

SACCR Conference

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2026
CHARLESTON, SC

2026



WELCOME TO SACCR 2026!

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Louisiana Delta Community College

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Northeastern Technical College

Dr. Katie Davis
Augusta Technical College



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 13 - 16, 2026

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Registration

GOLD BALLROOM LOBBY

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast

POINSETTE LOBBY

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Pre-Conference Sessions

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch

POINSETTE LOBBY

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Opening Session

COLONIAL BALLROOM

Dr. Vicky Wood

Trident Technical College President

Mr. Tripp Hays

Explore Charleston Destination

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Welcome Reception

COLONIAL BALLROOM

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Hospitality Suite

ROOM 218

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 13 - 16, 2026

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Registration

GOLD BALLROOM LOBBY

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast

GOLD BALLROOM

9:00 - 9:45 AM

General Session

GOLD BALLROOM

Dr. Amanda Bickerstaff

AI for Education

10:10 - 10:55 AM

Concurrent Sessions 1

11:05 - 11:50 AM

Concurrent Sessions 2

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Lunch

GOLD BALLROOM

12:30 - 1:15 PM

General Session

GOLD BALLROOM

Dr. Kristin Brooks

Dr. Carrie Hodge

Dr. Jamia Stokes

Complete College America

1:30 - 3:45 PM

HOTEL LOBBY

Presidents' Tour of Trident

Technical College

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions 3

2:25 - 3:10 PM

Concurrent Sessions 4

3:20 - 4:05 PM

Concurrent Sessions 5

4:15 - 5:15 PM & 7:30-9:30 PM

Hospitality Suite

ROOM 218

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 13 - 16, 2026

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 - 8:45 AM

GOLD BALLROOM

Breakfast, Business Meeting & Raffle

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting

8:00 - 8:45 AM

PINKNEY

President's Breakfast (by invite only)

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

9:00 - 9:45 AM

Concurrent Sessions 6

10:00 - 10:45 AM

Closing Keynote

GOLD BALLROOM

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch on Your Own

Wear your SACCR t-shirt or sweatshirt on Wednesday, or show off your school pride in your favorite college spirit wear!



PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

SESSION 1A

Monday, September 14th, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE POLICY AND UPDATES

Dr. Michelle Madden / Poinsette Room

This session will orient institutional leaders and accreditation liaisons to the SACSCOC substantive change process and recent policy updates. Attendees will learn how to identify substantive changes, understand new expectations, implement monitoring and reporting procedures, and prepare a strong prospectus for submission. The program concludes with an extended Q&A to address participant-specific situations.

SESSION 1B

Monday, September 14th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

TELLING YOUR INSTITUTION'S STORY – THE COMMISSION'S VISION INSIGHTS DASHBOARD

Dr. Alexei G. Matveev & Dr. Godfrey Fuji Noe / Pinckney Room

This workshop will teach participants how to create, frame, and tell their institutional story via the Vision Insights Dashboard. In addition, the participants will provide insights, suggestions, and feedback on how to ensure the dashboard is helpful, usable, useful, and used. Participants will also provide insights, feedback, and possible directions for future versions of the dashboard and new data learning experiences.

Breakfast for both sessions will be served from 8 am in the Poinsette Lobby Area.

Lunch for both sessions will be served at 12 pm in the Poinsette Lobby Area.

MONDAY OPENING SESSION

WELCOME FROM TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Dr. Vicky Wood, Trident Technical College's sixth president, will offer a warm Charleston welcome and share her perspective on living, learning, and leading in one of America's most captivating cities. In this brief opening greeting, attendees will get a glimpse into the unique character of the Holy City, the important role higher education plays in the region's vibrant community, and the blend of history, innovation, and Southern hospitality that continues to shape Charleston's future. Along the way, Dr. Wood will share local insights and reflections on what makes Charleston a place that leaves a lasting impression on visitors and residents alike.

DR. VICKY WOOD

Trident Technical College President

Dr. Vicky Wood serves as the 6th president of Trident Technical College. She began her career at the two-year, multi-campus community college on July 1, 2024.

Dr. Wood has more than 35 years of educational experience in various academic, student services, and leadership roles. Most recently, she was president of Washington State College of Ohio (WSCO) in Marietta, Ohio, a position she held since 2017.

During her time as president, Dr. Wood transformed WSCO by strengthening academic programs and student support services, investing in personnel and facilities, enhancing community partnerships, and transforming the college to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution with a new name. Prior to that, Dr. Wood was provost and vice president of academic affairs and student services at Marion Technical College.

