

2025 ACCA CONFERENCE

Our Story: Alabama's Success



CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK

November 23-25, 2025

Renaissance Hotel & Spa
201 Tallapoosa St, Montgomery, AL 36104

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GET THE CONFERENCE APP!

Attendees at the conference can use the “Cvent Events” App this year for all conference information. The app includes conference schedules, exhibitor lists, maps, and other interactive and social features that can be used on smart phones and tablets. To download the app, open your Apple, Google, etc. app store and search for “Cvent Events.” Once you have downloaded the app, search for “2025 ACCA Conference” and enjoy the features. Or, you can simply scan the QR code to the right to download the app.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Registration - Exhibit Hall B&C

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Public Relations - Riverview Room 4

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

IAA - Instructional Administrators - Montgomery Room 1

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

ACCSISA - Informational Services - Montgomery Room 6

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

IOA - Montgomery Room 7

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

ADSAA - Montgomery Room 8

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Librarians' Association - Riverview Room 1

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Adult Education - Riverview Room 2

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Facilities and Safety - Riverview Room 3

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Newcomers Meeting - Montgomery Room 5

2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Chancellor's Awards

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Chancellor's Awards Reception **featuring**
Gadsden State Community College

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Registration - Exhibit Hall B&C

7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Vendor Expo - Exhibit Hall B&C

7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.

Breakfast - Exhibit Hall B&C

8:00 A.M. – 8:40 A.M.

General Session I - Alabama Ballrooms A&B

Posting of the Colors

National Anthem – Dr. Nicole Bell

Welcome – Dr. Donitha Griffin, ACCA President

Introduction of Mayor Steven Reed – Dr. Donitha Griffin

Remarks – Mayor Steven Reed

Conference Announcement – Dr. Brock Kelley

Southern Union Sound and SU Dancers

8:40 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.

Introduction of Inky Johnson – Mr. Olivier Charles

8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

Keynote Address

Inky Johnson, former University of Tennessee football player

10:00 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.

Breakout Session I

(Keynote Speaker for Commission on Workforce)

Breakout Sessions offered for Faculty, Administration, Support,
and Students

11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.

Breakout Session II

(Keynote Speaker for Commission on Faculty)

Breakout Sessions offered for Workforce, Administration,
Support, and Students

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Networking Luncheon - Exhibit Hall B&C

(Exemplary Program Finalist Announced)

1:15 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Breakout Session III

(Keynote Speaker for Commission on Students)

Breakout Sessions offered for Faculty, Administration, Support,
Workforce

2:10 P.M. – 2:55 P.M.

Breakout Session IV

(Keynote Speaker for Commission on Administration)

Breakout Sessions offered for Faculty, Workforce, Support,
Students

CONFERENCE AGENDA

3:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.

Break

3:30 P.M. – 4:25 P.M.

Breakout Session V

(Keynote Speaker for Commission on Support)
Breakout Sessions offered for Faculty, Workforce, Administration, Students

4:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Commission Meetings (Selecting Co-Chairs)

Commission on Workforce - Riverview Room 1
Commission on Faculty - Riverview Room 2
Commission on Students - Riverview Room 3
Commission on Administration - Riverview Room 4
Commission on Support Staff - Riverview Room 5

DINNER IS ON YOUR OWN

8:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.

Networking Social (Dance) - Ballrooms C,D&E

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

7:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

Vendor Expo - Exhibit Hall B&C

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.

Breakfast - Exhibit Hall B&C

8:35 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

Breakout Session VI

9:45 A.M. – 10:25 A.M.

General Session II - Alabama Ballrooms A&B
Introduction of M.C. Brown – Mr. Olivier Charles
Keynote Address
Dr. M.C. Brown, Executive Director – Payne Center for Social Justice

10:25 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Dr. Donitha Griffin introduces Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker

10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Remarks: Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker

11:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.

Closing Session
(Exemplary Program Winners Announced)

11:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

ACCA Business Meeting



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Message

Welcome to the 2025 Alabama Community College Association Conference!

It is a joy to gather together for another year of learning, connection, and celebration. This conference is a time for us to be reenergized and reminded of the incredible work being done every day across Alabama's community colleges.

We are thrilled to host an outstanding lineup of speakers who will both challenge and inspire us. Among them is the incredible Inky Johnson, whose journey of perseverance and purpose will leave us motivated to continue pushing forward in our fields and to inspire our students to thrive.

On Sunday afternoon, we will celebrate excellence at the Chancellor's Awards Ceremony, recognizing the exceptional faculty and staff who make an impact on our campuses and in our communities. I encourage everyone to attend and stay for the reception immediately following the ceremony as we honor their achievements.

And don't forget to bring your dancing shoes! **Join us Monday night for the ACCA Dance:** "Boots on the Ground," featuring a live band, DJ, and plenty of fun on the dance floor. The celebration will take place in the Renaissance Ballrooms C, D, and E — it's sure to be a night to remember!

Thank you for being here and for all you do to support Alabama's students, communities, and workforce. **Let's make this a conference full of inspiration, collaboration, and joy.**

Warm regards,
Dr. Donitha Griffin
President, Alabama Community College Association



DR. DONITHA GRIFFIN, PRESIDENT
Alabama Community College Association

CHANCELLOR BAKER

Welcome to the 2025 Alabama Community College Association (ACCA) Conference!

Each year, the ACCA committee works diligently to provide attendees with enriching professional development and networking opportunities, making it one of my favorite events of the year. I can't think of a better theme for this year's conference than to tell "Our Story: Alabama's Success."

What comes to your mind when you think about our story?

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) story is 60+ years strong.

While it's always important to reflect on the past and how we got here, the success we are currently achieving as a system is a story you should all be proud to tell.

