RAISE
THE B.A.R
BOLD + ACTION + RESULTS
in College Excellence & Equity
SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

8:30 – 9:00 AM Breakfast & Registration

9:00 – 9:30 AM Welcome & Purpose

Carmel Martin, Domestic Policy Council, The White House
Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
James Kvaal, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Michelle Asha Cooper, Office of Postsecondary Education

9:30 – 10:15 AM Opening Session
Building Community: Creating a Sense of Belonging for Students

10:15 – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 – 11:15 AM Breakout Sessions I

Session A: On-Ramps & Pathways: Helping Students Navigate the Transfer Process
Session B: Strategies for Addressing Enrollment Declines
Session C: The Holistic Needs of Today’s Students: Well-Being and Basic Needs
Session D: Value-Added Work and Career-Paths

11:15 – 11:20 AM Break

11:20 – 12:05 PM Breakout Sessions II

Session A: Better Together: The Importance of Networks and Collaborations
Session B: Beyond Access to Outcomes: Lessons for All Institutions on Serving Students Well
Session C: College Affordability: The Need for Long-Term Solutions
Session D: More than a Number: Using Data to Improve Outcomes

12:05 – 12:15 PM Box Lunch Pick Up / Break
12:15 – 12:50 PM General Session
Jennifer Mishory, The Office of the First Lady, The White House
Students Speak! Mobilizing to Improve Success & Address Inequities

12:50 – 1:45 PM Break / Photo Line

1:45 – 2:30 PM Conversation with Secretary Miguel Cardona
The Vision for Higher Education

2:30 – 2:45 PM Break

2:45 – 4:00 PM Facilitated Discussion: Moving Forward Together
8:30 – 9:00 AM  Breakfast & Registration                          Foyer & Auditorium

9:00 – 9:30 AM  Welcome & Purpose                 Auditorium
Carmel Martin, Domestic Policy Council, The White House
Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
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9:30 – 10:15 AM                 Opening Session                         Auditorium
Building Community:  Creating a Sense of Belonging for Students
Shaun Harper, University of Southern California
Russell Lowery-Hart, Amarillo College
Carol Quillen, Davidson College

10:15 – 10:30  Break

10:30 – 11:15 AM Breakout Sessions I                        Training & Development Center
Session A:  On-Ramps & Pathways:  Helping Students Navigate the Transfer Process
Room 1W126
More than one in three first-time undergraduates attends more than one college in the six years that follow. In the process, many students are unable to transfer all their credits, lengthening the time to completion and adding to the cost of college. States, systems, and institutions have implemented solutions like common course numbering, general education core curricula, and advanced management systems for credit transfer and articulation. This session will discuss strategies for helping students navigate the transfer process without losing credits earned.
Discussants:
  Michael Johnson, University of Central Florida
  Kathleen Plinske, Valencia College
  William Serrata, El Paso Community College
  Framroze Virjee, California State University, Fullerton
Facilitators:
  Noah Brown, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
  Jayda Motley, Office of the Under Secretary
Session B: Strategies for Addressing Enrollment Declines
Room 1W128
College enrollment has been on the decline over the last decade, with the COVID-19 pandemic severely exacerbating that situation. Since the onset of the pandemic, the National Student Clearinghouse has reported that nearly a million fewer students have enrolled in school, and it is unknown how many of those students will return. Community colleges, in particular, have seen enrollment declines of nearly 15 percent since 2019, prior to the national emergency. This session will identify and discuss strategies for tackling these enrollment declines.

Discussants:
- Michael Cartney, Lake Area Technical College
- Pam Eddinger, Bunker Hill Community College
- Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, City University of New York

Facilitators:
- Antoinette Flores, Office of Postsecondary Education
- Riter Hoopes, Office of Postsecondary Education

Session C: The Holistic Needs of Today's Students: Well-being and Basic Needs
Room 1W103
Millions of college students struggle with basic needs while in school: food, housing, access to mental health care, and other essential needs and services. Institutions have undertaken innovative new strategies to support students, particularly with the provision of more than $76 billion in emergency pandemic relief through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), most of which was earmarked for emergency grants to students. This session will explore those strategies and share lessons learned by some of the institutions that have undertaken this work.

