

Academic Leaders Forum

February 11, 2026

Sponsored by — CampusEDU

Facilitator — Adam Porcella



Sharpening the Edge of Academic Leadership

Overview: The leadership responsibilities of the CAO come with significant opportunities, especially in the current climate of tumult. Often, they give oversight to the largest segment of an institution's workforce – which comes with its own challenges! Work through strategic issues with distinguished academic leaders and sharpen your leadership edge.



7:00 – 8:00 Forum Breakfast — Regency Foyer

8:00 – 8:15 Welcome & Introductions

8:15 – 9:30 Session 1: Moving Faculty from NO to GO!

Presenter: Dale Hale, Online Specialist | Strategic Assurance Consulting (KY)

Faculty resistance to online learning and professional development is common, but it doesn't have to be permanent. Explores practical strategies that help institutions shift faculty from reluctant participants to engaged champions of online teaching and learning. Acquire tools to build buy-in, foster trust, and sustain momentum in faculty development initiatives.

- Identify common sources of faculty resistance to online learning and professional development
- Apply proven strategies to foster faculty buy-in and advocacy
- Design sustainable approaches for maintaining long-term faculty engagement

9:30 – 10:15 Refreshment Break — Regency Foyer

10:15 – 11:45 Session 2: The Theology and Practice of SLOs: A Prophetic Imagination

Presenter: Donald Grafton, VP of Academic Affairs | New Hope Christian College (OR)

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are often treated as compliance tasks, but they can be reframed as powerful tools for transformation. Explores a "theology and practice" of SLOs that invites educators to see them through a lens of prophetic imagination—connecting assessment to purpose

- Reimagine SLOs as more than compliance, connecting them to institutional mission and values
- Apply principles of "prophetic imagination" to the design and practice of assessment
- Develop practical strategies for aligning SLOs with transformative teaching and learning

11:45 – 12:00 A word from our Sponsor

12:00 – 1:00 Buffet Lunch — Regency Foyer

1:00 – 2:15 Session 3: Threads of Formation: Weaving Discipleship Through Every Department

Presenter: Jeff Sherrod, Interim President | Institute for G.O.D. International (TN)

Student discipleship is at the core of our institutions. Consider a model of communal discipleship in which every department names its role in the spiritual formation of students. Rather than seeing discipleship as the work of a single office, this approach invites the whole institution to participate in an intentional shaping of students' faith and character.

- Describe the key elements of a communal model of discipleship in higher education
- Identify ways academic and co-curricular departments can articulate their role in student formation
- Design strategies to integrate discipleship efforts across institutional contexts

2:15 – 3:00 Refreshment Break — Regency Foyer

3:00 – 4:15 Session 4: Steady Hands for Shifting Seasons

Presenter: Calvin Lindell, Vice President of Academics | Kentucky Christian University (KY)

Academic leaders in Bible colleges face a rapidly shifting landscape of cultural and institutional change. Academic leaders must navigate these dynamics with clarity, courage, and biblical conviction while stewarding the mission of their institutions. Gain practical strategies for guiding faculty and students through uncertainty while remaining anchored to timeless truth.

- Identify common challenges and opportunities facing academic leaders during times of change.
- Explore biblically grounded principles for leading with resilience and clarity.
- Develop actionable approaches to guide faculty, staff, and students through transitions with mission alignment.

4:15 – 4:30 Wrap Up

6:00 – 8:30 Connections Dinner — Ballroom B/C/D

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