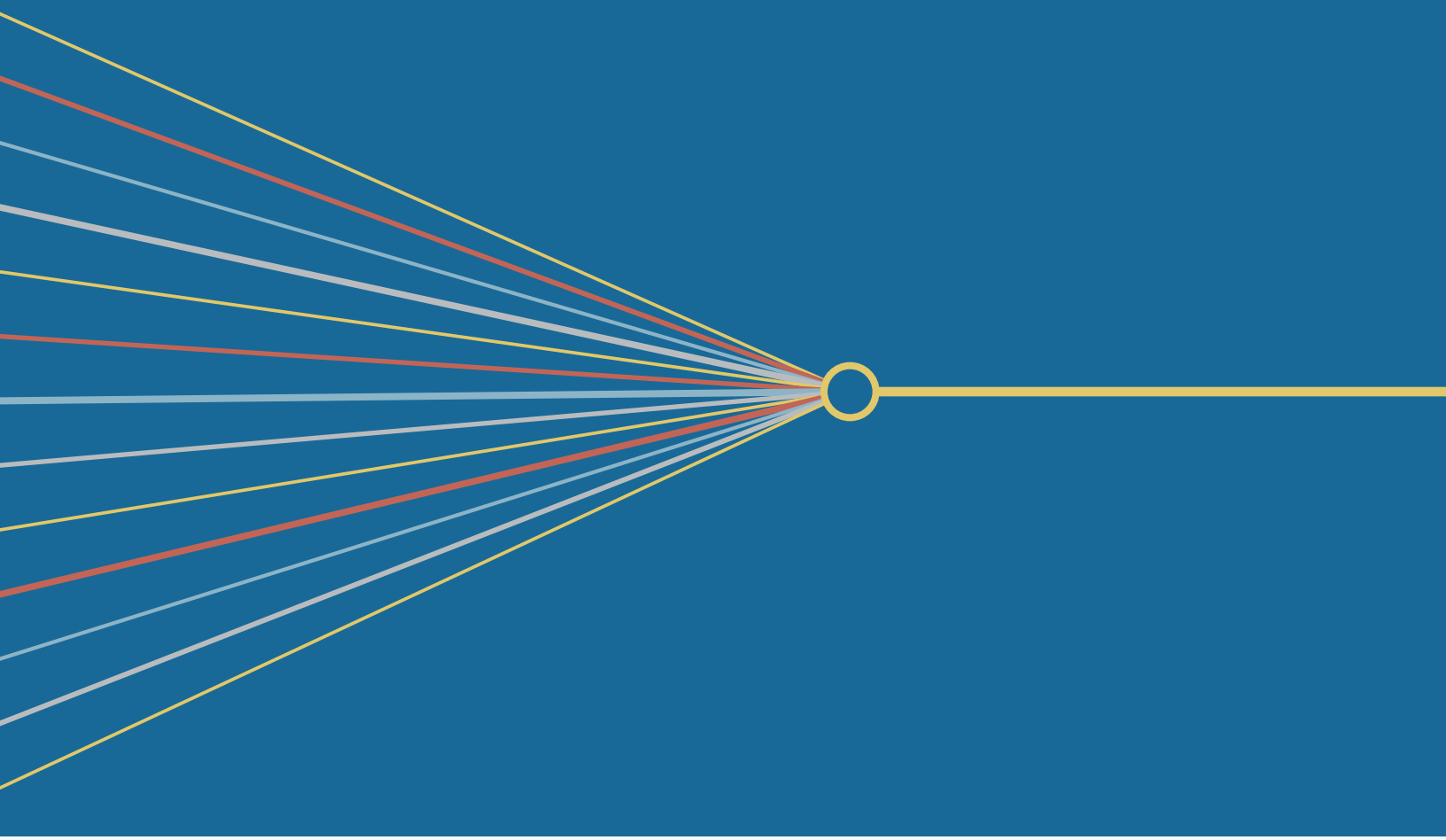
ACCJC CONFERENCE
PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE 2026

NOVEMBER 17–18, 2026
RIVERSIDE, CA



Shared Vision, Shared Voice

Advancing Student Success Through Inclusive Governance

schedule at a glance

Tuesday, November 17, 2026		
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Check-in / Registration Desk Open	Upper Concourse
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Beverage Break	Upper Concourse
8:30 am - 9:15 am	Preconference Session - Beyond the Degree	RC E & B
9:30 am - 5:00 pm	Sponsor Exhibits Open	Upper Concourse
9:30 am - 11:30 am	Preconference ALO Forum	Exhibit Hall B
	Preconference CEO/Trustee Forum	RC D & A
	Preconference Faculty Forum	RC F & C
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch on Your Own	
12:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Poster Session Viewing	Exhibit Halls C & D
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Opening Plenary Address	Exhibit Hall B
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Beverage and Snack Break	Upper Concourse
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions 1A - 1D	See program content descriptions
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Plenary Address	Exhibit Hall B
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	Opening Reception and Poster Session	Exhibit Halls C & D

