Role: Strategies for Success and Actionable Solutions

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Experienced Accreditation Liaison Officers will offer insights on successfully conducting ALO responsibilities. Participants will then work in groups to discuss and propose solutions to situations and issues ALOs commonly encounter.

Kristin Stehouwer, *Northwood University*
Brian McDermott, *Central Community College*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-159 - Roads to Success Through Open Learning, Dual Enrollment, and Microcredentials

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This presentation examines the West Virginia HEPC's response to educational and workforce challenges, such as a declining number of high school graduates and many residents with some college but no degree. Initiatives like Open Learning WV, LEVEL UP/dual credit, and Micro-Credential WV support the state's 2030 workforce readiness goals.

Beez Schell, *West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission*
Jodi Oliveto, *West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-160 - Turn Data into Insights and Lead with Purpose!

Regency B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Cowley College will share the results of its first Quality Initiative focused on the Accountability and Institutional Measure.

Deborah A. Phelps, *Cowley College*
Holly Harper, *Cowley College*

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

C-161 - **Civic Learning: Preparing Students for Life Beyond Graduation**

Grand Ballroom B Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Attend this panel discussion to learn how two institutions are developing processes to track the impact of their civic learning activities on student success. Gain insight into potential approaches for your institution's initiatives, including core requirements, volunteer activities, capstone projects, community initiatives and career activities after graduation.

Anthea M. Sweeney, *Higher Learning Commission*

Kevin P. Saunders, *Drake University*

Jamie Pang, *Elgin Community College*

C-162 - **Revised Criteria for Accreditation: Implications for Peer Reviewers**

Grand Ballroom D Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

HLC PRESENTATION

Peer reviewers are required to attend retraining for the revised Criteria for Accreditation. This session reviews the revised Criteria and implications on peer review practice. HLC staff and an experienced peer reviewer will provide insights and answer questions. (Note: retraining for peer reviewers will also be offered virtually in spring 2025.) (Sign-in required.)

Allison Langford, *Higher Learning Commission*

Janet Smith, *Pittsburg State University*

Linnea A. Stenson, *Higher Learning Commission*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-163 - **Access Coaches Get Students Off the Sidelines**

Grand Hall J Ballroom Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

English Learners and Indigenous high school students often lack awareness about college enrollment and persistence supports. This presentation highlights programming that pairs Access Coaches with multilingual and Native American high schoolers to guide these students through college prep processes. The history of this program, assessment, and results will be described.

Marcella M. Prokop, *Southeast Technical College*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-164 - **Engage Empower Educate: Revolutionizing Learning with Personalization and Interactive Assessments**

Crystal A Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Revolutionize online learning with personalized assignments, video-based assessments, and live sessions. This session explores cognitive strategies, fostering community, and engagement in virtual environments. Attendees will gain actionable insights for creating inclusive, effective learning experiences that improve outcomes across disciplines, emphasizing innovation in instructional design and faculty development.

Michael Webb, *Capella University*

Sara Drake, *Capella University*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-165 - **Evolving Assessment Culture through Cultivating Collaborative Leadership**

Regency A Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation describes the implementation of our Quality Initiative Project, Coordinated Learning and Assessment Supports (CLAS) completed in May 2024. The CLAS Project led to increased compliance and quality of outcomes-based assessment of student learning in academic units and other academic spaces through evolving toward a collaborative culture of assessment.

Rachel Shefner, *Loyola University of Chicago*

Eilene Edejer, *Loyola University of Chicago*

Laura Gawlinski, *Loyola University of Chicago*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-166 - **Expanding Access to Undergraduate Education Through Stackable Microcredentials**

Crystal C Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

This presentation outlines strategies employed to develop novel, stackable microcredentials at the University of Illinois. It highlights the use of an iterative improvement process to create scalable, transcriptable credentials, offering a model for institutions seeking to repurpose curriculum to meet employer needs.

Chera A. LaForge, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Jean E. Starobin, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Teaching & Learning in a Changed Environment

C-167 - Regular and Substantive Interaction Toolkit: Empowering Faculty to Transform

Crystal B Lobby Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Southeastern Oklahoma State University has taken a proactive approach to ensuring regular and substantive interaction at our university as well as providing leadership and resources statewide. In this presentation, we will share the multiple training approaches taken and share resources that may be helpful to other institutions.

Alisha Ridenour, *Southeastern Oklahoma State University*
Christala L. Smith, *Southeastern Oklahoma State University*

Leading & Managing for the Future

C-168 - The Benefits of Dynamic Strategic Planning Through Cross-Institutional Collaboration

Regency B Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

VIEWPOINT PRESENTATION

This presentation demonstrates how multiple higher education institutions are collaboratively developing a single, adaptive strategic plan to meet evolving workforce demands. We will introduce the Community Education Coalition's Stakeholder Engagement Process as a proven model, using our regional partnership as a case study to highlight its success in cross-institutional planning.

