OACC
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 12-13, 2026 | Columbus State Community College

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, November 12, 2026 | Center for Workforce Development

315 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, OH 43215

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**OACC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (INVITE ONLY - 424)**
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS (INVITE ONLY)** OACC Governing Board Meeting (414) Chief Academic Officers Meeting (412) Chief Financial Officers Meeting (418) Chief Student Affairs Officers Meeting (420)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**REGISTRATION**
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	**OPENING LUNCH**
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	**WELCOME AND SETTING THE STAGE** Sandy Barber, OACC Chair and Trustee, Northwest State Community College John Berry, PhD, President, Central Ohio Technical College
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	**AFTER THE BALLOTS: OHIO'S ELECTION RESULTS AND THE ROAD AHEAD** Andrew Minton, Principal of Byers, Minton, and Associates
1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	**MIDWEST POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VALUES AND OPPORTUNITIES BRIEFING** Susan Heegaard, President Midwestern Higher Education Compact
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	**UNVEILING OACC'S LEGISLATIVE AND WORKFORCE AGENDAS FOR OHIO'S 137TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** Ryan Smith, President, University of Rio Grande & Rio Grande Community College Marcia Ballinger, PhD, President, Lorain County Community College Avi Zaffini, President & CEO, OACC
2:15 PM – 2:20 PM	**SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

2:20 PM – 2:45 PM **NETWORKING BREAK WITH SPONSORS**

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM **INNOVATIONS AND IMPACT CONCURRENT SESSIONS: ROUND 1**

Recent Lessons from the Aspen Prize for Leadership Academy Alumni and Fellows (Ballroom)
Josh Wyner, Vice President and Executive Director of the College Excellence Program, Aspen Institute

From Adoption to Excellence: Making Policy Governance Work for Community College Boards (410)
Dwight McElfresh, Trustee, Immediate Past Board Chair, North Central State College
Steven Stone, Trustee, Past Board Chair, North Central State College
Stephen Williams, Executive Assistant to the President/Board Secretary, North Central State College

Measuring AI Integration: From Anecdotes to Institutional Strategy (412)
Chris Prokes, Director, AI Excellence Institute, Sinclair Community College
Luis Sanchez Alcazar, Assistant Professor, Psychology and AI Faculty Fellow, Sinclair Community College

More Than a Number: Rethinking Program ROI (418)
Mollie Miller, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness Cincinnati State Community and Technical College

Momentum That Matters: Redesigning Rural Student Success at Scale (414)
Amy Adams, Executive Vice President, Marion Technical College
Ryan McCall, President, Marion Technical College

Find It and Fund It: Federal Grant Opportunities (420)
Chris Spence, President, New Growth

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM **TRANSITION BREAK**

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS: ROUND 2**

Data-Informed Strategies for Advancing Student Success, Building Community Prosperity, and Fostering Economic Mobility through Degree Completion, Financial Stability, and Holistic Support Partnerships (Ballroom)
Desiree Polk Bland, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Columbus State Community College
Julio Moreno, Assistant Director, Institutional Effectiveness, Columbus State Community College

From Confusion to Clarity: Building Seamless Credential Pathways Through One Front Door (418)
Kierre Brown, Assistant Dean, Business & Applied Technologies, Clark State College
Adam Parrillo, Dean of Business & Applied Technologies, Clark State College
Travis Binkley, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Services, Clark State College
Dave Furgeson, Director of Workforce, Clark State College

Designing with Baccalaureate Attainment in Mind: Shaping the AA/AS for 3.0 Outcomes (420)
Marisa Vernon White, Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Services, Lorain County Community College
Thomas Benjamin, Vice President for Institutional Research, Data Analytics and Campus Technologies, Lorain County Community College

	The K-12 Pipeline: Community Colleges as Anchors for Rural Cradle-to-Career Partnerships (414) Marketta Thomas, Chief Strategy Officer/Executive Director, Zane State College Reducing Financial Barriers for Ohio's Community College Students (410) Maggie McGrath, Chief Administrative Officer, College Now Mollie Miller, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness Cincinnati State Community and Technical College Kathy Temple-Miller, Dean of Students, Washington State College of Ohio LEVEL UP! A Game-Changing Approach to Faculty Development: How Tri-C and ACUE Are Advancing Teaching Excellence and Student Success (412) Martha Bless, PhD, Academic Director, ACUE Michael Hellard, Senior Partnership Director, ACUE Dee Dee Pfister, PhD, Associate Vice President, Academic Professional Development, Instructional Design & Learning Excellence, Online Learning and Academic Technology, Cuyahoga Community College Ashlee Brand, Professor, English, Cuyahoga Community College
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	**NETWORKING RECEPTION AT DEGREES IN MITCHELL HALL**
6:30 PM	**GOVERNING BOARD DINNER (INVITE ONLY)** Wolf's Ridge Brewing (215 N 4th St, Columbus, OH 43215) **LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI AND FELLOW RECEPTION AND DINNER (INVITE ONLY)** Jackie O's on Fourth (171 N 4th St, Columbus, OH 43215)

Friday, November 13, 2026 | Mitchell Hall

250 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, OH 43215

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS** Avi Zaffini, President & CEO, OACC
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	**THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES** Bryan Ashton, Chief Strategy and Growth Officer, Trellis
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	**STATE OF EARN AND LEARN IN OHIO** Shawn Hendrix, Talent Strategy Manager, JobsOhio
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	**BUILDING CAREER PATHWAYS: INSIGHTS FROM OHIO ASSOCIATION LEADERS** Panelists: Ryan Augsburger, President, Ohio Manufacturers' Association Sean McGlone, President, Ohio Hospital Association David Zak, President & CEO, Ohio Economic Development Association Facilitator: Avi Zaffini, President & CEO, OACC

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	**NETWORKING BREAK WITH SPONSORS**
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	**LUNCHEON AND AWARDS CEREMONY**
1:00 PM	**ADJOURN**
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	**OACC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY COHORT 7, SESSION 2 ON KEEPING STUDENTS' END GOALS IN MIND (INVITE-ONLY)**

Thank you to our sponsors!