We serve more than 182,000 individuals, leading to success you see through many of our institutions continuing to establish record enrollments.

Our story is one that provides world-class, affordable training for students, fulfilling the growing workforce needs in Alabama. We are the premier workforce training entity in the state, producing your local machinists, medical assistants, nurses and welders or providing a successful foundation for students to transfer to a four-year institution. Those opportunities breed successful and life-altering stories.

The ACCS Innovation Center's Skills for Success training has success engrained in its name and is also carving a niche in the state's footprint. None of this momentum is possible without the dedication and positive impact that our faculty, staff and administration put forth every day. While there is a lot to be proud of, this story doesn't have an ending. **We must continue to work hard, adapt to change and embrace all challenges that arise.**

Once again, I'm thankful this conference is of utmost importance to you, and thank you for being a valuable member of the Alabama Community College System!

Warm regards!



CHANCELLOR JIMMY H. BAKER
Alabama Community College System

NEWCOMERS SESSION

Your ACCA Journey Starts Here: The Newcomers' Welcome

A Dedicated Session for First-Time Conference Attendees

Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 5

New to the ACCA Conference?

Think of this as your personal concierge service for the week! Join us for a casual, essential session designed exclusively for first-time attendees. We'll demystify the program, share insider tips for effective networking, and map out exactly how to connect with the right people and the right resources. This is your chance to meet peers, understand the core mission of ACCA, and leave feeling confident, connected, and ready to get the most out of every moment.

Boots on the Ground

BAND - DJ - DANCING
NOVEMBER 24
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM



WHERE?
Renaissance Hotel &
Spa Ballroom C, D, & E

Dust off your boots, grab your hats, and come dressed in your best western attire!

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2025 ACCA Conference features 600+ leaders, inspiring speakers like Inky Johnson, and 30+ sessions on student success and workforce development!

INKY JOHNSON

Don't miss Inky Johnson's inspiring keynote address

Join us for an inspiring keynote address by Inkey Johnson at the 2025 Alabama Community College Association Annual Conference. Inkey Johnson is not just a former college football player; **he is a motivational speaker, author, and community leader who has overcome tremendous challenges.**

His unique life experiences and unwavering resilience make him a compelling figure who will inspire attendees to embrace their potential and pursue excellence.

Inkey's story is one of triumph over adversity, and **he brings a powerful message about perseverance, leadership, and the importance of education.**

This is an invaluable opportunity for participants to learn and grow from one of today's most impactful speakers.



SCAN FOR INKY
JOHNSON'S
YOUTUBE CHANNEL!



“ We all face adversity, but it's how we respond that defines us—my body may be paralyzed, but my heart, mind, dedication, work ethic, and commitment remain strong. ”

M.C. BROWN

Tuesday, November 26

9:45 a.m.- 10:25 a.m.

M. Christopher Brown II, Ph.D., is an accomplished scholar and higher education leader with more than 30 years of experience across research universities, land-grant institutions, HBCUs, and nonprofit organizations. A respected academic and institutional administrator, he has founded and led major research centers—including the Atwood Institute on Race, Education, and the Democratic Ideal and the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute at UNCF. Dr. Brown is the author or editor of 20 books and more than 100 publications on education, governance, and society. He currently serves as Executive Director and Research Scientist of the Dr. N. Payne Center for Social Justice at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, guiding independent research that advances innovative ideas related to social justice and the role of HBCUs.



Dr. Brown's career includes senior leadership roles such as President of Alcorn State University and Kentucky State University, Executive Vice President and Provost of both Fisk University and the Southern University System, and Dean of the College of Education at the University of Nevada–Las Vegas. Across these posts, he has been recognized for enrollment growth, institutional redesign, academic innovation, successful fundraising, and major improvements in student success and campus operations. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Dr. Brown holds degrees from South Carolina State University, the University of Kentucky, and Pennsylvania State University and has received numerous national awards for his contributions to education, diversity, and leadership.

RENAISSANCE
MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA
AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

The map shows the following areas and features:

- Alabama Ballroom:** Divided into sections A, B, C, D, and E. Section A is labeled "General Session".
- Convention Center:** Divided into sections A, B, and C. Section B is labeled "Vendor Expo" and "Meals".
- Registration:** Indicated by a yellow star and a yellow box labeled "Registration" in the Convention Center area.
- Chancellor Awards:** Located in section A of the Convention Center.
- Commission Speakers:** Located in section E of the Alabama Ballroom.
- Other Areas:** The House, Lobby Bar, Guest Rooms, Registration Desk, Prefunction Space, Restrooms, Elevator To Parking Deck, Elevator 6 Stairs Up, Elevator Up, Box Office, MPAC ATRIUM, MPAC, Main Entrance, Porcio, The Exchange, and TALLAPOOSA STREET.



RENAISSANCE®
MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA
AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

Second Floor

SUNDAY:
 Association Meetings
 Newcomers Meetings

MON. & TUES.:
 Breakout Sessions
 Commission Meetings

Riverview Meeting Rooms

Montgomery Meeting Rooms

Starlight Foyer

Garage/Elevators

Stairs & Elevator

Women's Restroom

Men's Restroom

Restrooms

Administration & Sales

Guest Room Elevators

Walkway to Parking Deck & Spa Elevator

Elevator to Garage & Spa (8th Floor)

Commerce Street

Bibb Street

Molton Street

TallaPoosa Street



COMMISSION SPEAKERS



COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

DR. KYLE SEARCY



Dr. Kyle Searcy is a leadership coach, author, and organizational strategist with **over 30 years of experience in developing high-performing teams and guiding organizations through growth**. As the Founder and CEO of KCS Leadership, he trains executives and community leaders in leadership alignment and team development. He is the author of 28 books, including *Power of Passion* and *The Seven Levels of Intimacy in Leadership*, and holds degrees in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Theology. Known for his engaging presentations, **Dr. Searcy combines practical leadership strategies with real-world experiences**, and he is passionate about empowering individuals and organizations to reach their highest potential.