Wednesday, November 18, 2026		
7:30 am - 3:30 pm	Check-in / Registration Desk Open	Upper Concourse
7:45 am - 3:30 pm	Sponsor Exhibit/Poster Viewing	Upper Concourse/Exhibit Halls C & D
7:45 am - 8:45 am	Continental Breakfast	Upper Concourse/Exhibit Hall B
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Plenary Address	Exhibit Hall B
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Beverage Break	Upper Concourse
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Concurrent Sessions 2A - 2D	See program content descriptions
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Plated Lunch	Exhibit Hall B
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions 3A - 3D	See program content descriptions
2:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Closing Plenary Address	Exhibit Hall B

welcome to the conference!



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), I am honored to welcome you to the **2026 Partners in Excellence Conference**.

Our theme, *Shared Vision, Shared Voice: Advancing Student Success Through Inclusive Governance*, reflects both the responsibility and the opportunity before us. Student success does not rest in a single office, role, or title. It emerges when institutions align around mission, elevate diverse perspectives, and act with clarity and integrity.

Across our 139 member institutions, spanning multiple states, communities, and contexts, we serve students whose aspirations shape the future of our nation. At a time of transformation in higher education, our work demands thoughtful leadership, data-informed decision-making, and a commitment to collaboration across trustees, chancellors, presidents, faculty, staff, students, and partners.

This conference is designed to spark meaningful dialogue, highlight measurable progress, and share innovative practices that strengthen institutional quality and impact. I encourage you to engage deeply, connect broadly, and consider how the ideas explored here can inform your work at home.

When we cultivate shared vision and amplify shared voice, we strengthen not only our institutions, but the futures of the students we serve.

Mac Powell, President

ACCJC

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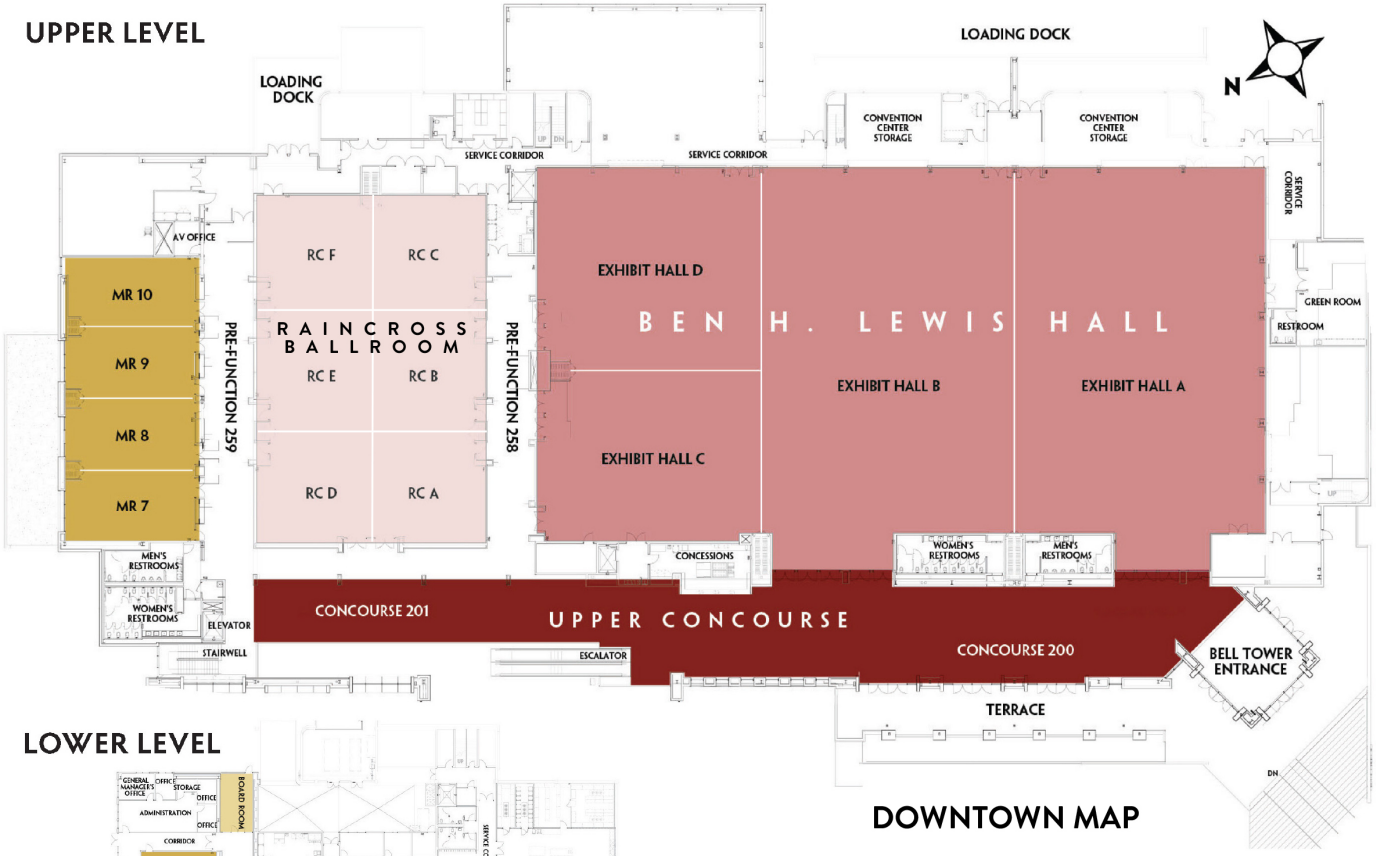
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Riverside CONVENTION CENTER

