

Sharpening the Edge of Student Development Leadership

Overview: Few positions in the academy invite such wisdom and grace like the student development leader. Giving oversight to campus life in all of its expressions, cultivating a vibrant spiritual life, handling complex situations of student discipline and on occasion, serving as the chief campus peacemaker. Sharpen your edge of SDO leadership with veteran student life leaders.



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

8:00 – 8:15 **Welcome & Introductions**

8:15 – 9:30 **Session 1: What SDO's Should Know About Collegiate Athletics**

Presenter: Dan Wood, Executive Director | NCCAA (SC)

Few things affect campus life like athletic programs, for good or bad. On a good day, it's a source of terrific campus morale and pride. When things go sour, it can be a bane for everyone. No one carries this leadership weight like the SDO. Wise leadership is essential, especially during these days of enrollment tumult. Think through the effective management of collegiate athletics with a veteran athletic leader

- Keeping athletic program aligned with mission – vital inflection points
- Feeding the gorilla (carefully) – maintaining balance across campus
- Watching the warning signs – making changes when needed
- Coaching for spiritual impact – the real win

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

10:15 – 11:45 **Session 2: Speaking the Truth in Love: Having Honest Conversations that Help Students Grow**

Presenter: Sonja Vernon, Vice President for Student Affairs | God's Bible School (OH)

What makes some conversations with students a highly leveraged moment for transformation and growth? How do some conversations fall short in contributing to students' flourishing?

- The spirit and character of a transformative conversationalist – grace to encourage, challenge, and empower
- Conversations for accountability and transformation – partnering with the Holy Spirit
- The nature of conversations that go awry (and why) – pitfalls to avoid
- Developing the art of transformative conversations – a needed competency

11:45 – 12:00 **Q & A**

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

1:00 – 2:15 **Session 3: Understanding And Reaching New Generations Through Bible Engagement**

Presenter: Daniel Ryan Day, Senior Director | Reclaim Today/Our Daily Bread Ministries (MI)

As we respond to the challenge and joy of passing on our faith to students, research insights are a powerful resource to help us create effective discipleship strategies. Explore methods that are generationally relevant, biblically engaged, and research enriched. Update your spiritual formation strategies to cultivate within students a genuine relationship with Christ that is transformative.

- Learning research insights for Gen Z discipleship
- Considering changes suggested by research
- Crafting generationally specific discipleship strategies
- Walking away with some specific Bible engagement resources to get you started

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

3:00 – 4:15 **Session 4: Turning the Incredibly Stubborn Campus Culture Flywheel**

Presenter: Rick Swift, VP for Student Life | Southern Wesleyan University (SC)

Community is a buzzword that has circled around the Christian campus and the Student Development office for years. It is a biblical concept we would all love to see flourishing. Join in for a conversation that will look at questions we can ask, principles we can follow, and training we can implement to start or keep that flywheel turning. Granted, it is a beast to get moving, but there is great joy when the culture on our campus takes another small, steady step to more closely mirror our institution's mission and vision.

- Unpacking the nature of campus culture – the community's struggle with culture at-large.
- Identifying campus culture flywheels – discovering areas where a cultural "push" can be found.
- The synthesis of culture with mission & vision – is the perpetual motion flywheel possible in campus culture?

4:15 – 4:30 **Wrap Up**

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