COMMISSION ON FACULTY

DR. DEREK GREENFIELD



Dr. Derek Greenfield is a visionary and transformational educator and leader with **over 30 years of professional experience as a difference maker**. A former youth worker, tenured community college instructor, three-time chief diversity officer, and two-time university vice president, **Dr. Greenfield now travels the country delivering powerful workshops and keynotes for colleges, conferences, and industry-leading organizations** such as Visa, CBS Sports, Tinder, Sysco, and over 250 colleges and universities.



COMMISSION ON STUDENTS

DR. KRISTA HARRELL



Dr. Krista Harrell is the Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations at Old Dominion University. As the chief administrator and strategist for the Old Dominion University Alumni Association, **she leads alumni engagement efforts for a community of over 176,000 alumni worldwide**. Dr. Harrell plays a pivotal role in advancing ODU's alumni relations initiatives and serves on the senior leadership team of the Vice President for University Advancement. Before joining ODU, **she spent a decade at the University of South Alabama, where she served as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs**.



COMMISSION ON SUPPORT

DR. PRECIOUS STEELE BOYLE



Dr. Precious Steele Boyle is the **CEO of Silent Rock Educational Services, LLC, with nearly 25 years of experience in education and coaching**. As a Goleman Emotional Intelligence Certified Coach, she specializes in helping leaders align their identity with their actions, fostering authenticity, courage, and clarity. Dr. Precious has collaborated with organizations like The Disney Company and Toastmasters International. **She is dedicated to designing impactful leadership programs and supporting leaders during pivotal moments**.



COMMISSION ON WORKFORCE

DR. SHANNON ALLEN



Shannon Allen is the Executive Director of Future Talent Strategies at Innovate Alabama, where **she is dedicated to enhancing Alabama's tech ecosystem by developing a future-ready workforce**. She leads initiatives that connect education with high-growth industries, focusing on entrepreneurship and technical fields like cybersecurity, computer engineering, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. With over a decade of experience in strategic partnerships and economic development, **Shannon has secured more than \$4 million in funding to connect thousands of students to real-world tech opportunities**, transforming how Alabama attracts and retains tech talent for a brighter future.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS



DID YOU KNOW?

Shannon Allen is shaping Alabama's tech future, connecting students to industries like AI and cybersecurity with over \$4 million in funding!

Commission on Workforce FEATURED COMMISSION SPEAKER

DR. SHANNON ALLEN
Alabama Ballrooms C&D

Shannon Allen is deeply committed to Alabama’s tech ecosystem, driving innovative strategies to build a future-ready workforce. As the Executive Director of Future Talent Strategies at Innovate Alabama, she leads statewide initiatives that bridge the gap between education and high-growth industries, with a special focus on entrepreneurship and technical fields such as cybersecurity, computer engineering, artificial intelligence and data analytics. Her work is actively shaping Alabama’s talent pipeline — connecting thousands of students to real-world tech opportunities and empowering organizations through more than \$4 million dollars in strategic funding.

With over a decade of experience in strategic partnerships, economic development and creative leadership, **Shannon is transforming the way Alabama cultivates, attracts, and retains tech talent.** Her commitment to innovation and impact is helping to ensure that the future of tech in Alabama is bright.

The Student Readiness Crisis: How Pandemic Disruptions Are Shaping Higher Education’s Future

Tara Zirkel - EAB

Learning Objective: Pandemic-era declines in student readiness threaten college and career success. With rising absenteeism, lower test scores, and mental health barriers, this session explores the academic and social gaps students face—and how institutions can adapt to close them.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 1

Strategic Allies: How Community College Leaders can Leverage Their Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research

Lindsay Hutcherson - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research (OIER) plays a pivotal role that extends far beyond mere compliance functions. This guide outlines key strategies for integrating OIER into your community college’s leadership teams and planning initiatives, while also enhancing the impactful use of data for institutional storytelling.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

Leading from the Middle: Achieving Your #1-ness by Embracing Your #2-ness

Tim Allston - Allston Communications Inc.

Learning Objective: Identify the unique value and leverage points of SMLs in their organization. Apply selected A SILVERPATH principles to strengthen collaboration, accountability, and decision-making. Reframe their leadership narrative — or that of their team — from “overlooked” to “indispensable.”

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

No Candy For You: Program Recruitment on a Tight Budget

Connor Chauveaux - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Discover our budget-savvy recruitment strategies at "No Candy For You: Program Recruitment on a Tight Budget." Learn how we maximize community events, partnerships with local organizations and employers, and cultivate connections with high schools, judges, and police officers.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

The A.I. Spell Book

Christopher Grogan - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: The objective of this presentation is to provide actionable advice to instructors in order to enable thorough, timely assessment and feedback for large, complicated academic projects.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Healing the Healers: Recognizing and Overcoming Compassion Fatigue for Health Sciences Faculty

Melanie Caldwell - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: This session offers a reflective space to recognize the signs of compassion fatigue, understand its impact, and explore evidence-based strategies to restore well-being. Participants will gain tools to manage stress, build resilience, and promote a culture of self-care in health sciences education.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

Closing the Learning Gap: Helping Digital Natives Use Canvas to Learn Effectively

Lori Bowden - Wallace State Community College | Hanceville

Learning Objective: This session helps faculty identify misconceptions about digital natives, analyze how course design affects learning in Canvas, apply consistent naming and navigation, and leave with one actionable change to improve student success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 7

As our students are evolving, is our instruction adapting? Increasing Active Learning in the classroom.

