

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:45pm-2:15pm

Session A: Room 1B **Pursuing Equity with Pipeline Programs**

This discussion will focus on successful strategies for increasing enrollment and retention of underrepresented students and opportunities for the state to partner with nonprofits and campuses to promote increased access to higher education.



Renaldo Alba, APACS

As President of the Association for Program Administrators of CSTEP and STEP, Inc. (APACS), Dr. Alba represents the directors and staff of the 119 CSTEP and STEP projects throughout New York State. The mission of the CSTEP and STEP programs is to increase the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students entering STEM, health, and licensed fields.



Dr. Don Applyrs, National Academy Foundation (NAF)

Dr. Don Applyrs, commonly known as “Dr. Don”, is an educational leader who has dedicated his service to supporting students and families in K-12 urban public education. Don is currently the Senior Director of Strategic Engagement at NAF, where opportunity begins for students by transforming the high school experience and preparing students for college, career, and future success.



Samuel Rowser, On Point for College

Samuel Rowser has spent nearly 40 years being a trusted mentor to first-generation college students, helping them to start college, earn degrees and gain employment; supporting them every step of the journey. Sam became Executive Director of On Point, a non-profit program that has helped over 11,600 inner-city and rural youth from Syracuse, Utica, NYC and other counties in Central New York to enroll in and succeed in college, in September 2016.



Aaron Ray, HEOPPO

Aaron Ray currently serves as Director of Opportunity Programs for the Higher Education Opportunity Program at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. In this role he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program and the long-term vision and planning while serving on Hamilton’s Learn, Advising, and Hamilton Cares Committee committees while liaising with departments and programs around campus to ensure that students in the Opportunity Program have access to all that Hamilton College offers.

Session B: Room 2A **Effective Solutions for Long-Term Success**

This discussion with **Cullen & Dykman** will focus on new models for financial and educational success in higher education



Kevin Cavanagh

Kevin Cavanagh has been a leader in the higher education industry for 28 years. He has served as the chief enrollment officer of five institutions: Manhattan College, Iona University, The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, The College of New Rochelle, and Bloomfield College.



Kevin P. McDonough

Kevin P. McDonough is a senior member of the Higher Education Practice Group at Cullen and Dykman LLP. He concentrates his practice in the areas of Higher Education and Not-For-Profit Law. For nearly thirty years, he has counseled and advised universities and colleges in a wide variety of higher education matters.



Dina Vespia

Dina is Co-Chair of Cullen and Dykman’s Higher Education Practice Group and a member of the Firm’s Not-For-Profit and Religious Organizations Practice Group. Dina also serves as Chair of the Firm’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:00pm-4:00pm

Session C: Room 1B ***The Path Forward: Teacher Preparation and Early Literacy***

This discussion with the **Literacy Academy Collective** will focus on early literacy and embedding the Science of Reading into Educator Preparation Programs.



Ruth Glenn

Ruth Genn is a co-founder and the Executive Director of Literacy Academy Collective and brings over 20 years of leadership and innovation in the NYC education sector. Ruth founded the New York office of Bottom Line and served as its Executive Director for eight years.



Emily Hellstrom

Emily Hellstrom Emily leads External Affairs and Strategy for LAC. Emily is a community activist and parent of a child with dyslexia. She is the former Vice President of the CEC for District 2 founding the Students with Disabilities Committee which she convened monthly with parents from across the district.

Session D: Room 2A ***Navigating the Higher Education Regulatory Landscape***

This discussion with **Bond Schoeneck & King** provides guidance to assist independent colleges and universities in fulfilling their obligations under Title VI, Title IX, and Borrower Defense Claims regulations.



Philip J. Zaccheo

Phil, co-chair of Bond Schoeneck & King firm's higher education practice, is a trusted advisor and advocate who provides counseling and representation to colleges and universities throughout the United States on a variety of legal issues.



E. Katherine Hajjar

Kate, co-deputy chair of Bond Schoeneck & King firm's higher education practice, provides advice and counsel to colleges and universities, independent and charter schools, cultural organizations, social service agencies and nonprofit entities. She brings over a decade of experience in the field of higher education and labor and employment practice.



Kristen J. Thorsness

Kristen concentrates on athletics regulation, specifically gender equity in athletics (Title IX). Kristen brings a unique perspective to her work. She is an Olympic Gold Medalist (1984) as part of the first U.S. women's rowing team ever to win Olympic Gold. Kristen is a former Division I collegiate rower, and she won three World Championship silver medals as a member of the U.S. national rowing team and multiple U.S. national championships.