https://riversidecvb.com/riverside-convention-center/

UPPER LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL



DOWNTOWN MAP



general information

2026 ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference Location

All sessions and events will be held at the Riverside Convention Center and will take place in the Exhibit Halls B-D, Upper Concourse, MR 4 & 5, RC D & A, RC E & B, and RC F & C. All meeting rooms are on the upper level except MR 4 & 5. The Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau website is a great resource for local attractions.

Registration Desk Hours

On Tuesday, the conference registration desk will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Upper Concourse. On Wednesday, the conference registration desk will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Upper Concourse. ACCJC Staff will be happy to help you with questions about registration, location of rooms, and other matters.

Name Badges

Name badges are required for admission to all conference sessions and events.

Sponsor Exhibit Hours

We are grateful to our sponsors for their generous support of the 2026 ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference. Don't miss the opportunity to network with our sponsors in the Upper Concourse on Tuesday and Wednesday!

Please note, ACCJC does not evaluate or endorse any particular company, product, or service.

Food and Beverage Information

All food and beverage breaks will take place in the Upper Concourse near the registration area. Tuesday's afternoon break is sponsored by ***Harmonize***, our Gold Sponsor.

The ***Lumina Foundation***, a 2026 Platinum Sponsor, is sponsoring the reception and poster session on Tuesday evening from 5:15 - 6:30 pm in Exhibit Halls C & D. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

The continental breakfast on Wednesday will be located in the Upper Concourse. Attendees are welcome to take their breakfast to Exhibit Hall B to eat or use the cocktail rounds set up around the registration area.

Wednesday's plated lunch is sponsored by ***College Futures Foundation***, a 2026 Platinum Sponsor, and will take place in Exhibit Hall B.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items may be brought to, or claimed from, the registration desk in the Upper Concourse. Attendees who have lost an item should also check the convention center lost and found.

Wireless Service

Complimentary wireless internet is available in the event space.

Mobile Devices

As a courtesy to presenters and other conference attendees, please silence your mobile devices, limit use, and diminish brightness of screens when attending sessions.

thank you sponsors

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KAI ANALYTICS

speakers



Dr. Tia Brown McNair

Author, *Becoming a Student-Ready College*
Senior Consultant, Sova

Tuesday, November 17
12:45 – 2:00 PM



Dr. Terry Hartle

Senior Fellow, American Council on Education

Tuesday, November 17
4:00 – 5:00 PM



Dr. Sonya Christian

Chancellor
California Community Colleges

Wednesday, November 18
9:00 – 10:15 AM



Wendy F. Hensel

President
University of Hawai'i

Wednesday, November 18
9:00 – 10:15 AM



David S. Baime

Senior Vice President, Public Purpose & National Advocacy
American Association of Community Colleges