Dr. Wood is a first-generation technical college graduate who holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from The University of Toledo, a master's in education from Bowling Green State University, a bachelor's in business education from Ashland University, and an associate in business from Marion Technical College. She and her husband, Rodney, have three children and three grandchildren.



MONDAY OPENING SESSION

WELCOME FROM VISIT CHARLESTON

Think of this as your Charleston starter pack! Mr. Hays takes you from the city's storied past to today's hottest spots, sharing must-see attractions, incredible dining experiences, picturesque photo ops, and local favorites along the way. Leave with a game plan, a few insider secrets, and plenty of inspiration for your time in the Holy City.



MR. TRIPP HAYS

Explore Charleston Destination Services Manager

Tripp Hays is Destination Service Manager for Explore Charleston and a longtime leader in the Charleston hospitality industry. With decades of experience promoting and supporting one of America's favorite destinations, he brings a deep knowledge of the city's history, culture, and hidden gems, helping visitors make the most of their Charleston experience.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

GENAI LITERACY YOU CAN SEE

Educators today are navigating generative AI without a common language or clear direction. Dr. Bickerstaff will introduce the SEE Framework — the first AI literacy framework built specifically for Generative AI— and equip participants with the knowledge, mindsets, and skills to engage with these tools responsibly. The SEE Framework is grounded in research and practical experience from our work with educational institutions across the world.

DR. AMANDA BICKERSTAFF

AI for Education

Amanda Bickerstaff is the Co-Founder and CEO of AI for Education. A former high school biology teacher and EdTech CEO, she brings over 20 years of experience in the education sector. With a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that AI can offer, she is a sought-after keynote speaker and leading authority on AI and education. Through her work, Amanda has reached hundreds of schools and thousands of educators worldwide, committed to helping them maximize their potential through the responsible and equitable adoption of AI.



TUESDAY LUNCH SESSION

FROM DATA TO IMPACT: TRANSLATING STRATEGIC GOALS INTO ACTIONABLE METRICS

An interactive working session for institutional research professionals who are ready to move from background data providers to strategic student success partners. Using real institutional case studies, participants will explore how to connect strategic goals to actionable metrics, leverage data to inform decision-making, and drive meaningful student success outcomes on their campuses.

DR. KRISTIN BROOKS

Complete College America – Strategy Director

Kristin Brooks is a dedicated higher education leader with a strong commitment to student success, equitable access, and institutional collaboration. Previously serving as the Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives and Engagement – College Completion at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, Kristin spearheaded statewide transfer initiatives and policy alignment and created a statewide college completion agenda. Under her leadership, the South Carolina Transfer Council was established, fostering partnerships among over 30 institutions to improve credit mobility and student support systems.



TUESDAY LUNCH SESSION

DR. CARRIE HODGE

Complete College America - Director of Data Analysis

Dr. Carrie Hodge brings over a decade of experience to her position as Data Analyst. Prior to joining the Complete College America team, Carrie served as Senior Associate, Data and Advanced Analytics at Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). In that role, Carrie developed and maintained documentation and requirements for Kentucky's data collection system and analyzed information to determine conclusions to write analytical briefs. Additionally, Carrie worked as a Program Evaluation Specialist for the Center for Analytics and Research Education (CARE) at Appalachian State University and obtained an internship with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). Carrie also has over ten years of experience working at community colleges. Her experience includes instructing developmental English courses and composition courses and coordinating a community college Writing Center. Carrie received her B.A. (2005) and M.A. (2007) in English from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. She obtained her Ed.D in Higher Education Leadership (2021) from Appalachian State in Boone, North Carolina.



DR. JAMIA STOKES

Complete College America - Alliance Engagement Director

Dr. Jamia Stokes has 20 years of experience in postsecondary education. She currently serves as an Alliance Engagement Director for Complete College America (CCA). She previously served as Tennessee SCORE's Vice President of Postsecondary Programs, where she played a pivotal role in advancing statewide initiatives related to postsecondary access and attainment. Previously, she held leadership positions at Rhodes College and The University of Tennessee in a variety of capacities, including recruitment and retention, academic and career advising, and student success. She was the recipient of the UT Knoxville Chancellor's citation for Excellence in Academic Advising and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 3 Excellence in Advising award.



CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING SESSION: UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Before we say goodbye, join Dr. Stephen Pruitt of The Commission on Colleges and Universities for an engaging look at what's next for accreditation and higher education. As colleges and universities navigate rapid change, evolving expectations, and new opportunities, Dr. Pruitt will explore the trends and challenges shaping the road ahead. With insights from the accreditation front lines, this energizing closing session will encourage attendees to think boldly about quality, innovation, accountability, and the future of student success. Leave inspired, informed, and ready for what's next.

