

2026 ACCA CONFERENCE

NOV 8-10, 2026

MONTGOMERY RENAISSANCE HOTEL AND SPA MONTGOMERY, AL



Registration is open for all attendees until Nov. 1

STUDENTS

Transforming Student Success Through Credit for Prior Learning

Mon, Nov 9 | Session I | 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Lisa Rollan - Director of Grants, Alabama Community College System
Explore ACCS’s statewide Credit for Prior Learning initiative, including policy review, implementation strategies, and shared tools. Learn how colleges can recognize prior learning to expand access, reduce barriers, and support adult, military-affiliated, and workforce learners.

The Blue Eagle Effect

Mon, Nov 9 | Session I | 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Regina Pearce - Coordinator for Student Engagement and Success/ Ambassador Advisor, Drake State Community and Technical College
Participants will learn practical strategies to empower student ambassadors to make bold moves that strengthen student engagement, foster belonging, connect peers to resources, and develop leadership skills that create real impact on the student experience.

Mission Transition: The ACCS Effect in Supporting Student Veterans

Mon, Nov 9 | Session II | 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Lee Conerly - Associate Dean Academic Instruction, Coastal Alabama Community College
Analyze the unique experiences and needs of veterans. -Translate research and veteran perspectives into practical support strategies for faculty and staff. -Design approaches for fostering belonging among veteran students. -Commit to a specific action that creates real impact for veterans.

From Scratch to Sectionals: Launching and Funding a Community College Scholars’ Bowl Program

Mon, Nov 9 | Session II | 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Kathleen Roberts - Instructor, Bishop State Community College
Learn how to launch and sustain a community college Scholars’ Bowl program. This roundtable explores startup costs, funding, recruitment, faculty mentorship, academic and transfer benefits, and ways competition can strengthen student retention and campus visibility.

Building Student Success Before Day One

Mon, Nov 9 | Session III | 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Taylor Hayes - Bridge Program Director, Snead State Community College
This presentation will highlight the Summer Bridge Program at Snead State Community College; specifically, how early enrichment and support have positively shaped the transition from high school to college for the students who have completed the program.

From Silos to Student Success: Leveraging Technology to Build a Coordinated Student Support Network

Mon, Nov 9 | Session III | 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Darlene Andrews - Director of Advising, Northeast Alabama Community College
Learn how one community college uses TracCloud to connect advising, tutoring, faculty early alerts, academic probation, financial aid success plans, and other supports into a coordinated approach. Hear practical strategies, lessons learned, and ideas to strengthen collaboration and student success.

Leveraging FAFSA Data to Estimate Pell Awards and Improve Student Communication

Mon, Nov 9 | Session IV | 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Taylor Hilyer - Director of Student Life, Alabama Community College System
Participants will learn how to use the ACCS Estimated Pell Award Tool to better understand potential Pell awards and out-of-pocket costs and apply this information to strengthen student communication, recruitment, and outreach.

Breaking Down the Silos: How Community College CRM Admins at Rival Schools Collaborate to Drive Enrollment and Shatter Silos

Mon, Nov 9 | Session IV | 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Tennyson Smith - Director of Recruitment, Shelton State Community College
Describe CRM collaboration challenges, explain cross-institution teamwork, identify strategies, apply data-driven communication, evaluate what works and what does not, and adjust approaches to improve efficiency, personalization, and enrollment outcomes.

My Story, My Journey: The Transformative Power of Mentorship

Mon, Nov 9 | Session V | 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

James Walden - Early College Advisor, Bishop State Community College
Personal Trajectory: From foundational support to higher education leadership. Psychological Pillars: Self-efficacy, sense of belonging, and proactive advising. Institutional Impact: Data-backed retention and completion strategies. Implementation Roadmap: Building sustainable, scalable mentorship

Conduct, Complaints and Crash Outs

Tue, Nov 10 | Session VI | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Dendy Moseley - Dean of Students, Coastal Alabama Community College
Participants will learn practical strategies for identifying, de-escalating, and responding to challenging student situations, including conduct concerns, student complaints, and escalating behavior, while balancing student support, accountability, institutional policy, and appropriate referral.

From 5 Tons to Total Dignity: Reimagining Campus Food Security

Tue, Nov 10 | Session VI | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Robert Vickery II - Professor of English & Philosophy, Bishop State Community College
Participants will evaluate a student-led operational blueprint to restructure Federal Work-Study allocations, establish high-volume corporate food recovery loops, and deploy a student-managed, retail-style campus market that eliminates student stigma.