

WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: What a great day to be leading an institution of biblical higher education, especially if you like challenges! If that's your calling, join other presidents to explore the issues of the day that will energize all aspects of both your competency and character. Learn from their journey. Be inspired by their example. Be renewed by His Holy Spirit for leading your institution well.

DAY 1 THURSDAY | OCTOBER 2, 2025

THE CHARACTER, CALLING, AND COMPETENCY OF PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

9:00 – 9:15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS — PHILIP DEARBORN, PRESIDENT | ABHE

9:15 – 10:00 SESSION 1: THE POWER OF HUMBLE LEADERSHIP

PRESENTER: WADE MOBLEY, PRESIDENT | FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE COLLEGE & SEMINARY (MN)

OVERVIEW: What does it truly mean to lead with Christlike humility in the highest levels of institutional leadership?

This session dives deep into the transformative power of biblical humility in presidential leadership, showing how past experiences shape—and sometimes challenge—our current approach to leading with integrity and grace.

- ▶ Discover a robust biblical foundation for humility in leadership
- ▶ Explore practical strategies for leading with strength, wisdom, and spiritual authority
- ▶ Learn how humility fosters deeper trust, greater resilience, and lasting influence in complex leadership contexts

10:00 – 10:30 Q & A DISCUSSION

10:30 – 10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 SESSION 2: WHEN TO STAND — DISCERNING LEGAL ACTION IN DEFENSE OF MISSION

PRESENTER: STEVEN STEINHILBER, PRESIDENT | LUTHER RICE COLLEGE & SEMINARY (GA)

OVERVIEW: Last fall, Luther Rice College & Seminary took a courageous step by legally challenging a long-standing Georgia statute that effectively excluded their students from receiving state financial aid. This session unpacks the critical lessons learned from their journey to help you discern when legal action is both necessary and wise.

- ▶ Navigate the tension between gospel witness, institutional integrity, and cultural opposition
- ▶ Gain insight into legal thresholds, attaining board/staff/faculty/student solidarity, biblical stewardship, and the risks/rewards of litigation
- ▶ Consider how and when to defend your mission while maintaining a Christ-centered posture

11:30 – 12:00 Q & A DISCUSSION

12:00 – 12:15 A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSOR | CAMPUS — ERIC CURRIE

12:15 – 1:00 LUNCH — CATERED AT THE ABHE DINING ROOM

1:00 – 1:45 SESSION 3: YOUR ROLE IN ADVOCATING FOR THE FUTURE OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESENTER: BARBARA MISTICK, PRESIDENT | NAT'L ASSN OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (DC)

OVERVIEW: As president, your influence extends far beyond your campus—you are a key defender of private higher education in today's shifting political and cultural landscape. With increasing Congressional and regulatory pressures threatening institutional autonomy, your presence and voice on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures are more critical than ever.

- ▶ Examine the current national and state policy trends impacting private higher education
- ▶ Gain proven strategies for building relationships with policymakers and advocating for your mission
- ▶ Discover how your leadership can strengthen a unified movement to protect the freedom and future of private higher education

1:45 – 2:15 Q & A DISCUSSION

2:15 – 2:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK



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PRESIDENTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2-3, 2025

DAY 1 CONT'D

2:30 – 3:15 SESSION 4: BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE: LEADING THROUGH THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF INSTITUTIONAL DECLINE
PRESENTER: TODD WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT | CAIRN UNIVERSITY (PA)

OVERVIEW: The warning signs of institutional decline often surface well before a college faces closure—but only if leaders are paying attention. As president, your ability to recognize and respond to these early indicators can mean the difference between recovery and irrelevance.

- ▶ Discover key red flags—financial, operational, and cultural—that signal deeper organizational distress
- ▶ Learn proactive strategies presidents can implement now to stabilize operations, regain momentum, and secure long-term mission vitality
- ▶ Clarify the president's unique role in mobilizing board, staff, and stakeholders toward institutional resilience and renewal

3:15 – 3:45 Q & A DISCUSSION

3:45 – 4:00 WRAP-UP

5:00 DINNER OFF-SITE

DAY 2 FRIDAY | OCTOBER 3, 2025

9:00 – 9:15 INSIGHTS FROM THE WORD — PHILIP DEARBORN

9:15 – 10:00 SESSION 5: LEADING SMALL COLLEGES TOWARDS BIG VISIONS
PRESENTER: TERRANCE FORD, PRESIDENT | FOSTER COLLEGE (TX)

OVERVIEW: In an era where resources are limited but vision remains expansive, presidents of small colleges must lead with clarity, creativity, and conviction. Explore how to cast and execute bold, kingdom-minded visions while staying rooted in institutional identity and capacity. Discover how visionary leadership can turn perceived limitations into launching pads for transformative impact.

- ▶ Learn how to align institutional mission with scalable, strategic visioning
- ▶ Identify common barriers to growth and how to lead through them with faith and focus
- ▶ Gain tools to inspire stakeholders and mobilize resources toward a shared future

10:00 – 10:30 Q & A DISCUSSION

10:30 – 10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 SESSION 6: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

OVERVIEW: Discuss the most pressing presidential issues you are facing with both the panel of presenters and attendee affinity groups. Create a draft of your *Personal Action Plan* based on the most significant and urgent issues you should address following the conference.

11:30 – 12:00 Q & A DISCUSSION AND WRAP-UP

12:00 – 1:00 CLOSING LUNCH



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