DR. STEPHEN PRUITT

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

Dr. Stephen Pruitt is president of the Commission on Colleges and Universities. With more than 30 years of experience in education, he has served as a teacher, state education leader, and higher education advocate, including as president of the Southern Regional Education Board and commissioner of education for Kentucky. Dr. Pruitt holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry Education from Auburn University, a Master of Education from the University of West Georgia, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of North Georgia. He is a recognized voice on educational quality, innovation, and student success.



PRESIDENTS' SESSIONS

EXCLUSIVE TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE CAMPUS TOUR

Date: Tuesday, September 15

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Hotel Lobby

College presidents and invited guests are invited to participate in an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Trident Technical College. Participants will explore innovative facilities, learn about workforce development partnerships, and discover strategies supporting student and community success.

- *Participation is reserved for college presidents and invited guests.*

PRESIDENTS' BREAKFAST WITH DR. STEPHEN PRUITT

Date: Wednesday, September 16

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Poinsette

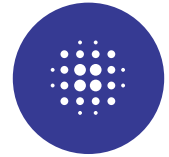
Breakfast Pickup: Gold Ballroom

Join Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President of SACSCOC, for an engaging breakfast conversation focused on leadership, accreditation, and the future of higher education. This exclusive gathering provides an opportunity for college presidents and invited designees to exchange ideas, discuss emerging trends, and connect with peers from across the region.

- *Participation is reserved for college presidents and individuals specifically designated by a president to attend on their behalf.*
- *If your president is unable to attend and would like to nominate a representative, please email smeyer@chattahoocheetech.edu with the nominee's name and institution.*
- *Attendance is limited to 30 participants. To ensure broad representation, we request no more than one participant per institution.*



CONCURRENT SESSIONS



SESSION 1

Tuesday, September 15th 10:10 – 10:55 AM

TELLING YOUR INSTITUTION'S STORY

Dr. Godfrey Fuji Noe / Rutledge Room

This workshop will teach participants how to create, frame and tell their institutional story via the Vision Insights Dashboard. In addition, the participants will provide insights, suggestions and feedback on how to ensure the dashboard is helpful, useable, useful and used.

Participants will also provide insights, feedback and possible directions for future versions of the dashboard, and new data learning experiences.

WHAT'S NEW IN SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE?

Dr. Michelle Madden / Poinsette Room

As institutions navigate an evolving regulatory landscape, staying current with the latest Substantive Change requirements is essential for maintaining compliance and ensuring smooth academic operations. This session offers a practical overview of the most recent policy updates—including discontinued change types, revised procedures, and new expectations for federal regulation compliance.

AI LITERACY YOU CAN SEE

Dr. Amanda Bickerstaff / Gold Ballroom

What does it look like to safely, ethically, and effectively integrate AI literacy into schools? In this interactive session, participants will explore how to turn GenAI literacy from a moment into a habit using field-tested strategies from AI for Education's SEE Framework. Participants will apply SEE's knowledge, mindsets, and practices to relevant scenarios and dilemmas.

A TRIED-AND-TRUE METHOD FOR DEMONSTRATING SUFFICIENT FULL-TIME PROGRAM FACULTY (6.2.B/20)

Dr. Daniel Mynatt / Pinckney Room

This presentation offers a straightforward method for demonstrating the adequacy of FT program faculty by dividing the response into four sections and posing three questions about "sufficiency" and "program quality, integrity, and review." The presenter used this method successfully for two Reaffirmations and one 5th Year review, with no concerns expressed by reviewers.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION 2

Tuesday, September 15th 11:05 – 11:50 AM

BELOW THE LINE: CHARACTERISTICS OF PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT MEET THE NEW FEDERAL FINANCIAL LOAN AID ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Godfrey Fuji Noe / Poinsette Room

How to identify what type of programs do not meet the eligibility requirements. Determine common characteristics of programs that are in danger of losing access to federal financial loan aid. Identify characteristics of programs close to not meeting the new requirements. Identifying institutional characteristics, program types, levels, etc. data that are associated with programs not meeting the requirements.

FROM PARTNERSHIP TO IMPACT: LEVERAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO FUND, IMPLEMENT, AND EVALUATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVES

Dr. Lauren Hopkins / Rutledge Room

As funding becomes more competitive, community colleges can expand opportunities and increase impact through strategic partnerships. This interactive session explores how colleges can collaborate with nonprofit and community partners to identify shared needs, secure funding, implement programs, and measure outcomes. Participants will leave with practical strategies and a framework for developing partnership-driven, grant-funded initiatives that support both institutional and community goals.