Jennifer Maness - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: Composing instructional approaches that promote improved student achievement by integrating active learning methods in the classroom.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. -10:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

Phi Theta Kappa: Telling the Stories of Alabama--Writing the Next Chapter of Student Success!

Liesl Harris - Jefferson State Community College

Learning Objective:
 Participants will gain:
 1. A better understanding of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors in Action program.
 2. Knowledge about the HIA program by analyzing recent projects and stories shared by PTK students.
 3. Awareness of the benefits that PTK offers to students in crafting their own stories.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

How to use Block Scheduling

Philip Urbanek - State Community College

Learning Objective: To learn how to use the block scheduling function in Banner.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

FUN FACT

Over 600 leaders gather at the ACCA Conference to shape the future of Alabama's community colleges!

Beyond the Grade: Preparing Career-Ready Graduates Through Mindset and Mission

Yaw Adoo - Morris Brown College

Learning Objective: Participants will explore how the A.D.O.O. Framework™ enhances student success, workforce readiness, and equitable advising by integrating mindset development, self-leadership, and personalized support into student services and workforce pathways.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 5

Recruiting and Retaining Nontraditional Students in Community Colleges

Devan Flowers - Trenholm State Community College

Learning Objective: Student Services professionals will engage in a comprehensive review of recent research focusing on effective recruitment and retention strategies utilized across Alabama Community College System (ACCS) community colleges. Through this analysis, participants will identify key findings and collaboratively discuss best practices aimed at enhancing student engagement and success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 6

Navigating College with Confidence: A Frontloading Approach to Student Preparedness
Sheinoura Wise-Nash and Jamekia Richardson - Chattahoochee Valley Community College


Learning Objective: Student Services professionals will engage in a comprehensive review of recent research focusing on effective recruitment and retention strategies utilized across Alabama Community College System (ACCS) community colleges. Through this analysis, participants will identify key findings and collaboratively discuss best practices aimed at enhancing student engagement and success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 7

A Day in the Life of a Success Coach: A Holistic Approach to Student Retention and Success
Darlene Rudolph - Wallace Community College Selma

Learning Objective: Participants will identify best practices in student engagement, including co-created success plans and wraparound support, and recognize the importance of cross-department and high school collaboration to ensure shared accountability and smooth transitions.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 8



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CONFERENCE

Password:

acca2025

Wi-Fi acting up?
Don't worry, our staff can help!



Commission on Faculty
FEATURED COMMISSION SPEAKER

DR. DEREK GREENFIELD
Alabama Ballrooms C&D

Dr. Derek Greenfield is a visionary speaker, consultant, educator, and thought leader dedicated to inclusive excellence and positive change. With his dynamic and interactive approach, creative ideas, track record of success, and sense of humor, Dr. Greenfield has become a highly requested presenter across the globe. His powerful keynotes and workshops on issues such as diversity and inclusion, motivation, team building, student development, Gen Z pedagogy, leadership, and hip-hop culture have been featured at a wide range of conferences, companies, and colleges, including over 250 colleges and universities. Dr. Greenfield's extensive client list is comprised of industry leaders such as CBS Sports, Visa, Tinder, Dow Chemical, Cargill, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, National Black Student Leadership Development Conference, Baltimore Police Department, National Association of Community Health Centers, The Ohio State University Football Team, National Dropout Prevention Conference, Progress Energy, and the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks. With his breadth of knowledge and experience, Dr. Greenfield has been a consultant for hundreds of organizations and appeared on dozens of media outlets from Hot 97 Radio to ESPN.

Following a career as an award-winning youth worker in inner-city Chicago, **Dr. Greenfield spent nearly twenty years in higher education as a faculty member (earning tenure at Highline Community College), two-time university Vice President, and three-time Chief Diversity Officer.** His transformational work has led to national acclaim as a leader in the areas of student success, and he received faculty of the year honors three times. Furthermore, Dr. Greenfield's course "Hip-Hop and American Society" was spotlighted twice in Source magazine as representing the first college course in the nation exclusively devoted to exploring hip-hop culture. In addition to publishing a lengthy list of academic articles, Dr. Greenfield is the author of the widely praised motivational book *The Answer is in Your Hands* and co-editor of the academic book *Exploring Issues of Diversity Within HBCUs*.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology from Northwestern University as well as two doctoral degrees — a PhD from the University of Washington and an EdD from Cape Peninsula University of Technology in South Africa.

Commission on Administration

Emergency Ready: Building a Campus Culture of Preparedness
Tiffany Tiffany - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: Explore strategies to build a cross-functional Emergency Response Team, address gaps in campus trauma readiness, and integrate crisis planning into institutional strategy to enhance preparation and safety.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 1

Commission on Faculty

Launching the Alabama Community College Effectiveness & Research Association (ACCERA): a Statewide Network for Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Student Success
RoseMary Watkins - Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will leave with tangible takeaways on how to leverage a statewide peer network for professional development and strategic planning, and to apply ACCERA's model to strengthen collaboration, planning, and systemwide improvement. The session will extend a formal invitation to join ACCERA.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

Commission on Students

Reimagining Transfer Student Success in Alabama: The EdVisorly & Alabama Transfers Pilot Program in Action
Brandi Stacey - EdVisorly

Learning Objective: Identify how statewide partnerships and AI-powered tools can streamline transfer and reverse transfer processes for community college students. Examine the design and implementation of the EddyAI Navigate Pilot Program, including strategies for aligning institutional needs with student outcomes

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

Commission on Support

CTE Reimagined – Transforming Career and Technical Education for the Future
Klaus Tenbergen - Bishop State Community College

Learning Objective: Student performance and preparation. What and how students learn.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

Commission on Workforce

Confessions of a QEP Director: What I Wish I'd Known
James Malone - Wallace State Community College

Learning Objective: Describe common challenges during the QEP planning and implementation phases and apply practical strategies to address them.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Commission on Workforce

Boost Your Dual Enrollment Game: Strategies That Stick
Lee Conerly - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will be able to apply practical tools and real-world strategies from Coastal Alabama's model to enhance or refine their own Dual Enrollment programs.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

INTERESTING FACT

The ACCA Conference brings together leaders from over 24 colleges, creating a unique platform for networking and collaboration across the education sector!

