# Faculty Forum

February 11, 2026

**Sponsored by — Sheri Popp Education Consulting**
**Facilitator — Blanton Feaster**

ABHE

## *Sharpening the Edge of Faculty Excellence*

**Overview:** Not only are faculty members the leaders of our learning communities, they also model this in their own personal learning journey. Check out these relevant topics and join other faculty to discuss issues that can help you serve Christ and your students better. Enjoy the rich fellowship and expand your network with other great colleagues.

**7:00 – 8:00** **Forum Breakfast — Regency Foyer**
**8:00 – 8:15** **Welcome & Introductions**

**8:15 – 9:30**

### Session 1: From Definition to Design: A Practical Guide to Curriculum Mapping

**Presenter: Sheri Popp, Director of Academic Effectiveness | Columbia International University (MO)**

Curriculum mapping is more than just checking boxes. When done well, curriculum design and mapping processes can help academic leaders identify opportunities for improvement and strengthen programs. Gain a better understanding of curriculum mapping and its power to enhance program coherence.

- Discover how mapping strengthens the intentional weaving of biblical integration into academic programs
- Identify common and strategic moments to apply curriculum mapping
- Learn a clear, actionable step-by-step process to begin or refine your curriculum mapping efforts

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

**10:15 – 11:45**

### Session 2: Teaching Gen Z—Preparing for Alpha

**Presenter: Daniel Day | Senior Director | Reclaim Today (MI)**

Faculty are on the front lines of effectively relating to and effectively connecting with the learning preferences, motivations, and challenges of Generation Z students. Explore how Gen Z's digital fluency, mental health awareness, and desire for authenticity shape engagement and learning outcomes. The session also offers a forward-looking glimpse into emerging Alpha Generation trends and what they may signal for future teaching practices.

- Understand key characteristics of Generation Z learners and how they differ from previous student cohorts
- Identify emerging Alpha Generation trends that may influence curriculum design, communication, and assessment
- Apply practical, faculty-friendly strategies to foster engagement, resilience, and meaningful learning across generations

**11:45 – 12:00** **A word from our Sponsor**
**12:00 – 1:00** **Buffet Lunch — Regency Foyer**

**1:00 – 2:15**

### Session 3: Faculty as Partners

**Presenter: Robert Graham, Associate Director | Center for Academic Faithfulness & Flourishing – CAFF (OH)**

How can faculty actively support institutional leadership and mission while maintaining the essential value of academic freedom? This session examines the balance between shared governance, administrative priorities, and the calling of biblical higher education institutions. Gain practical strategies for aligning faculty work with institutional vision without compromising academic integrity.

- Identify key ways faculty can partner with administration to strengthen institutional mission and effectiveness
- Explore best practices for balancing academic freedom with institutional priorities
- Strategies to foster a culture of mutual trust, collaboration, and shared purpose across faculty and administration

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

**3:00 – 4:15**

### Session 4: AI and Faculty – How to Use AI Strategically

**Presenter: Thomas Cornman, Executive Search Consultant | Timothy Search (OR)**

Given the ubiquitous nature of Artificial Intelligence, how do we use it ethically and effectively both in our work as faculty, in our course development and implementation with students? Examine how faculty and students use AI in their work and how to structure a class when you know AI will be used by students.

- Know how to create a course experience with the presence of AI
- Learn to establish clear and workable AI protocols for your courses
- Understand the limits of AI for both faculty members and students

**4:15 – 4:30** **Wrap Up**
**6:00 – 8:30** **Connections Dinner — Ballroom B/C/D**

**Thanks to Our Sponsor**

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