AI LITERACY YOU CAN SEE

Dr. Amanda Bickerstaff / Gold Ballroom

What does it look like to safely, ethically, and effectively integrate AI literacy into schools? In this interactive session, participants will explore how to turn GenAI literacy from a moment into a habit using field-tested strategies from AI for Education's SEE Framework. Participants will apply SEE's knowledge, mindsets, and practices to relevant scenarios and dilemmas.

A CONSULTANT'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROPOSED PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION

Dr. Douglas Wymer / Pinckney Room

There is a lot to like about the proposed Commission on Colleges and Universities/SACSCOC standards and there are things institutions should be thinking about now to prepare for the next reaffirmation. This presentation will take a short walk through the draft standards and point out a few important details.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION 3

Tuesday, September 15th 1:30 – 2:15 PM

DYNAMIC CAREER PATHWAYS: USING REAL RESUME DATA TO REVEAL HOW CAREERS ACTUALLY MOVE

Dr. Chris Chmura / Gold Ballroom

Career pathways are often built on assumptions, outdated models, or anecdotal advertising. This session demonstrates how aggregated resume data can uncover real-world career transitions, identify feeder roles and pivot points, and create evidence-based pathways and career lattices that resonate with students, employers, and institutional stakeholders.

FROM PARTNERSHIP TO IMPACT: LEVERAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO FUND, IMPLEMENT, AND EVALUATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVES

Dr. Lauren Hopkins / Rutledge Room

As funding becomes more competitive, community colleges can expand opportunities and increase impact through strategic partnerships. This interactive session explores how colleges can collaborate with nonprofit and community partners to identify shared needs, secure funding, implement programs, and measure outcomes. Participants will leave with practical strategies and a framework for developing partnership-driven, grant-funded initiatives that support both institutional and community goals.

BEYOND THE HYPE: PRACTICAL AI FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Dani Walker & Dr. Steve Cox / Poinsette Room

Explore practical, replicable ways Institutional Research and Effectiveness professionals are using AI to improve efficiency, strengthen documentation, analyze data, and support decision-making. Learn effective prompting techniques, governance considerations, and real-world examples while participating in an interactive discussion about AI implementation across higher education.

STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC PLANNING THROUGH STUDENT FEEDBACK

Mr. Francois Beneteau / Pinckney Room

Institutional research offices play a central role in making student feedback usable for academic planning and improvement. They are often expected to deliver course evaluation insights quickly, consistently, and at scale. Yet fragmented workflows, low response rates, and limited reporting can slow analysis and weaken the value of student feedback. This session will show how Explorance helps institutions improve data collection, streamline administration, and surface actionable findings across courses, departments, and campuses, then turn it into insights that administrators and academic leaders can act on. The result is a stronger connection between student voice, reporting, and institutional response.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION 4

Tuesday, September 15th 2:25 – 3:10 PM

FROM COMPLIANCE TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR STRENGTHENING ACCREDITATION PRACTICE

Dr. Megan Bange / Poinsette Room

Accreditation is often experienced as a periodic compliance requirement rather than an embedded process for improvement. This session introduces a practical tool designed to help community college leaders assess and strengthen their accreditation work.

INTEGRATING AI INTO TEACHING AND LEARNING

Mrs. Sha'Kia Riggins / Rutledge Room

As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes workforce expectations, community and technical colleges face an urgent need to integrate AI literacy, tools, and practices across disciplines. This session provides a practical, equity-centered framework for infusing AI into curriculum design, instructional practices, and learning resources, without increasing faculty workload or requiring advanced technical expertise.

WHY 70% OF HIGHER ED INITIATIVES FAIL (AND HOW TO ENSURE YOURS WON'T)

Mr. Noah Churchill & Ms. Nina Faix / Pinckney Room

Research shows that initiatives with excellent change management are 6x more likely to meet their objectives, yet 70% of efforts fail due to poor adoption. In this session, get the change management blueprint for conducting strategic rollouts, mitigating resistance, and creating feedback loops to set your projects up for success.

