

Meauxmentum Summit Speakers

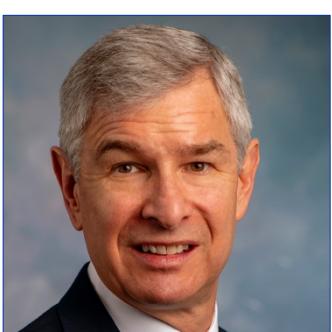
Dr. Jodi Bailey Accavallo



Dr. Jodi Bailey Accavallo serves as Vice President for Student Affairs at Temple University, where she oversees comprehensive student support services for over 30,000 students. She brings extensive experience in student success innovation, enrollment management, and cross-divisional collaboration. Prior, Dr. Bailey Accavallo served as Vice President for Student Development and Community Engagement at New Jersey City University, where she championed initiatives supporting first-generation and low-income students, including establishing emergency funds, food pantries, and community-based counseling. She earned her Ph.D. in Education Research, Assessment and Program Evaluation from Seton Hall University, focusing on retention strategies for underserved student populations.

Dr. Kenn Barron

Dr. Mark Becker



Mark P. Becker, Ph.D., is a nationally recognized leader in higher education, known for driving large-scale institutional transformation, advancing student success, and championing evidence-based innovation. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Commission for Public Higher Education, is President Emeritus of Georgia State University, and was President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities following Georgia State.

Dr. Brent Drake

Dr. Brent Drake is the Senior Vice President for Operations and Research at the John N. Gardner Institute. Previously, he served for five years as the Vice Provost of Decision Support at UNLV, and he was with Purdue University for 17 years, spending the last five years of his tenure as the Chief Data Officer. Brent, also, is the current chair of the Board of the Association of Institutional Research. He presents and publishes on several topics including motivational models, retention enhancing programs, business



intelligence and data analytics, enrollment and student completion predictive modeling, and student success efforts.

Dr. Kevin Grubb



Kevin Grubb is the Vice President for Work-Based Learning at Strada Education Foundation, where he leads initiatives ensuring students access meaningful work experiences. Previously, he served as Villanova University's inaugural Chief Career Officer and Associate Vice Provost, pioneering innovative career pathways and community-driven strategies to scale career readiness. He is a sought-after adviser on higher education's role in workforce readiness and economic mobility. He holds a Master of Arts from New York University and a Bachelor of Science from Saint Joseph's University.

Kevin is also a Professional Certified Coach and Gallup Certified Strengths Coach.

Dr. Greg Heileman

Dr. Raishall Johnson

Dr. Hana Lahr



Hana Lahr is the assistant director of research and the director of applied learning at the Community College Research Center. She has conducted research on the change management process, advising reforms, onboarding students into programs, and the costs of large-scale reforms. Hana is interested in how colleges approach the change management process, how colleges adapt reforms to their state and institutional context, and how these reforms change the student experience and impact student outcomes. As the director of applied learning at CCRC, Hana focuses on translating research into practical guidance that can help support organizational learning and reform.

Dr. Heidi Leming



Dr. Leming is Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Strategic Partnerships at the Tennessee Board of Regents, where she has led initiatives in accessibility, global education, and support for low-income, adult, and veteran students over the past eleven years. She also teaches in East Tennessee State University's Community College Leadership program and serves as adjunct faculty at Middle Tennessee State University. With 30 years in higher education, she earned NASPA's inaugural Public Policy Division Award in 2025.

Dr. Ryan Maltese



Dr. Maltese has spent more than two decades in higher education administration, serving in a variety of roles across development, academic affairs, student affairs and student success. As Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, Dr. Maltese is responsible for the coordination of the overall student retention effort at Morgan State University. He provides high-touch, quality support for students from admission to graduation, managing a complementary system of continuity across the undergraduate life cycle, with the goal of continuously increasing the university's retention

and graduation rates.

Dr. DeRionne Pollard



Dr. DeRionne Pollard was named president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in July of 2025. Her passion for higher education has driven her leadership in several roles, most recently as the president of Nevada State University, Montgomery College (MD), and Las Positas College (CA). Dr. Pollard's career in higher education began in the classroom teaching English and she remains deeply committed to life-long learning for her students and herself. A student-centered ethos is at the core of her leadership, and she is a champion for access, fairness, and opportunity for all. Throughout her career, Dr. Pollard's vision has been grounded in a belief that higher education is a pillar of economic mobility and community strength.

Dr. Justin Shaffer



Justin Shaffer is an Associate Dean and Teaching Professor at the [Colorado School of Mines](#). Justin is the author of the book [High Structure Course Design](#) which gives practical advice for creating engaging STEM courses and the creator of the [Alignment](#) and [Practice](#) card decks. Justin is an [award-winning educator](#) who has taught 9000+ students since 2012 across STEM and conducts research on the efficacy of course design and related topics. Justin is the founder of [Recombinant Education](#) where he provides workshops and services for faculty and administrators on course and curriculum design and using evidence-based teaching practices.