Wednesday, November 18
2:15 – 3:15 PM

2026 poster sessions

Chaffey College	Co-Creating What's Next: Inside the Design of Chaffey College's Strategic Plan and AI Task Force
Citrus College	Citrus College: Improving STEM Student Success in Calculus
Coast Community College District	OC Works: Leveraging Workforce Intelligence and Regional Collaboration to Advance Student Success
Coastline College	Co-Designing Institutional Excellence: Coastline College's Human-in-the-Loop AI Ecosystem
College of the Desert	From Compliance to Continuous Improvement: Building a Culture of Effective Board Governance
College of the Redwoods	Assesstivus Annual Symposium and Celebration: Assessment for the Rest of Us
Columbia College	How Do You Know What Is Working?
Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center	Closing the Program Review Gap: A Lightweight Approach to Strategic Continuity
Evergreen Valley College	Shared Voice in Program Review: How EVC Links Collegewide Participation to Resources
Folsom Lake College	DIGging Deeper: Using Data to Drive Student Success
Fresno City College	You CAN Teach an Old Bulldog New Tricks: Accelerating RSI Implementation and Outcomes
Gila Community College	Building a College from the Ground Up: GCC's Journey to Independent Accreditation in Rural Arizona
Grossmont College	Grossmont's Faculty Equity & Innovation Institute and How It Improves Student Outcomes
Guam Community College	Every Voice at the Table: Building a Culture of Student Input at Guam Community College
Hartnell College	Momentum for All: Two Years of Results from Hartnell College's Summer Momentum Program
Irvine Valley College	Flipping the Script: Inclusive Strategic Planning at Irvine Valley College
Lassen College	Student Success Data Supporting Our Efforts in Facilitating Student Transfer and Career Placement
Long Beach City College	From Compliance to Connection: An Emerging Approach to Reviewing RSI in Online Courses
Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health	Improving Academic Confidence Together Peer Mentoring Program (IMPACT)
Los Angeles Trade-Technical College	One College, One Mission: Cross-Functional Collaboration for Student Success at a CTE College
Los Medanos College	Shared Metrics, Intentional Effort: Aligning Equity, Planning, and Student Success Activities
Mendocino College	Faculty Program Review: Describe, Analyze, Reflect and Plan

2026 poster sessions

Modesto Junior College	Guiding ACCJC Reviewers Through RSI in Canvas
Napa Valley College	Clarification of Responsibilities for Institutional Reorganization
Norco College	Where's Waldo? Making Regular & Substantive Interaction Visible in Online Courses
Orange Coast College	From Data to Action: Establishing a Continuous Improvement Framework for Student Success & Equity
Palau Community College	Metukruikull: A Living Laboratory and the New Bachelor of Science in Science Degree Program
Palomar College	Using Data-Informed, Culturally Responsive Teaching to Build Transformational Classrooms
San Diego City College	From Silos to Student Success: Strategic Enrollment Management Through Student-Centered Scheduling
San Diego Mesa College	From Compliance to Continuous Improvement: Mesa's Accreditation Journey
Santa Ana College	Observable Behavior in SLOs: The Missing Definition of Learning Behind CBE
Santa Ana College	From Course Outlines to Shared AI Support: The SAC Non-Credit ESL Playlab Story
Santa Barbara City College	When RSI Is Hard to Find: Making Interaction Visible
Southwestern College	From Competencies to Degrees: Launching California's First DACBE Associate Degree Programs
Victor Valley College	A Village, Not a Program: Rethinking Student Success
Windward Community College	Simplifying the Promise: How Regional Partnerships and Clear Messaging Support First-Year Success

food and refreshments at the conference

Tuesday, November 17, 2026		
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Beverage Break	Upper Concourse
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Beverage and Snack Break	Upper Concourse
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	Opening Reception and Poster Session	Exhibit Halls C & D

Wednesday, November 18, 2026		
7:45 am - 8:45 am	Continental Breakfast	Upper Concourse/Exhibit Hall B
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Beverage Break	Upper Concourse
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Plated Lunch	Exhibit Hall B

Tuesday, November 17

7:30 AM-5:00 PM

Upper Concourse

CHECK-IN / REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Exhibit Halls C & D

SPONSOR EXHIBITS AND POSTER SESSION SETUP AND CHECK-IN

8:30-9:15 AM

RC E & B

PRECONFERENCE SESSION

Beyond the Degree: ACCJC and NECHE Partner on Quality Assurance for Short-Term Credentials

Presenters/Facilitators: ***Dr. Laura M. Gambino***, Vice President of the Commission, New England Commission of Higher Education; ***Dr. Mac Powell***, President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

This session will explore how institutions can participate in the ACCJC/NECHE pilot and what dual recognition from two institutional accreditors could mean for short-term credentials and non-credit education. Participants will also have the opportunity to contribute to the conversation as ACCJC considers how accreditation can continue to evolve alongside changing models of learning.