FROM FALL TO SPRING: USING PERSISTENCE DATA AND AI-ASSISTED ANALYSIS TO DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

Ms. Mandy Sessions / Gold Ballroom

This session explores a practical, data-informed approach to analyzing Fall-to-Spring persistence. In addition to traditional institutional research methods, the presentation demonstrates how AI-assisted tools, including ChatGPT, can support data interpretation, narrative development, and communication of findings while maintaining data integrity and ethical standards.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION 5

Tuesday, September 15th, 3:20- 4:05 PM

SPARKING A GRANTS CULTURE ON CAMPUS

Ms. Jennifer Peacock / Gold Ballroom

At a small college, where resources are often stretched thin, creating a grants culture is challenging. This presentation is the story of how two colleges use one shared grants coordinator to shift mindsets about applying, learning from losses, and cultivating buy-in to drive proactive grant-seeking forward.

FROM DATA TO DECISIONS: A CASE STUDY IN GATEWAY MATH REDESIGN

Mr. Steven Studdard / Rutledge Room

This session shares how one college used gateway math data to shift from student-based explanations to structural insights. Using a longitudinal approach and Power BI, we identified patterns that informed a corequisite redesign and improved outcomes, offering a practical example of using data to guide academic decision-making.

PUBLISHING IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE REVIEW

Dr. Duane Akroyd / Pinckney Room

In this session the Executive Editor of the Community College Review will discuss information on publishing on community college related topics in peer reviewed journals and suggestions for prospective authors.

APPROACHING SACSCOC SECTION 8.2 WITH CONFIDENCE

Dr. Amanda Bylczynski / Poinsette Room

This session highlights an integrated assessment model aligning program outcomes, general education competencies, and student support services, demonstrating how outcomes, assessment, and evidence-based analysis meet accreditation expectations.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION 6

Wednesday, September 16th, 9:00 – 9:45 AM

BEYOND OUTCOMES AND ACCREDITATION: LEVERAGING NCCBP REPORTS FOR BETTER INSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS

Ms. Michelle Taylor / Gold Ballroom

Benchmarking extends far beyond student outcomes and accreditation. This session showcases the breadth of NCCBP reports available to participating institutions and demonstrates how colleges can leverage benchmark reports to support strategic planning, resource allocation, program review, workforce alignment, institutional effectiveness, and evidence-based decision making.

BRIDGING DATA TO WORKFORCE: TURNING INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH INTO REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols / Poinsette Room

“Bridging Data to Workforce: Turning Institutional Research into Real-World Impact” shows how community colleges can turn data into action, aligning programs with workforce demand and legislative priorities.

BRIDGING DATA TO ACTION: TRANSLATING PREDICTIVE STUDENT SUCCESS INSIGHTS INTO INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

Ms. Emily Kelleher / Rutledge Room

Hanover Research will share how predictive student success analysis with and Chattahoochee Technical College helped identify at-risk student populations, translate findings into targeted supports, and inform executive decision-making. Attendees will learn a practical framework for moving from data to action and measuring institutional outcomes.

HARNESSING ANALYTICS TO DRIVE STUDENT-CENTRIC ACADEMIC OPERATIONS

Ms. Lindsey Ohls / Pinckney Room

In this session the Executive Editor of the Community College Review will discuss information on publishing on community college related topics in peer reviewed journals and suggestions for prospective authors.

MEET THE PRESENTERS

DR. DUANE AKROYD

North Carolina State University

Dr Akroyd is a Professor at North Carolina State University in the College of Education in Raleigh, NC. He started his academic journey at Broome Technical Community College (now SUNY Broome Community College) in Binghamton, NY. His first teaching job after graduate school was at a community college. He currently serves as the Executive Editor of the Community College Review, a referred journal that for over 50 years has provided a platform for scholarly, peer-reviewed research and commentary on community colleges, their students, and the educators and administrators who work within them.



DR. MEGAN BANGE

Bossier Parish Community College

Megan Bange is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning, Budget & Resources at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) and the SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison. Megan graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a B.A. and M.A. in English. She taught at the University of Louisiana Monroe for 12 years. At BPCC, she became Assistant Dean of the Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics Division, then moved into the position of Dean, serving for three years before advancing to her current position. She received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in May of 2026. Her dissertation study created an instrument for higher education leaders to move from compliance to continuous improvement in accreditation practices.



DR. AMANDA BYLCZYNSKI

Augusta Technical College

Dr. Amanda Bylczyński is an accomplished higher education administrator serving as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Augusta Technical College. She holds an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership and has extensive experience in academic affairs, accreditation, and assessment, with a career spanning faculty and senior leadership roles focused on student success and institutional effectiveness.