Commission on Workforce

Leadership From the Ground Up: Building Student Success
Regina Pearce - Drake State Community and Technical College

Learning Objective: Our learning objective is to strengthen ambassador skills in fostering student engagement and belonging, connecting peers to campus resources, and developing leadership, communication, and teamwork abilities for current and future success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 7

Commission on Workforce

Building Bridges: Creating a Connected New Student Orientation Experience at Jefferson State Community College
Amy Henderson - Jefferson State Community College

Learning Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to describe the key components of a student-centered orientation model, explain how CRM tools like TargetX can enhance communication and engagement with students and families, and identify actionable strategies for redesigning orientation program

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m.- 11:50 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

**Beyond the Gradebook:
Reimagining Canvas for Student
Success**

**Alisha Miles - Southern Union
State Community College**

Learning Objective:
Participants will learn to reimagine
Canvas as more than a course tool by
applying practical strategies in
messaging, resource organization, and
interactive engagement, leaving with a
clear next step and at least one
approach to adapt in advising, career
services, or student success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

**First-Gen Forward: Strategies
for Student Persistence and
Retention**

**Shawn Boyd - Dr. Shawn Boyd
Educational Solutions, LLC.**

Learning Objective: Identity &
Belonging – Strengthen their sense of
belonging by connecting their personal
identity to the broader first-gen
community.

Persistence & Retention – Apply proven
strategies that increase persistence and
improve semester-to-semester retention.

College Navigation – Implement best
pract.

Date: Montgomery, November 24
Time: 11:00a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

**CoMeT: Consortium of Machining
Education Training**

**Lisa Morales - Gadsden State
Community College**

Learning Objective: Through this
session, attendees will leave with
practical examples of how collaborative
programs like CoMeT can enhance
student engagement, foster stronger
community and industry connections,
and provide a scalable framework for
addressing workforce shortages.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 6

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Commission on Students
FEATURED COMMISSION SPEAKER

DR. KRISTA HARRELL
Alabama Ballrooms C&D

Dr. Krista Harrell serves as the Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations at Old Dominion University since December 2022. She serves as the chief administrator and strategist for the Old Dominion University Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Relations, providing leadership for all alumni engagement. Dr. Harrell is the leader in cultivating an alumni community of more than 176,000 living alumni throughout the United States and around the world. She plays a strategic role in supporting ODU’s advancement and alumni relations efforts and serves as a key member of the Vice President of University Advancement’s senior leadership team.

Previous to her tenure at ODU, Dr. Harrell worked for 10 years at the University of South Alabama leaving as the assistant vice president for student affairs. At South, she was responsible for fraternity and sorority life, student leadership, university, programming, veterans affairs, counseling, and testing services, educational, accessibility, and disability, resource, Title IX, and other university priorities. **Dr. Harrell has been involved with numerous Student Affairs such as NASPA and ACUI for nearly 20 years as well as CASE since transitioning to Advancement.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Krista Harrell leads an alumni community of 176,000 members at Old Dominion University, driving alumni engagement and advancement!

From Disappointment to Leadership: Building Resilient, Purpose-Driven Leaders for Alabama’s Future
Shywanda Moore - Shelton State Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will learn to reframe disappointment, apply a bounce-back framework, and practice transformational leadership strategies to lead with purpose, resilience, and authenticity in their workplaces.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 1

The Digital Class Syllabus: How software is improving distance learning and academic content quality - all within Canvas
Gina McArthur - Simple Higher Ed

Learning Objective: To learn how 11 Alabama Community Colleges have improved their syllabus process and streamline accreditation reporting with Simple Syllabus. To see Simple Syllabus in action and how it integrates seamlessly with Canvas enabling instructors to complete ADA compliant syllabi directly within Canvas.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

The Power of Partnership: Expanding Rural Alabama’s Access to Higher Education through ACU Advantage & Transfer Pathways
Tara Franklin - Abilene Christian University

Learning Objective: Participants will learn how to design and implement sustainable university–community college partnerships that expand rural access, reduce credit loss, lower costs, and improve transfer completion.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

Charting Our Success: Measuring Our Impact and Progress
Mandy Sessions - Wallace Community College Dothan

Learning Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to outline a 5-year strategic planning process that aligns with accreditation and institutional objectives, utilize effective planning tools for tracking and evaluating progress, identify strategies for engaging stakeholders in campus-wide planning initiatives, and apply key lessons learned to enhance planning and assessment practices.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

"From Concept to Culture: Integrating INACSL Standards into Community College Simulation Practice"

Beth Evans - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Identify key challenges in applying INACSL standards in community college simulation programs.

Discuss strategies to develop simulation infrastructure and faculty support.