ACCJC
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

NECHE
New England Commission of Higher Education

9:30 -11:30 AM

Exhibit Hall B

PRECONFERENCE FORUMS

ALO Forum – Shared Responsibility, Shared Purpose

Presenters/Facilitators: ***Dr. Kevin Bontenbal***, Vice President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; ***Dr. Char Perlas***, Superintendent/President, College of the Siskiyous; ***Melynie Schiel***, Vice President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; ***John (JT) Tarantino***, Director of Planning, Assessment, & Research, College of the Siskiyous, and AI Fellow, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office; and ***Dr. Aeron Zentner***, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness, Coastline College

Join fellow ALOs for an interactive forum focused on the issues colleges are navigating now and the strategies showing real promise. Through peer discussion and practical activities, participants will explore student success practices, artificial intelligence, distance education and RSI, and effective ways to communicate institutional outcomes and value. The session will also include a candid Q&A about ACCJC's possible move to a 10-year accreditation cycle and what that could mean for colleges. Bring your questions, share what is working at your institution, and learn from the experiences of colleagues across the region. You will leave with new ideas, useful resources, and stronger connections to the ALO community.

RC D & A

CEO/Trustee Forum – Shared Vision at the Governance Level

Presenters/Facilitators: ***Dr. Terry Hartle***, Senior Fellow, American Council on Education; ***Dr. Mac Powell***, President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Join ACCJC President Mac Powell and nationally recognized higher education policy expert Terry Hartle for a timely discussion designed specifically for chief executive officers and trustees. As member institutions navigate significant federal policy and regulatory developments, institutional leaders face important questions about governance, accountability, accreditation, student outcomes, transfer, and the evolving relationship between higher education and government.

This interactive forum will explore the newly released federal regulations and their implications for institutions and governing boards. Participants will examine emerging expectations related to accreditation, accountability, student outcomes, transfer, and institutional policies, and discuss how institutions can prepare for implementation. Attendees will also receive updates on how ACCJC is responding through potential changes to its policies, practices, Standards, and accreditation processes.

Designed to encourage candid discussion among institutional leaders, the forum will provide an opportunity to share perspectives, examine emerging challenges, and consider how CEOs and trustees can work together to strengthen governance, support institutional effectiveness, and advance student success in a period of significant change.

This session is limited to Chief Executive Officers, Chancellors, and Trustees from ACCJC member institutions.

Tuesday, November 17

9:30-11:30 AM

RC F & C

PRECONFERENCE FORUMS

Faculty Forum – Amplifying the Faculty Voice

Presenters/Facilitators: ***Kristin Charles***, Vice President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; ***Christopher Howerton***, Area A Representative, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and Language Arts Faculty, Senate President/Coordinator, Woodland Community College; ***Nickawanna Shaw***, Vice President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; and ***Dr. Eric Wada***, Secretary, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and Professor, Biology, Folsom Lake College

Join faculty colleagues from across our membership for an interactive forum focused on issues that are increasingly shaping teaching, programs, and student success. Through peer discussion, case studies, and practical activities, participants will explore regular and substantive interaction (RSI), the importance of developing clear AI policies and practices, and the increasing federal focus on student earnings and return on investment under new federal financial aid requirements. Together, we'll consider what these developments mean for faculty and how you can leverage your expertise to help ensure that data and policy lead to thoughtful improvement. Bring your questions, share what is working at your institution, and learn from the experiences of colleagues from other institutions. You will leave with new ideas for where to start these vital discussions to forge new connections with faculty colleagues.

11:30 AM-12:30 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:00-6:30 PM POSTER SESSION VIEWING

Exhibit Halls C & D

12:45 -2:00 PM

Exhibit Hall B

OPENING PLENARY ADDRESS

ACCJC Conference Welcome and Introduction

Higher Ed DecodED™

Presenters: ***Dr. Tia Brown McNair***, Author, Becoming a Student-Ready College; Senior Consultant, Sova, in conversation with ***Dr. Mac Powell***, President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Higher education is filled with policies, practices, processes, and expectations that are often difficult to understand—for students and families, and even those who work within the system. Navigating this complex landscape can feel like trying to decipher a language that was never taught. How do we help decode emerging challenges and identify opportunities to improve college access, affordability, student readiness, and pathways to career success for all students? This discussion with Mac Powell, President of ACCJC, and Tia McNair, co-author of Becoming a Student-Ready College and co-host of the soon to be released Higher Ed DecodED™ podcast, will explore how current policies fuel institutional complexity, hidden expectations, and fragmented systems that create unnecessary barriers for students, and those who seek to fulfill the purpose of higher education.