MEET THE PRESENTERS

DR. STEPHEN COX

Central Louisiana Technical Community College

Dr. Stephen Cox is the Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning at CLTCC. He has 32 years of experience in higher education at community colleges, 4 year colleges, and graduate programs in Kansas, Ohio, and Louisiana as a computer science faculty member, information systems director, and intuitional researcher. Prior to entering higher education, he worked as a software research analyst, systems manager, and computer programmer working in a variety of areas such as defense systems, atomic energy, and education systems. His software product, AnSim's IEPPlanner, has been recognized by NASA as an example of Artificial Intelligence Expert System technology developed at the agency transferred to the civilian market. Dr. Cox holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University, an MS in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a BS in Information Systems from The Ohio State University.



DR. JACQUELYN EIDSON

National Higher Education Benchmarking Institute at Johnson County Community College

Dr. Jacquelyn Eidson is Executive Director of the National Higher Education Benchmarking Institute at Johnson County Community College. She leads national benchmarking initiatives supporting hundreds of colleges in using comparative data to strengthen strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, accreditation, and data-informed decision-making. She is also a 2-time Fulbright and serves as a faculty member at the University of Kansas.

MEET THE PRESENTERS

MS. NINA FAIX

Chattahoochee Technical College

Nina Faix is the Director of Curriculum and Compliance in Institutional Effectiveness at Chattahoochee Technical College. With more than 20 years of experience in academic affairs, admissions, registrar operations, curriculum management, and accreditation, she brings extensive expertise in cross-departmental collaboration and institutional effectiveness.

Nina oversees curriculum processes, internal program review, and academic assessment, ensuring programs demonstrate strong student learning outcomes and maintain continuous compliance. She supports faculty, deans, and executive leadership in advancing academic quality and contributes to SACSCOC and Cognia accreditation through the collection and analysis of required documentation.

She also represents Chattahoochee Tech on several community committees, strengthening partnerships and supporting regional workforce and education initiatives. Ms. Faix holds a Master of Science in Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Human Relations/Counseling.



DR. GODFREY FUJI NOE

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

Godfrey Fuji Noe, PhD, MA is currently the Coordinator of Training and Research at SACSCOC. His professional experience includes statistics, software development, business intelligence, teaching and learning, and gamification in higher education. He has also worked in institutional research and information technology. Dr. Noe holds a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in cultural anthropology, and a doctorate's degree in medical sociology.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



DR. LAUREN HOPKINS

Prepared to Impact, LLC

CEO and Principal Consultant of Prepared to Impact, LLC — partnering with nonprofits to strengthen their capacity, secure funding, and create meaningful, measurable impact in their communities.

With backgrounds in social work, education, and organizational development, Dr. Hopkins brings a thoughtful, results-driven approach that combines strategy with practical implementation. Her clients don't just plan for success — they achieve it.

MS. EMILY KELLEHER

Hanover Research

Emily Kelleher serves as a Senior Research Advisor for Hanover Research, leading strategic relationships with higher education leaders to help move forward key priorities and solve critical issues. Ms. Kelleher's background is in economics and education policy, having conducted research related to charter schools, financial aid, and low-income student access to higher education. As a Senior

Research Advisor at Hanover, she leverages her research expertise and data analytics skills to partner with institutions across the higher education landscape to better understand their goals and priorities and design research methodologies accordingly. She is passionate about utilizing research to create a more equitable education system and increase workforce opportunities for all. Ms. Kelleher holds a Master of Arts in Economic and Education Policy from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science from Wofford College.



MEET THE PRESENTERS

DR. MICHELLE MADDEN

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

Michelle Madden is the Director of Substantive Change at The Commission on Colleges and Universities, providing high-level guidance to member institutions as they navigate substantive changes, ensuring alignment with federal regulations and accreditation principles. Before joining The Commission, Dr. Madden held several leadership roles at the University of South Florida (USF), serving as Director of Accreditation Strategy and Enhancement, where she collaborated closely with university leadership to strengthen accreditation readiness, advance strategic institutional initiatives, and enhance data-driven decision-making. Dr. Madden's career spans more than 25 years across higher education leadership, faculty roles, and K-12 administration and instruction, centered on improving institutional performance and supporting student achievement.