Explore accessible tools and resources to enhance simulation quality.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Mental Health Awareness: Identify, Understand, Respond

Anita Boutwell - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective:

1. Address the specific mental health challenges faced by rural populations.
2. Bridge the gap to mental healthcare access.
3. Promote academic success and student well-being.
4. Build stronger, healthier communities.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

Power in the Prompt: Unlocking AI's Full Potential

Wynell Gilbert - Lawson State Community College

Learning Objective: This presentation is designed to help educators and students understand the critical role prompts play in shaping the quality and effectiveness of artificial intelligence (AI) output.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 7

Harnessing the Power of Experience: How to Integrate Experiential Learning in STEM Teaching

Sheree Finley - Wallace Community College Selma

Learning Objective: To equip participants with a conceptual framework and actionable strategies for integrating experiential learning into STEM courses, thereby enhancing student engagement, critical thinking, motivation, and academic success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

"True GRIT: Our Strength, Our Students, Our Success"

Amy LaCount - Northeast Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to define the GRIT framework (Greatness, Resilience, Initiative, and Teamwork), identify practical strategies to strengthen these qualities in their daily work, and apply them to foster both employee engagement and student success.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

Thriving Not Just Surviving: Supporting Students Through Challenging Times

Amanda Clarke - Wallace Community College-Dothan

Learning Objective:

1. Identify barriers that prevent students from fully engaging and succeeding in school.
2. Explore strategies in building relationships, advising, and identifying resource partnerships that enhance student support.
3. Explore ways to build student resilience and motivation in challenging times.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

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Success Coaches: Vital Connectors Building Bridges to Student Success

Ryan Coleman - Reid State

Learning Objective: To analyze the role of Success Coaches as connectors between high schools, colleges, and communities evaluate strategies for fostering student persistence and smoother transitions and apply data-informed approaches to strengthen support systems that address academic, social, and personal barriers.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 6

HSDO in Adult Education: Building Relationships while earning the High School Diploma through Adult Education

Kate Dust - Lurleen B. Wallace

Learning Objective: The Alabama Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO) is a program for adults 18+ who attended an Alabama public high school but either didn't pass the graduation exam or lack credits to graduate. It lets them complete requirements and earn their regular diploma from their former school.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 7

Building the Future of Nursing: Addressing the Workforce Shortage Through Apprenticeship Programs

Hannah Tucker - Gadsden State Community College

Learning Objective: Explain how nursing apprenticeships address workforce shortages, support student success, build sustainable employer partnerships, and share lessons for program growth and scalability in high-demand fields.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 8

DID YOU KNOW?



The breakout sessions at the ACCA Conference are designed with you in mind—whether you're faculty, a student, or part of the workforce, there's a session tailored to your needs!

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Our Story, Alabama's Success — Built Together

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As the Alabama Community College System continues to advance its mission of educational excellence, we're proud to play a role in shaping that story—designing spaces that reflect the heart of each campus and the promise of every student.

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Commission on Administration
FEATURED COMMISSION SPEAKER

DR. KYLE SEARCY
Alabama Ballrooms C&D

Kyle Searcy is a seasoned leader, author, and organizational strategist with over three decades of experience developing high-performing teams and guiding organizations through growth and transition. Recognized for his ability to combine strategic insight with emotional intelligence, **he has trained executives, educators, and community leaders across multiple sectors in leadership alignment, communication, and team development.**

Kyle is the Founder and CEO of KCS Leadership, a leadership training and coaching organization committed to developing authentic, emotionally intelligent, and transformational leaders. He also serves as the Senior Executive Leader of Fresh Anointing House of Worship in Montgomery, Alabama—an international, multi-generational organization that has grown under his direction from 80 to over 2,500 members, with affiliates in the U.S., Africa, and Brazil.

A prolific author of 28 books, including Power of Passion, Write the Vision, The Eagle Leader, and Leadership Legacy, Kyle’s work equips leaders to think strategically, lead with clarity, and inspire through integrity. His latest release, The Seven Levels of Intimacy in Leadership, explores the human and relational dimensions of influence.

Holding B.S. and M.Ed. degrees in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Theology, Kyle combines analytical precision with relational wisdom. He also serves as President of Fresh Start Community Development Corporation and several other organizations advancing initiatives in education, community empowerment, and organizational resilience.

A licensed pilot and sought-after conference speaker, Kyle is known for his engaging, story-driven presentations that blend practical leadership strategy with real-world experience. He and his wife, Kemi Searcy, a native of Ghana, West Africa, share a passion for empowering people and organizations to reach their highest potential. They are the proud parents of four children—Biola, Funmi, Paul, and Christopher—and seven grandchildren.

Harnessing AI Tutors and Personalized AI Agents to Improve Student Outcomes in Community College CIS Courses

Rosalyn Warren - Enterprise State Community College

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to identify strategies for designing and implementing AI-powered tutors and personalized AI agents in community college courses using AI Studio, with the goal of improving student engagement, persistence, and learning outcomes.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 1

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nursing Education: A Roundtable Discussion

Layton Wisecarver - Bevill State Community College

Learning Objective: Explore safety, ethical, and cultural considerations of AI in nursing education. Evaluate AI’s effectiveness in supporting learning, engagement, and clinical reasoning. Identify practical classroom and simulation applications of AI. Share strategies to integrate AI while preserving human connection.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

Cultivating Empathy Through Poverty Simulation: Expanding Experiential Learning in Education

Rayanne Daniels - Wallace Community College-Dothan

Learning Objective: Describe the purpose and structure of simulation and its role in fostering empathy and cultural awareness in education.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

Real Voices, Real Thinking: Authenticity as an Antidote to AI Misuse

Emily Laseter - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will explore several methods of creating assignments that encourage authenticity and critical thinking.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

JOIN INKY JOHNSON’S INSPIRING KEYNOTE

and hear his incredible journey of resilience, perseverance, and leadership that will motivate you to push through adversity!