2:00 -2:30 PM

Upper Concourse

BEVERAGE AND SNACK BREAK

Hosted by our Gold Sponsor Harmonize

Tuesday, November 17

2:30-3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1A - 1D

MR 4 & 5

1A: Improving Student Employability and ROI Inside and Outside of the Classroom

Presenters: ***Julie Collier***, Faculty Coordinator, Work Experience & Internship Program and Career Counselor, Folsom Lake College; ***Vivian Dillon***, Faculty Coordinator, Work Experience & Internship Program, American River College; ***Anna Domek***, Counselor, Cosumnes River College, and Instructor, Work Experience & Internship Program, Folsom Lake College; ***Sean O'Keefe***, Founder & CEO, Career Launch; and ***Dr. Niesha Taylor***, Director of Career Readiness, National Association of Colleges and Employers

Student employability is everyone's business. There is a gap in the competencies employers are looking for in their early hires and students' ability to demonstrate proficiency in these competencies. In addition to employer connections and career/advising services, classroom faculty have a unique opportunity to help students develop and demonstrate competencies in every course. This workshop will show you how.

RC D & A

1B: From Friction to Forward Motion: Using Data Coaching and Communities of Practice to Drive Change

Presenters: ***Dr. Erin Craig***, Center for Innovation and Learning Coordinator and Flex Day Coordinator, Golden West College; ***Dr. Hannah Lawler***, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Pasadena City College; ***Meridith Randall***, President, Golden West College; and ***Lauren Sosenko***, Dean of Dual Enrollment and Institutional Effectiveness, Golden West College

Many institutions experience persistent friction from well-identified challenges that stall at discussion rather than leading to sustained action. This session explores how data coaching and communities of practice (CoPs) can transform that friction into forward motion by embedding continuous improvement into the fabric of campus culture. Drawing on the experience of Golden West College and Pasadena City College, presenters will illustrate how intentional data coaching and CoPs create the conditions for collaboration, trust, and shared ownership of outcomes.

Participants will engage with practical approaches to launching and sustaining CoPs that move beyond conversation to coordinated action. The session will highlight strategies for leveraging data as a tool for inquiry, strengthening cross-functional partnerships, and navigating difficult but necessary conversations. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to build momentum, align efforts across campus, and translate collective learning into measurable improvements in student success.

2:30-3:45 PM

RC E & B

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1A - 1D CONTINUED...

1C: Planning for the Long-term in the Midst of Chaos: Balancing Urgency and Strategy in Community College Leadership While Managing the Present

Presenters: ***Dr. Daren M. Otten***, Superintendent/President, Copper Mountain College; ***Dr. Torence Powell***, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District

When everything feels urgent, reactionary, and high stakes, how do leaders make space for the future? This session goes beyond theory, offering real leadership moves for balancing pressure, purpose, urgency, and long-term impact while recognizing the political costs, campus climate impacts, and institutional fortitude. Explore how community college leaders are creating focus, stability, and forward momentum in the midst of constant change and competing priorities.

The presenters will discuss creating conditions and circumstances that leaders can use to guide their campuses through priorities, crisis, and compliance. They will share how, as college presidents, they created a culture of shared accountability to address accreditation concerns and applied key leadership attributes to navigate the uncertainty facing higher education.

RC F & C

1D: Modernizing Articulation with Responsible AI: What's Working, What We're Learning, What's Next

Presenter: ***Angikaar Singh Chana***, Chief Operating Officer, CourseWise by Equivalence Systems (EQS), and Managing Partner, AI Transfer & Articulation Infrastructure Network (ATAIN)

The AI Transfer and Articulation Infrastructure Network (ATAIN) is a national initiative that supports colleges and universities in modernizing transfer and credit evaluation using CourseWise—an AI-powered platform informed by UC Berkeley research and guided by faculty expertise. ATAIN helps institutions make credit decisions more transparent and efficient by consolidating course equivalencies, surfacing AI-informed equivalency suggestions, supporting articulation workflows, and providing analytics that help campuses see where transfer pathways break down.

Tuesday, November 17

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Exhibit Hall B

PLENARY ADDRESS

The New Federal Landscape: Higher Education at a Turning Point

Presenter: ***Dr. Terry Hartle***, Senior Fellow, American Council on Education

For decades, federal policy has shaped the relationship between colleges, accreditors, students, and the public. Today, that relationship is changing in significant ways. As policymakers place increasing emphasis on accountability, student outcomes, transfer, affordability, and return on investment, institutions are entering a period of unprecedented regulatory and public scrutiny.

In this plenary address, Terry Hartle will examine how the federal role in higher education has evolved, the forces driving today's policy debates, and the major regulatory proposals now under consideration. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the changing expectations facing colleges and universities and the potential implications for accreditation, institutional practice, student success, and public confidence in higher education.