DR. ALEXEI G. MATVEEV

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

Alexei G. Matveev serves as the Director of Training and Research at the Commission on Colleges and Universities (CC&U). His career in tertiary education spans almost 35 years, serving in a variety of roles, including faculty member, institutional effectiveness & assessment professional, trainer, and researcher. Dr. Matveev holds an undergraduate degree in philology and education from Udmurt State

University (former USSR), an M.Ed. degree in educational administration/organization development from Kent State University (USA), an M.A. degree in economic sociology from Central European University (Poland/Hungary) and Lancaster University (UK), and a Ph.D. degree in higher education administration from the College of William and Mary (USA). Dr. Matveev has published in several peer-reviewed journals and led research and training sessions at numerous professional meetings on various topics related to accreditation, assessment, curriculum mapping, and student completion.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



DR. DANIEL MYNATT

Pfeiffer University

Dr. Daniel Mynatt is the retired Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Pfeiffer University, where he currently serves as Accreditation Liaison. Mynatt previously served at Anderson University and the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, and has been involved in SACSCOC accreditation for 20 years. He serves as a peer review committee chair for SACSCOC and has frequently presented at the Annual Meeting on various topics related to the Principles of Accreditation.

DR. JESSIE LYNN NICHOLS

Dirt to Diva Productions, LLC.

Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols is a passionate advocate for career and technical education, serving as the President and Owner of Dirt to Diva Productions, LLC. She holds a Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education from Auburn University, along with degrees in Agricultural Communications and Agri-Science Education. As a former Miss Rodeo USA; ACM, CMA, and Grammy Recording country music artist known as "America's Singing Cowgirl," Dr. Nichols is the host and creator of the Be A Dreamcatcher podcast. In her professional work, she collaborates with institutions to strengthen program alignment, enhance data reporting practices, and develop innovative strategies that support student growth and workforce readiness across Alabama



MS. JENNIFER PEACOCK

Chattahoochee Technical College/Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Jennifer Peacock is an experienced grant writer and coordinator dedicated to advancing education and workforce development through strategic funding initiatives. She manages the full grant lifecycle for two technical colleges in Northwest Georgia — from research and proposal development to budgeting, compliance, and reporting — while leading cross-functional teams and building strong relationships with funders and stakeholders. With a background in content strategy, marketing, and technical communication, she brings a unique blend of analytical and storytelling skills to craft compelling proposals that drive impact and support organizational growth.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



MRS SHA'KIA RIGGINS

Florida State College at Jacksonville

Sha'Kia Riggins is a voice from the very frontier of technology and education. As the Dean of Information Technology at Florida State College Jacksonville, Sha'Kia is a visionary leader whose journey is a powerful tapestry woven from service as a U.S. Navy veteran, entrepreneurship as the CEO of Data B.I.T.S., LLC, and a deep commitment to academia.

Long before AI became a mainstream headline, Sha'Kia was architecting its educational future. She is a true pioneer in applied artificial intelligence, sought after by industry giants like Intel to train other educators and by publishers like Cengage to help develop next-generation AI learning tools. As a Cengage author of a AI and Machine Learning textbook and a key player to the establishment of the East Coast AI Center of Excellence at FSCJ, she is shaping the very curriculum and frameworks that will define how we learn and integrate AI for years to come.

Sha'Kia's work is driven by more than just technical acumen; it is fueled by a profound passion for creating pathways to success for others. Her career is a testament to the power of continuous learning and mentorship, and she is a fierce advocate for building inclusive environments where innovation can flourish. As a leader who has navigated corporate, military, and academic landscapes, she brings a rare and invaluable perspective to our conversation.

MRS. MANDY SESSIONS

Wallace Community College - Dothan

Mrs. Mandy Sessions serves as the Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Wallace Community College-Dothan and has over 20 years of experience in higher education. She serves as the College's SACSCOC Reaffirmation Director, IPEDS Keyholder, and DAX Data Verifier. Her work focuses on strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, accreditation compliance, student success initiatives, and the development and maintenance of databases and reporting systems for state, regional, and federal educational accountability agencies.

An active leader in institutional research and effectiveness, Mrs. Sessions has served in multiple leadership roles within the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) and Southeastern Association for Community College Research (SACCR).



MEET THE PRESENTERS



MR. STEVEN STUDDARD

Piedmont Technical College

Steven Studdard is a Research and Planning Administrator in Institutional Research at Piedmont Technical College. He supports academic and strategic decision-making through data analysis, dashboard development, and program review. His work focuses on student success, gateway course outcomes, and using tools like Power BI to turn data into actionable insights. Steven has experience as a faculty member and department chair and is actively involved in curriculum redesign and accreditation work.



MICHELLE TAYLOR

National Higher Education Benchmarking Institute

Michelle Taylor has been the Senior Research & Data Analyst at the National Higher Education Benchmarking Institute for more than a decade. She conducts the data collection, analytics, and reporting functions for the National Community College Benchmark Project (NCCBP). Additionally, she works with member institutions in understanding and using the benchmarks at their institutions via

presentations, webinars and one-on-one sessions.