Jim Roberts, *Community Education Coalition*
Lori L. Montalbano, *Indiana University Columbus*
Bryan Rushton, *Indiana University Columbus*

Institutional Experiences with Accreditation

C-169 - Using Evidence Effectively: A 'How To' from Evaluation to Citation

Regency D Ballroom Level Hyatt | West Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Assurance Arguments require institutions to use evidence effectively to demonstrate their success in meeting the Criteria for Accreditation. However, selecting and managing quality evidence is a difficult, multifaceted process. This presentation will be a practical guide that will cover evidence selection and evaluation; management and organization; and citation and referencing.

Christopher L. Proctor, *Indiana University Southeast*

Promoting Student Success

C-170 - We're on the Same Team! Partnering for Student-Athlete Academic Success

Plaza Ballroom Lobby Level Hyatt | East Tower

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

Friends University has experienced recent enrollment growth due in part to expansion of athletic programs and student-athlete recruitment. To ensure the success of these students, coaches and faculty partnered together in a task force to align academic and athletic goals and to refine initiatives focused on increased GPAs and retention.

Brent Yoder, *Friends University*
Rob Ramseyer, *Friends University*

Save the date

Higher Learning 2026

March 21–24 | Chicago

Thank You to Our Advisory Committees

2025 Annual Conference Advisory Committee

This selected group of faculty and administrative leaders at HLC member institutions played a key role in writing the Call for Proposals, reviewing submissions and planning the General Program for this year's conference. HLC thanks the following committee members:

Casmir Agbaraji

Navajo Technical University

Daniel Boice

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Jennifer Brown

Fort Hays Tech - North Central

Kari Brown-Herbst

Laramie County Community College

Kevin Cole

University of Sioux Falls

Janelle Elias

Rio Salado College

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen

University of Minnesota, Crookston

Leonard Favara

Central Christian College

Amy Gort

Metropolitan State University

Kitty Kautzer

Herzing University

Paula Kinney

Saint Paul College - A Community and Technical College

Debra Lohe

Saint Louis University

Tony Major

Eastern New Mexico University

Denise McCory

Cuyahoga Community College

Luis Montes

University of Central Oklahoma

Susan Perry

Kent State University

Brenda Raad

Fox Valley Technical College

Ryan Ruda

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Paul Savory

American College of Education

Jenny Schanker

Michigan Association of Community Colleges (Retired)

Marla Smith

Mitchell Technical College

Benjamin Valdez

Southeast Technical College

Felix Wao

University of Oklahoma

Heather Weber Chandler

Gilbert Community College - Maricopa Community College District

2025 Peer Corps Advisory Committee

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La Sierra University

Tim Cruz

Pima County Community College District

Rita Gulstad

Central Methodist University

Gail Jensen

Creighton University

Kathy Parkison

Indiana University Kokomo

Lisa Perez-Miller

Pratt Community College

Janet Smith

Pittsburg State University

2025 Annual Conference Staff Committee

Heather Berg

Claire Berkley

Renee Dew

Erin Gallagher

Sophia Holt-Wilson

Doyle D. Hytchye

Eric Martin

Diane Nyhammer

Daniel Quijano

Destiny Quintero

Janet Smith



Sharpen your professional skills and
improve your institution's processes at

HLC's Upcoming Programs and Events

Supporting Student Success Virtual Workshop

Next Offering: June 10 & 12, 2025

Engage in a series of activities to identify your institution's current realities and discover areas of opportunity for improving student success within your sphere of influence.

ALO Orientation: An Introduction to the Role at HLC

Next Offering: June 9 – July 28, 2025

Summer and Fall Sessions Offered Annually

Get the information you need to be successful as a new Accreditation Liaison Officer in this self-paced orientation course. Get an overview of the accreditation and peer review processes as well as managing substantive change, required reporting to HLC and more.

Advancing Strategy Workshop

Next Offering: June 23–24, 2025

Gather a cross-functional group of administrators to design processes to improve strategic planning efforts. Your team will leave the in-person workshop with strategies you can use at your own institution to facilitate planning.

Academic Program Review Workshop

Next Offering: Fall 2025

Develop an impactful academic program review process that's aligned with your institution's mission in this interactive, team-based workshop. Through plenaries, team discussions, peer consultations and structured conversations, draft or revise your program review plan.

Program Assessment Workshop

Next Offering: Spring 2026

Further your understanding of practical and meaningful assessment of student learning in your academic programs. You'll engage in activities around student learning outcomes, curriculum mapping, data usage, performance indicators and more.

Assessing General Education Virtual Workshop

Next Offering: Spring 2026

Gather a team from your institution to critically review the structure, philosophy and perceptions of your general education assessment processes. Better understand your student learning outcomes and gain the tools to implement intentional assessment practices in your gen ed programs.

Webinars



HLC hosts several webinars throughout the year for you to stay up to date or refresh your knowledge on your accreditation relationship with HLC and current happenings in higher ed.

Be the first to know about upcoming programs and events by subscribing to our email interest lists at hlcommission.org/subscribe.