2026 ACCA CONFERENCE

NOV 8-10, 2026

MONTGOMERY RENAISSANCE HOTEL AND SPA MONTGOMERY, AL

Alabama Community College Association
ACCA

Registration is open for all attendees until Nov. 1

ADMINISTRATION

Just-in-Time Faculty Onboarding: A Lean Six Sigma Approach to Nursing Adjunct Readiness

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

Andrea Agnew - Dean of Health Sciences, Bishop State Community College

Outline a replicable framework for creating standardized onboarding tools that can be adapted to various programs and institutions.

24x7 Help Desks: Evolving Trends and Marketplace Solutions in Higher Education

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

Jay Baucom - AVP Professional Services, Ferrilli

Explore trends reshaping higher education help desks, including staffing, budgets, and 24/7 service expectations. Learn how to evaluate third-party partnerships, outsourced and co-sourced support models, and capabilities across Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 services.

Pouring Into Employees: Using CLEAR Leadership to Create Loyal Teams That Thrive

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

Andy Green - Dean of Student Services, Gadsden State Community College

Participants will apply the CLEAR Leadership Framework to strengthen trust, empower employees, align teams with institutional goals, and reinforce practices that improve engagement, accountability, retention, and organizational success.

Typecasting: What TV's Most Memorable Characters Can Teach Us About Personality Types in the Workplace

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

Chris Franklin - Dean of Student Services, Wallace Community College

To identify how different personality types shape workplace interactions and help us learn strategies to communicate more effectively, navigate conflict, and build stronger teams. By using examples of classic TV characters, the presentation makes personality concepts engaging and relatable.

Next in Line: Developing Leaders Before They Have the Title

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

Takeema Johnson - Huntsville Site Director, Calhoun Community College

Participants will identify practical strategies for developing leadership readiness and determine one action they can take to better prepare themselves or others for future leadership opportunities.

Better Together: SME + Instructional Design + AI - Building Scalable Master Courses to Meet the Demand for Online Learning

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

Katelyn McKee - Instructional Designer, Calhoun Community College

Explore how faculty expertise, instructional design, and AI can create scalable online master courses. Learn approaches using ADDIE and backward design, with practical considerations for instructional quality, faculty compensation, responsible AI use, and sustainable course development.

Ghost Students and the Live Person: What Community Colleges Need Before the Next Disbursement

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

Calvin Fabre - Founder, Envoc

Ghost students and synthetic identities are creating a costly new challenge for colleges: financial aid can be disbursed before a campus ever knows whether a real student is on the other side of the screen. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for strengthening identity assurance.

Beyond the Promotion: Making the Shift from Doer to Leader in Higher Education

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

Taylor Simmons - Career & Talent Management Consultant, Horizon Point Consulting, Inc.

Participants will identify practical strategies to shift from “doer” to leader by adapting their leadership approach, empowering others, strengthening communication and accountability, and creating an action plan for immediate application.

Leading Through Change: How LBW Community College and BibliU Turned Vision Into Results

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

Anika Wichmann - BibliU

By the end of this session, attendees will be able to apply a framework for evaluating an outsourced bookstore partner and balancing affordability, revenue, and student access, drawing on LBW Community College's first-year transition with BibliU.

Transforming Bishop State Community College: Visionary Renovation of Student Services and Redesigned Campus Space to Elevate the Student Experience

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

Tyson OBrien - Principal Architect, Watermark Design Group

Explore Bishop State Community College’s renovation of Student Services and redesign of campus spaces to improve the student experience. The session highlights leadership, strategic planning, and institutional transformation through the college’s developing campus project.

Leading Through Change: Transforming Vision into Results

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

Melinda Grissom - Executive Director of CTE, Northwest Shoals Community College

Explore the Workforce 360 framework for connecting education, training, industry, and opportunity. Learn to align CTE with regional workforce needs, strengthen partnerships, and create clear pathways from dual enrollment and credentials to work-based learning and employment.

Leadership Lessons Dolly Taught Us

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

Kathy Murphy - President, Wallace Community College

Valuable leadership lessons will be shared in a unique and fun approach using the music, video clips, quotes, and life of Dolly Parton.

Preparing New Graduates for an AI-Driven Workforce: Rethinking Career Readiness in Community Colleges

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

Tara Zirkel - Director of Strategic Research, Community Colleges, EAB

Describe how Gen Z’s expectations and skills differ from prior generations. * Explain how AI is changing entry-level work and employer expectations. * Identify strategies to prepare students for early career success.

What Students Are Saying: How Student Voice AI Empowers Southwest Mississippi Community College to Turn Student Feedback into Action

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

Erica Melo - Senior Partnerships Director, EdSights

Learn how SMCC leverages EdSights conversational AI to engage proactively and consistently with all students, capture students' real-time feedback about how their college experience is going and if they're facing barriers to persistence, and intervene before it's too late and students disengage.

Beyond ChatGPT: Rethinking College Operations

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

Marty Reed - Founder and CEO, EdBlueprint

Attendees will leave with a practical framework for thinking about operational AI on their own campuses and a clearer understanding of the leadership decisions colleges need to make now as AI moves from an individual productivity tool to part of the institution’s operational infrastructure.