Discussants:
- Anita Hanson, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Thomas Parham, California State University, Dominguez Hills
- Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College

Facilitators:
- Suzanne Goldberg, Office for Civil Rights
- Catherine McConnell, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development

Session D: Value-Added Work and Career-Pathways
Room 1W105
The vast majority of students enrolling in higher education are seeking a job—or a better job—that will help them get ahead in the workforce. Yet too often, students find themselves having paid for a credential that leads only to low-wage or poor-quality jobs. Institutions have sought to turn the tides by ensuring credentials add value in the workforce and lead students to quality jobs. This session will explain how institutions are partnering with employers, aligning curriculum to workforce needs, and increasing the value of postsecondary credentials for their students.
Discussants:
Michael Baston, Cuyahoga Community College
Janine Davidson, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Anne Kress, Northern Virginia Community College

Facilitators:
Luke Rhine, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Latricia Hardman, Office of the Under Secretary

11:15 – 11:20 AM   Break

11:20 – 12:05 PM   Breakout Sessions II  
Training & Development Center

Session A:  Better Together:  The Importance of Networks and Collaborations
Room 1W126
College reform is no easy task. However, college leaders do not need to go it alone. A collection of networks of similarly-focused institutions, collaborations among partner colleges, and intermediaries that support colleges’ efforts to implement change on their campuses can provide essential support to make improved outcomes more possible. In this session, college and system leaders will share their experiences working with networks of institutions to improve success outcomes.

Discussants:
Gregory Haile, Broward College
Reynold Verret, Xavier University of Louisiana
Kim Wilcox, University of California, Riverside
Nancy Zimpher, National Association of System Heads

Facilitators:
Ramin Taheri, Office for Civil Rights
DeAndre Jones, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Session B:  Beyond Access to Outcomes: Lessons for All Institutions on Serving Students Well
Room 1W128
The nation’s hundreds of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) serve millions of students of color and low-income students. Many of those have undertaken the essential task of ensuring their students are not just enrolled in higher education, but that they are actually able to succeed. Data-driven strategies, evidence-based interventions, and robust student supports like advising and emergency grants have led to comprehensive reforms that will help all institutions—drawing on the lessons learned by TCUs, HBCUs, HSIs, and other MSIs to ensure their students are truly served well.

Discussants:
Elizabeth Bejar, Florida International University
Sandra Boham, Salish Kootenai College
Harold Martin, Sr., North Carolina A&T University
Pat McGuire, Trinity Washington University
Session C: College Affordability: The Need for Long-Term Solutions
Room 1W103
Among the biggest challenges to college completion for many students is the high—and growing—costs of college. Particularly for low-income students, many struggle to make their tuition payments or afford their living costs. Lack of affordability is a primary reason that many leave school altogether, without a degree and sometimes bearing student loan debt. Re-enrollment can also be a challenge as students face the costs of both making up for past tuition expenses that may have been left unpaid and finding the funds to pay for the next semester’s tuition. Some colleges have taken steps to address these systemic issues – creating Promise programs, identifying state funding, balancing campus growth and investments with the need to constrain tuition, and taking other measures to help curb the costs of college.

Discussants:
- Blake Flanders, Kansas Board of Regents
- Mike Flores, Alamo Colleges District
- Javier Reyes, University of Illinois Chicago

Facilitators:
- Rich Williams, Office of the Under Secretary
- Tariq Habash, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development

Breakout Session D: More than a Number: Using Data to Improve Outcomes
Room 1W105
To improve their outcomes, reform-minded institutions know they need to see where their students struggle most. By looking at the data on how students are performing, when they have hit a hurdle in their academic pathways, and learning what works to help students overcome those hurdles, institutions can make real and measurable progress to better serve their students. In this session, institutional leaders will talk about their experiences in looking at—and using—data on their campuses to better support their students.

Discussants:
- José Luis Cruz Rivera, Northern Arizona University
- Timothy Renick, National Institute for Student Success

Facilitators:
- Lesley Turner, Office of the Chief Economist
- Riter Hoopes, Office of Postsecondary Education

12:05 – 12:15  Box Lunch Pick Up / Break  Auditorium
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<td>12:15 – 12:50 PM</td>
<td>General Session &lt;br&gt; <em>Students Speak! Mobilizing to Improve Success &amp; Address Inequities</em>&lt;br&gt;Panelists: Arys Darton, Young Invincibles&lt;br&gt;Onyekachi Okeke, Hunter College&lt;br&gt;Chris Nelson, University of Denver&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Eloy Oakley, College Futures Foundation</td>
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<td>1:45 – 2:30 PM</td>
<td>The Vision for Higher Education, Conversation with Secretary Miguel Cardona</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents</td>
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