5:15 - 6:30 PM

Exhibit Halls C & D

RECEPTION

Opening Reception and Poster Session

Hosted by our Platinum Sponsor, the Lumina Foundation

The poster session will take place during the opening reception, sponsored by Platinum Sponsor, the Lumina Foundation. Join us for drinks, appetizers, conversation, and networking and enjoy the showcase of high-impact practices and outcomes throughout ACCJC membership. *Hors d'oeuvres will be served; cash bar.*

Lumina™ FOUNDATION

Wednesday, November 18

7:30 AM - 3:30 PM CHECK-IN / REGISTRATION DESK / SPONSOR EXHIBITS OPEN AND POSTER VIEWING

Upper Concourse and Exhibit Halls C & D

7:45 - 8:45 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Upper Concourse and Exhibit Hall B

9:00 - 10:15 AM PLENARY ADDRESS

Exhibit Hall B

Day 2 Welcome and Introduction

Shared Vision, Shared Voice: Leading Through Change

Presenters: ***Dr. Sonya Christian***, Chancellor, California Community Colleges and ***Wendy F. Hensel***, President, University of Hawai'i in conversation with ***Dr. Mac Powell***, President, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

A conversation with two of ACCJC member institutions' leading voices exploring the challenges and opportunities facing colleges and universities in a rapidly changing environment. From shifting federal policies and public expectations to workforce needs, student success, and institutional sustainability, this discussion will examine the critical role two-year institutions play in expanding opportunity and strengthening communities.

Together, the panelists will explore how higher education leaders can respond to change while maintaining focus on student success, institutional mission, and public trust. The conversation will also consider the importance of collaboration, innovation, and effective governance in ensuring that colleges remain responsive to the needs of students, employers, and the communities they serve. Ample time for audience Q&A will be provided.







10:15 - 10:30 AM BEVERAGE BREAK

Upper Concourse

Wednesday, November 18

10:30-11:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2A - 2D

RC D & A

2A: Advancing Student Success through Innovative Industry Partnerships

Presenters: ***Stacy Gleixner,*** Vice President of Instruction, Foothill College; ***Kari Irwin***, Dean, Workforce Program Innovation & Partnerships, Saddleback College; ***Dr. Elaine Kuo***, Director of Research and Planning, Foothill College; ***Teresa Ong***, Vice President, Workforce Innovation & Economic Development, Foothill College; and ***Tram Vo-Kumamoto***, Vice President for Instruction, Saddleback College

The growth and stability of the economy rest on a skilled workforce, strong business sustainability and personal prosperity. Discover how two colleges have partnered with industry organizations, particularly in specialized trades and manufacturing, to address industry needs, provide direct career tracks, and increase outcomes for students.

MR 4 & 5

2B: Beyond the Dashboard: Cultivating a Campus-Wide Data Culture

Presenters: ***Mallory Newell***, Director of Research, Planning and Accreditation, De Anza College; ***Thad Russell***, Vice President of Instruction, Porterville College; and ***Ram Subramaniam***, Vice President of Instruction, De Anza College

How can colleges move beyond surface-level data to identify and close achievement gaps and improve student outcomes? This session explores how two colleges have created a culture of data that informs decision-making, targeted interventions, and supports a culture of continuous improvement. Participants will learn practical strategies for building data transparency, engaging diverse stakeholders, and turning insights into measurable student success.

10:30-11:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2A - 2D CONTINUED...

RC E & B

2C: Dual Enrollment: Maintaining Quality, Increasing Success, and Ensuring Growth

Presenters: ***Richard Aguilar***, Director of Dual Enrollment, Reedley College; ***Jason Curtis***, Vice President of Instruction, Cuesta College; ***Sandra Fuentes***, Dean of Early College, Reedley College; and ***Anthony Overton***, Associate Director of Instruction for Dual Enrollment/CCAP, Cuesta College

How can colleges ensure that early college experiences translate into long-term student success? This session will explore how two colleges have reimagined dual enrollment as a vehicle to improve student success, from onboarding and advising to course design and faculty support. Participants will examine innovative models that preserve instructional quality, strengthen high school–college partnerships, and intentionally align pathways to credentials and careers.

RC F & C

2D: RSI: Beyond Compliance - Feedback that Grows Community Engagement and Student Success

Presenters: ***Dr. Tania Anders***, Academic Senate President; ***Dr. Kelly Fowler***, Vice President, Instruction; ***Dr. Martha Garcia***, President; and ***Patricia Quiñones***, Director, Research; all of Mt. San Antonio College

Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) has taken bold steps to strengthen student success in online learning by rethinking how institutions support Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI). In this session, campus leaders share their journey to redesign online teaching practices and implement consistent, meaningful outreach to students. Participants will hear how the college approached RSI as more than a compliance requirement, using it instead as a framework to improve engagement, connection, and student outcomes in the online environment. Attendees will leave with practical insights and strategies for strengthening online learning practices and building more supportive virtual learning experiences for students.