Leveling the Playing Field: Using OER, AI, and Canvas for Equitable and Affordable Course Delivery

Robert McWilliams - Bishop State Community College

Learning Objective: Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to leverage OER, AI, and Canvas to create more equitable, affordable, and engaging learning experiences for all students.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Critical Care Teams: An Integrated Model for Enrollment, Persistence, and Completion

Lula Snowden - Wallace Community College Selma

Learning Objective: Describe the roles and responsibilities of Wallace Community College Selma’s Critical Care Team members and how they collaboratively support students from recruitment to completion.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

Meeting Students Where They Are: Supporting Mental Health and Wellness Beyond the Classroom

Jamaica Perrier-Morris - Uwill

Learning Objective: Understand the unique mental health and wellness needs of community college students balancing academics, work, and family responsibilities.
- Explore how a partnership provides support 24/7/365, aligned with student schedules and life demands.
Identify strategies to foster resilience, retention.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. 2:55 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

The Miracle of Alignment: Thriving in the Role You’re In

Elysan Solace - Bishop State Community College

Learning Objective:
1. Define alignment in their own professional context.
2. Identify strategies for cultivating alignment in their current role.
3. Reframe workplace challenges as opportunities for growth and influence
4. Apply alignment practices to strengthen both personal fulfillment and organizational outcomes

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

Creating Solutions to Maximize Energy Conservation and Strengthen Customer Owned Electric Grid Resiliency

Marcus Givan - Alabama Power

Learning Objective: Collaborate with our team to increase production, safety, energy-efficiency, and cost savings in areas such as: Energy Conservation, Energy Infrastructure, Electrification, Performance Assurance.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

From Ideas to Impact: Driving Economic Development Through Entrepreneurship

Jennifer McCurdy - Northeast Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: The key message: When colleges meet their communities where they are, they can spark entrepreneurship, strengthen small businesses, and fuel economic development that lasts.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. 2:55 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 5

Leveraging Industry Partnerships and Credentialing to Build Workforce Pipelines: A Case Study of Coastal Alabama Community College and Collins Aerospace

Joseph Metz - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: Learn how Coastal Alabama CC partnered with Collins Aerospace to deliver NC3-certified training, integrated adult education support, and utilized K-12 facilities to build a strong, community-based workforce pipeline.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 2:10 p.m. 2:55 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 6

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**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Dr. Precious Steele Boyle, an emotional intelligence coach, helps leaders lead with authenticity, partnering with organizations like Disney and Toastmasters!



**Commission on Support
FEATURED COMMISSION SPEAKER**

DR. PRECIOUS STEELE BOYLE
Alabama Ballrooms C&D

Dr. Precious Steele Boyle is a synergizing leader, emotional intelligence coach, and CEO of Silent Rock Educational Services, LLC. With nearly **25 years of experience as an educator, coach, and strategist, she helps leaders bridge the gap between who they say they are and how they actually show up.** A Goleman Emotional Intelligence Certified Coach, Dr. Precious is known for creating engaging, transformative experiences that help individuals lead with authenticity, courage, and clarity.

She has partnered with organizations such as The Disney Company, Toastmasters International, and school districts across the U.S. Beyond credentials—which include a BA from Stillman College, an MEd from Christian Brothers University, and a PhD in Leadership from Capella University—Dr.

Precious brings the lived experience of being an educator, founding school leader, coach, and nonprofit strategist. Her approach is shaped by years of designing leadership programs, coaching diverse teams, and walking alongside leaders in their most defining moments. At her core, Dr. Precious believes the world is waiting for each of us to be who we say we are.

Launching a Successful Community Partnership

Stephanie McLaughlin - Drake State Community & Technical College

Learning Objective: 1. Describe the benefits of implementing a community partnership with an apprenticeship program.
2. Explain the implementation of a partnership with an apprenticeship program.
3. Discuss the challenges associated with implementing a community partnership with apprenticeship".

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 1

Strategic Precision: Leveraging AI for Financial Insight

Lewie Thompson - Enterprise State Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will learn how AI tools like Microsoft Copilot can support financial decisions, explore practical uses in Excel and document review, critically evaluate AI outputs, and apply expert-simulated insights for compliance and planning.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

Resource Conscious Renovation

Raleigh Price - SS&L Architects

Learning Objective: Attendees will learn how Resource Conscious Renovation strategies can maximize facility lifespan, minimize costs, and enhance campus functionality using TSCC's Executive Park Campus Renovation as a case study.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

Service in Action: Building a Service-first Culture

David Black - Paskill

Learning Objective: Participants will see how service on college campuses needs to be redefined. Service is providing a seamless experience for students with a focus on enhancing their transitions throughout their journey. This model addresses internal and external audiences which can help eliminate campus silos.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

DID YOU KNOW?

ACCA features over 30 expert speakers sharing insights on Alabama's education future!

Principles of Leadership: The Top Ten List

Lonnie Burnett - Coastal Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: This presentation will focus on leadership lessons learned (sometimes the hard way) from my experiences during 47 years working in education.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Breaking Silos and Getting Outside the Walls: Addressing Key Issues Through Cross-Curricular and Cross-Divisional Collaboration

Sandra Bryant - Wallace Community College Dothan

Learning Objective: Participants will discuss strategies to:
1. Promote integrative thinking in students by implementing cross-curricular collaboration.
2. Enhance faculty engagement and resource sharing by fostering interdisciplinary partnerships.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

Active Learning in the Classroom: What? Why? And How?