Angie Pellerin

Angie Pellerin serves as Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Success at LSU Shreveport where she drives transformation efforts aimed at enhancing the holistic development and success of all students. She oversees first-year experience, student success initiatives, and retention efforts, while guiding career services, academic success, and academic advising teams. With a background in counseling, holistic wellness, and teaching, she brings experience in student development and neuroscience to her data-driven, student-centered leadership. Leveraging her position with intentionality, she strives to remove systemic barriers and create a supportive ecosystem that fosters belonging and resilience and empowers students.

Summer Serpas



Summer Serpas is a Professor of English at Irvine Valley College, where she also coordinates The Hub, IVC's Center for Professional Learning, while teaching in the English Department's corequisite program. Summer has led remediation reform on her campus and, in her role as Assistant Director of the California Acceleration Project from 2016 to 2022, across California, leading statewide professional development programs and working with faculty, administrators, state legislators, and the Board of Governors. Additionally, she has worked with colleges and statewide higher education systems across the country, including Nevada, Texas, Colorado, Connecticut, and Louisiana, to support developmental education reform.



Dr. Brandon Smith

Brandon Smith is Senior Associate Vice President at the John N. Gardner Institute, where he leads national efforts focused on improving student success through systems level change in postsecondary education. His research centers on curricular analytics, organizational innovation, and the use of improvement science to support institutional transformation across diverse college and university contexts. Previously, he served as a faculty member and academic administrator, including most recently as an Associate Dean for Student Success. Brandon holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership and brings a practitioner scholar lens to large scale change work.

Dr. Al Solano



Dr. Al Solano is Founder of the Continuous Learning Institute. He helps colleges turn strategy into sustained practice. A firm believer in kindness as core leadership work, he partners with institutions to design and implement homegrown practices that move the needle on student success. His work emphasizes practical tools, a coachable system, and durable culture change so improvements last long after any single initiative ends. His coaching model has been recognized by Columbia University's Community College Research Center for improving morale and organizational outcomes that support student success.

Dr. C. Edward Watson



C. Edward Watson, Ph.D., is the Vice President for Digital Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and is the former director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia. He is also the founding director of AAC&U's [Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum](#). His most recent publications are [Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning](#) (second edition, 2025), [Leading Through Disruption: Higher Education Executives Assess AI's Impacts on Teaching and Learning](#) (2025), and the [Student Guide to AI](#) (2025).

Dr. Sarah Whitley



Sarah E. Whitley is a first-generation college graduate. From 2017 - 2024, Sarah served as inaugural leader and executive vice president of NASPA's Center for First-generation Student Success. With 20+ years of experience as faculty, administrator, researcher, and association executive, her expertise spans continuous improvement and implementation science, systemic change, strategic planning, basic needs support, student transitions, and university governance.

Dr. Mary-Ann Winkelmes



Dr. Winkelmes is the founder and director of the Transparency in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education project (TILT Higher Ed). On six continents, TILT has improved postsecondary students' skill development, persistence, and belonging. Dr. Winkelmes has held senior leadership roles in the campus teaching centers at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of Nevada Las Vegas and has taught Italian Renaissance art and architecture at most of those institutions. She has provided hundreds of keynote addresses, invited workshops, and consultations at colleges, universities, philanthropic institutions, and learning organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Helen Wise

Dr. Helen Wise is Associate Provost at Louisiana State University Shreveport, where she provides leadership in academic affairs, assessment, accreditation, curriculum development, and student success initiatives. A sociologist by training, she holds a PhD in Applied Sociology and has more than 25 years of experience in higher education as a faculty member, administrator, and applied researcher. Her work focuses on student success reform, advising and curricular analytics, and institutional effectiveness. She has led major initiatives related to accreditation, program development, and teaching excellence.



Dr. Todd Zakrajsek



Dr. Todd Zakrajsek recently retired from the UNC–Chapel Hill School of Medicine, where he led faculty development efforts focused on evidence-based teaching and learning. Prior to UNC, he was a tenured associate professor of psychology and helped build faculty development programs at multiple universities. Todd has worked with organizations including Lenovo, Microsoft, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. His work centers on helping faculty create learning environments that help students succeed. He has authored or co-authored seven books in the past six years and has

delivered keynote addresses, campus workshops, and conference presentations across all 50 U.S. states, 12 countries, and 4 continents.

Dr. Nancy Zimpher



Nancy L. Zimpher is President of the National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH), representing America's public higher education systems. She is Chancellor Emeritus of the State University of New York and previously served as SUNY's twelfth chancellor (2009–2017), president of the University of Cincinnati, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and senior academic leader at The Ohio State University. A nationally recognized leader in system-level reform, she is co-founder of StriveTogether and has chaired or served on the boards of APLU, ACE, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.