Wednesday, November 18

11:45 AM-12:45 PM PLATED LUNCH

Exhibit Hall B

Hosted by Platinum Sponsor, College Futures Foundation

COLLEGE FUTURES

1:00-2:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3A - 3D

MR 4 & 5

3A: Fostering a Sense of Belonging that Transforms the Student Experience and Ensures Success

Presenters: ***Oleg Bespalov***, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness; ***Dr. John Forbes***, Vice President of Academic Affairs; ***Dr. Tracy Tennenhouse***, Faculty, English and Innovation Coordinator; and ***Rena Weiss***, Faculty, Mathematics and Innovation Coordinator; all of Moorpark College

Moorpark College, a two-time Aspen Prize runner-up and Top 10 finalist in 2023 and 2025, highlights its efforts to expand opportunity for every student who wishes to unlock their potential through education and career training, supplying the resources and support they need to build a successful future and provide for their family. Established by the Aspen Institute, the Aspen Prize honors community colleges that demonstrate what's possible when equity and excellence go hand in hand.

RC D & A

3B: From Plans to Payoff: Turning Institutional Planning into Measurable Student Value

Presenters: ***Dr. Brent Calvin***, Superintendent/President; ***Dr. Sarah Harris***, Curriculum and Outcomes Assessment Coordinator; ***Jessica Morrison***, Assistant Superintendent, Vice President of Student Services; ***Dr. Mehmet "Dali" Ozturk***, Dean of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness; and ***Dr. Jesse Wilcoxson***, Assistant Superintendent, Vice President of Academic Services; all of College of the Sequoias

College of the Sequoias will showcase how it has built and sustained a disciplined, integrated planning process that drives continuous, institution-wide improvement. This session will demonstrate how intentional planning structures are consistently applied to align priorities, engage stakeholders, and foster innovation. With a focus on student employment outcomes and return on investment, presenters will illustrate how planning moves beyond process to produce measurable results. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for translating planning into tangible gains in student success, economic mobility, and institutional effectiveness.

1:00-2:00 PM

RC E & B

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3A - 3D CONTINUED...

3C: AI in the Classroom: Preparing Students for Learning, Work, and Life

Presenters: ***Dr. Dyanne Marte***, CCC AI Faculty Fellow, Arts Division PD Trainer, and Department Chair of Fashion, American River College; ***Marina D. McLaughlin***, Instructor, ESL, Mt. San Antonio College; and ***Sonia Ortega***, Professor, ESL, Mt. San Antonio College

AI is changing how students learn and what they need to succeed after college. This session examines how faculty are integrating AI into instruction in practical, discipline-specific ways while maintaining academic integrity and supporting meaningful student learning.

Presenters will share classroom strategies that move beyond detection and restriction, focusing instead on building transferable skills, guiding responsible AI use, and adapting instruction to an AI-enabled environment. The session also explores how faculty can redesign assignments and learning experiences so they remain relevant, engaging, and useful for students' academic, professional, and everyday lives.

RC F & C

3D: Applied Bachelor's Degrees: Accelerating Student Time to Completion and Increasing ROI

Presenters: ***Dr. Lauri L. Dreher***, Associate Dean of Articulation and Academic Partnerships; ***Dr. Amy Smith***, Academic Partnerships & Pathways Specialist; both of Yavapai College

Not just a success story. This is a blueprint for doing it right. Explore how Yavapai College balanced innovation with responsibility to deliver for both a faster option to a living wage for students and the skills needed to support stakeholder success.

Wednesday, November 18

2:15 -3:15 PM

Exhibit Hall B

CLOSING PLENARY ADDRESS

Leading Forward: The Community College Imperative in a Time of Change

Presenter: ***David S. Baime***, Senior Vice President, Public Purpose & National Advocacy, American Association of Community Colleges

Community colleges have long served as engines of opportunity, economic mobility, workforce development, and civic engagement. Yet at a time of growing public expectations and significant policy change, institutions are increasingly being called upon not only to demonstrate their value, but also to lead through innovation, accountability, and collaboration.

In this plenary address, David Baime will explore how community colleges can respond to the challenges and opportunities of this moment while strengthening public trust and advancing student success. Drawing on national trends and policy developments, he will discuss the unique role community colleges play in serving students and communities, the importance of institutional adaptation and improvement, and the opportunities for colleges to help shape the future rather than simply react to it.



3:15 -3:30 PM

Exhibit Hall B

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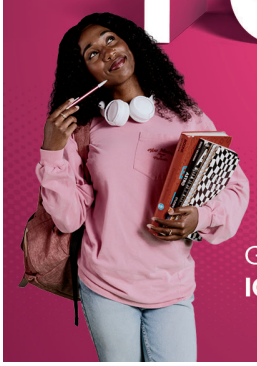
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