Before joining the Institute, she worked as a Senior Marketing Research Manager at H&R Block as well as led marketing research efforts for several other companies including American Express and American Century Investments.

MEET THE PRESENTERS

DR. DANI WALKER

Louisiana Delta Community College

Dani Walker is the Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation and SACSCOC Liaison at Louisiana Delta Community College, bringing 12 years of experience in higher education. With a doctorate in Higher Education from East Texas A&M University, she specializes in institutional effectiveness, accreditation, policy, curriculum, and continuous improvement.

Dani currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Community College Research (SACCR), following her service as President-Elect and Program Chair. Her leadership has also been recognized through Leadership Ouachita (2021), Northeast Louisiana Top 20 Under 40 (2022), and Leadership Franklin (2023).

Passionate about the community college mission, Dani's work is grounded in using data, planning, and continuous improvement to strengthen institutions and support student success. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Wade, and their two adventurous children, Preston and Celia.



DR. ROBIN ZÚÑIGA

The Commission on Colleges and Universities

Dr. Robin Zúñiga currently serves as the Coordinator of Substantive Change and has been employed at SACSCOC since 2017. Prior to joining SACSCOC, Dr. Zúñiga was employed at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio as Executive Director of Academic Quality Enhancement, where she provided guidance on academic assessment, authored compliance reports, and coordinated the institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. During her career, she has been a Senior Research Associate at SEDL, a nonprofit educational research organization; Senior Program Evaluator at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; Assistant Director of the Flashlight Program for the effective use of technology in instruction at the TLT Group; and Senior Research Associate at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Dr. Zúñiga holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.A. in Program Evaluation from the University of Texas at Austin, and an M.A. in Political Science with an emphasis on public policy analysis and electoral behavior from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



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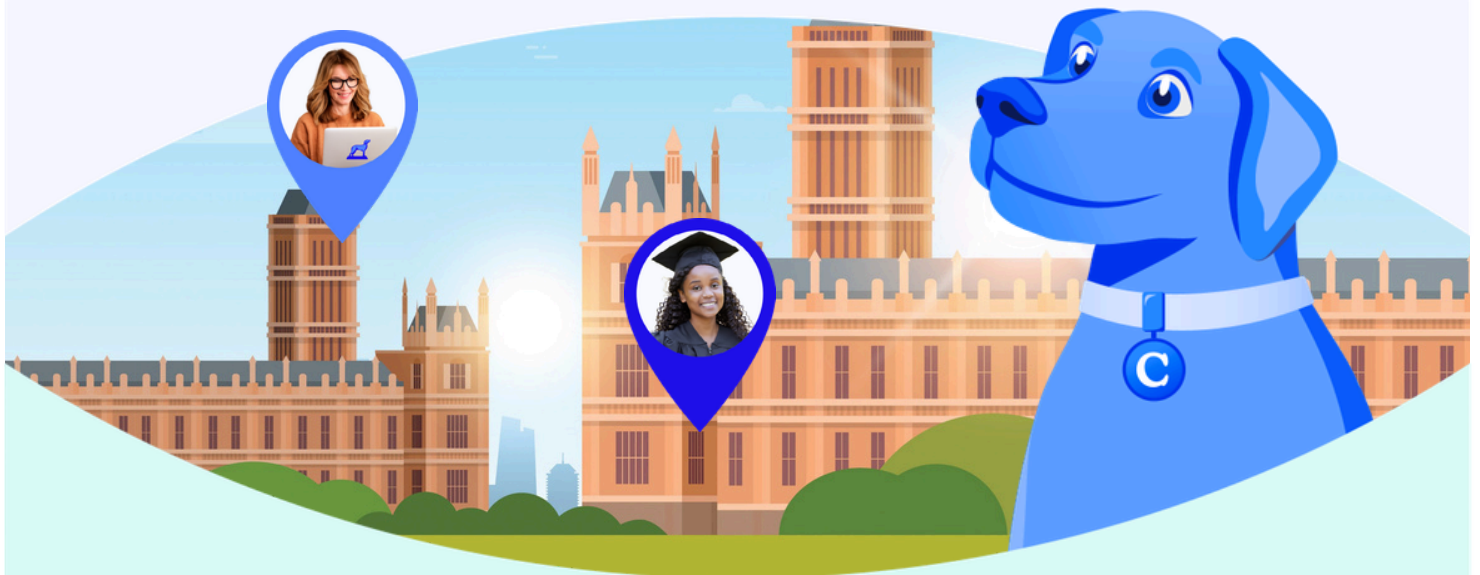
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