Phillip Wiley - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Attendees would learn what characterizes active learning in the classroom, how effective active learning can be, and why active learning is effective. They will also participate in active learning activities as if they were students in an active learning classroom.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 7

A Cheating Tool or Teaching and Learning Partner? Reimagining AI Ethics in Higher Education

Hannah Wilhoit - Wallace Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will be able to apply the methodology demonstrated in this session to: (1) improve efficiency through AI usage and (2) guide students in using generative AI chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Khanmigo) as ethical learning partners while maintaining academic integrity.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

Community Partnerships in Nursing Simulation: Enhancing Student Learning through Collaboration

Kristen McCay - Bevill State Community College

Learning Objective:

- 1. Provide a model for strengthening collaboration between academia and clinical partners through simulation.
- 2. Demonstrate how student learning is enhanced through immersive learning experiences.
- 3. Explain how a collaborative simulation benefited a broader community.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

From Dual to Degree: Bridging the Gap with Collaborative Transition Strategies

Amber McCown - Northwest Shoals Community College

Learning Objective: Identify key strategies and collaborative, cross college efforts used to support dual enrollment students as they transition into first-time, full-time college freshmen.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

First-Gen: The Ultimate College Hackers

Darlene Andrews - Northeast Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: A fun, insightful look at how first-generation students are “hacking” college life — and how faculty and staff can help them thrive without rewriting the whole playbook.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 5

Growing Programs Through Systems Thinking: Habits for Strategic Leadership

Sandy Little - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will explore the 14 Habits of a Systems Thinker, analyze a current program challenge through selected habits, and identify leverage actions to strengthen enrollment, curriculum alignment, and cross-sector partnerships.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m.- 4:25 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 6

The Coaching Habit

Whitney Barlow - Alabama Technology Network

Learning Objective: The goal is the teach how to be a better leader through coaching. What to look for in your coworkers. How to get to the true issue.

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 3:30 p.m.- 4:25 p.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 7

COMMISSION ELECTIONS

MONDAY, NOV. 24

4:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Commission on Administration	Riverview Meeting Room 4
Commission on Faculty	Riverview Meeting Room 2
Commission on Support	Riverview Meeting Room 5
Commission on Students	Riverview Meeting Room 3
Commission on Workforce	Riverview Meeting Room 1



Encore: Lessons from a Grammy-nominated Singer Turned Dean

Jeffery Hawes - Northeast Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to apply transferable skills from performance—listening, collaboration, and confident leadership—to their own roles in higher education, while reflecting on their ACCS stories as tools to inspire and support student success.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 2

Code Blue to Breakthrough: Using Board Games to Build Systems Thinkers in Nursing

Beth Neal - Wallace Community College Dothan

Learning Objective:
1. Participants will understand how we use board games to teach systems thinking in our nursing program.
2. participants will understand how we use gaming to improve students' communication skills.
3. Participants will identify ways to apply a gaming approach in their own nursing programs

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 3

High-Impact Learning, Literally: CACC's Journey to Space

Jeremy Carr - Central Alabama Community College

Learning Objective:
1. Identify key steps used to develop, fund, and implement a spaceflight research project in collaboration with NCSSE.
2. Recognize strategies for adapting research-like projects into non-credit courses and short-term programs.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 4

More Than a Place to Sleep: Housing as a Partner in Student Success

Kyle Powell - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Showcase how Southern Union transforms residence halls into communities of success through engagement, accountability, and restorative practices. Outcomes include stronger student belonging, leadership, academic support, and personal growth.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 5

Brushstrokes in the Dark: Purpose, Persistence, and the Art of Showing Up, A Van Gogh-Inspired Reflection

Darlene Andrews - Northeast Alabama Community College

Learning Objective: Reflect on the emotional and professional challenges of educational work

Explore how “unseen” efforts contribute to long-term success

Connect Van Gogh's life to themes of purpose, growth, and unseen value

Leave with a renewed appreciation of their role in Alabama's story

Date: Tuesday, November 26
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 6

Building Stronger Communities: Leveraging Partnerships for Degree Completion

Jessica Wiggins - Jacksonville State University

Learning Objective: Identify and apply collaborative strategies to support adult learners in completing their degree, find ways to streamline processes to remove barriers for students, and gain an understanding of how campus initiatives and partnerships can be leveraged to improve student outcomes.

Date: Tuesday, November 26
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 7

The Administrative Assistant's Survival Guide: Streamlining Operations and Elevating Service in Higher Education

Toniesha Morris - Bishop State Community College

Learning Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to: Identify common challenges administrative assistants face in higher education and apply strategies to overcome them. Implement workflow optimization techniques that improve productivity and reduce stress in daily operations.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Riverview Meeting Room 8

From Small Towns to Statewide Triumphs: Certifying Rural Students as EKG Technicians through Targeted Outreach

Melanie Caldwell - Southern Union State Community College

Learning Objective: Identify barriers to healthcare education and certification in rural Alabama and the impact on workforce needs. Describe how SUSCC's training model expands access for underserved rural students. Explore strategies and outcomes that improve rural health science education and workforce development.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 1

Alabama Energy Infrastructure Training Center and Network

Shawn Morgan - Bevell State Community College

Learning Objective: Participants will learn how Alabama is equipping its workforce with industry-driven skills across multiple sectors—including HVAC, weatherization, connectivity, electric vehicles, and solar technologies. The current mobile training delivery will be highlighted.

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 8:35 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Room: Montgomery Meeting Room 4

HERE’S SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Alabama’s community colleges are shaping the future of education by leading the way in workforce development, innovation, and student success initiatives!



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More Info

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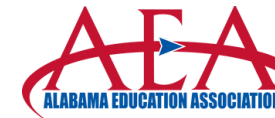
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Welcome to the 2025 ACCA Annual Conference!

Join us for an inspiring three days filled with insightful keynote speakers, interactive breakout sessions, and networking opportunities with over 600 community college leaders. This year's conference features top experts, including Inky Johnson, and highlights initiatives in workforce development, student success, and innovation.

Celebrate excellence at the Chancellor's Awards Ceremony, engage in meaningful discussions, and enjoy the ACCA Dance, "Boots on the Ground." This event is a valuable opportunity to collaborate, learn, and drive the future of Alabama's community colleges forward.