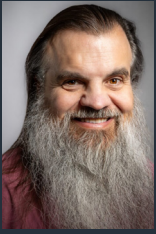


Academic
Leadership
Fellows
2026
Summer
Institute

Presenters

July 20–23, Washington, D.C.



Bryan Alexander

Senior Scholar, Georgetown University

Bryan Alexander is an award-winning, internationally known futurist, researcher, writer, speaker, consultant, and teacher, working in the field of higher education's future.

He completed his English language and literature PhD at the University of Michigan in 1997, with a dissertation on doppelgangers in Romantic-era fiction and poetry. Alexander then taught literature, writing, multimedia, and information technology studies at Centenary College of Louisiana, where he pioneered multi-campus interdisciplinary classes and organized an information literacy initiative.

From 2002 to 2014 Bryan worked with the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE), a non-profit working to help small colleges and universities best integrate digital technologies. With NITLE he held several roles, including co-director of a regional education and technology center, director of emerging technologies, and senior fellow. Over those years Bryan helped develop and support the nonprofit, grew peer networks, consulted, and conducted a sustained research agenda. In 2013 Bryan launched a business, Bryan Alexander Consulting, LLC. Through BAC he consults throughout higher education in the United States and abroad.

Bryan's book *Academia Next: The Futures of Higher Education* won an Association of Professional Futurists award. His *Universities on Fire: Higher Education in the Age of Climate Crisis* won the 2025 Frederic W. Ness Book Award. His new book, *Peak Higher Ed: How to Survive the Emerging Academic Crisis*, was published in January 2026.

Bryan is currently a senior scholar at Georgetown University and teaches graduate seminars in their Learning, Design, and Technology program.



Ilene Crawford

Principal, Ilene Crawford Consulting

Ilene Crawford, PhD is the founder and principal of Ilene Crawford Consulting, where she serves as a confidential thought partner for higher education leaders. Drawing on her experience as a provost and senior administrator, she helps clients cultivate their unique strengths, discern their agency, build institutional mindsets, and navigate the public scrutiny of senior leadership with steadiness. She particularly enjoys working with chairs, directors, deans, and provosts who are navigating new and/or interim roles during periods of significant institutional change.

From 2020–2025, Crawford was provost, vice president for academic affairs, and professor of English at Cornell College, a small, independent liberal arts college, known for its distinctive One Course At A Time academic calendar and experiential learning opportunities.

Prior to her appointment at Cornell College, Crawford was associate vice president for academic affairs at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut from 2015–2020 where she oversaw interdisciplinary studies, international education, faculty development, the writing center, the first-year experience, the general education program, and managed institutional-level curricular approvals and accreditation. As a faculty member, she taught and served in director roles in English, women's studies, and interdisciplinary studies at SCSU from 2000–2015.

Crawford has published and presented in the United States and Asia on higher education reform, writing pedagogy, women's literacy practices, and travel narratives. She traveled to Vietnam in 2010 on a Fulbright teaching fellowship and in 2015–2016 on a Fulbright research fellowship, lecturing across Vietnam on higher education policy and reform, teacher training, and curriculum development.

Crawford completed the American Academic Leadership Institute's (AALI) Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) in 2022–2023 and the HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) Wellesley Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration in 2013–2014.

She holds a doctorate in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a master's degree in English from the State University of New York-Binghamton, and a bachelor of special studies degree in classics from Cornell College.

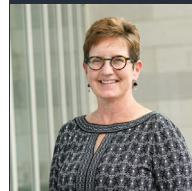
Amy Doonan Cronin

Executive Director, New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium

Amy Doonan Cronin is executive director of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, whose members include Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, St. Lawrence University, Skidmore College, and Union College. Her responsibilities include strategic planning, program development and execution, communications, budget development, meeting facilitation, and grant writing.

Amy has spent her entire career in higher education administration, including work at the University of Virginia, the University System of Maryland, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Ithaca College.

A native of Tupper Lake, NY, Amy has a bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and a master's degree from the University of Maryland College Park. She is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America.





Jon Fansmith

Senior Vice President, Government Relations and National Engagement,
American Council on Education

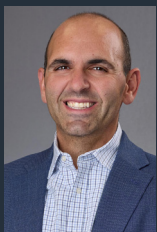
Jonathan Fansmith is the senior vice president for Government Relations and National Engagement at the American Council on Education (ACE), where he leads federal advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation's colleges and universities. He oversees ACE's engagement with Congress, federal agencies, and the courts on key issues including student aid, regulation, research funding, and tax policy.

Since assuming this role in 2022, Fansmith has led efforts to modernize and expand ACE's advocacy strategies to meet a rapidly evolving policy environment. He played a key role in launching ACE's National Engagement Office in 2023, which works to influence public debates on the role and value of higher education and support institutions in navigating shifting state policies affecting academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

In previous roles with ACE, he led the higher education community's work on Higher Education Act reauthorization and efforts to secure relief funding for students and institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. For this work, he and the Government Relations and Public Affairs team were recognized with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators 2021 Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award.

Fansmith is a frequent commentator on higher education policy, and cohosts ACE's dotEDU podcast and is a frequent speaker at conferences, webinars, and public forums on postsecondary education. He serves on the Think College National Coordinating Center Accreditation Workgroup, which was established under the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. He is a past president and former executive committee member of the Committee for Education Funding.

Fansmith earned a bachelor's degree in history from Georgetown University and a master's degree in government from Johns Hopkins University. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, two daughters, and a poorly trained dog.



Ralph Gigliotti

Chief of Staff to the President, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Ralph Gigliotti leads presidential operations as chief of staff to the president of Rutgers University. As a senior adviser and strategic partner to the president, he advances institutional priorities through coordination, counsel, and execution across a complex Big Ten research university. He provides leadership on presidential initiatives, oversees the development and implementation of the university's strategic aims, and ensures alignment across presidential and cabinet-level operations.

A member of the president's cabinet and administrative council, Gigliotti serves as a trusted intermediary among executive leadership, board members, the University Senate, and external stakeholders, translating presidential vision into actionable strategies and supporting effective decision-making at the highest levels of the institution. His portfolio includes oversight of presidential and

cabinet-level operations, the Office of the Secretary, and strategic initiatives, and he coordinates the university's response to major challenges and crises in close partnership with University Communications and Marketing.

Gigliotti also holds affiliated faculty appointments in the Department of Communication within the School of Communication and Information; the doctoral program in higher education in the Graduate School of Education; the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and Rutgers Business School. His research and consulting interests explore leadership, crisis, strategy, team dynamics, organizational communication, and training and development in higher education. He is the author or editor of 10 books and more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, serves as president of the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation, and is a member of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Examiners.

Lisa Jasinski

President, Associated Colleges of the Midwest

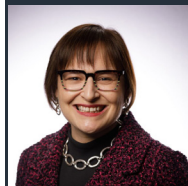
Prior to her appointment at the ACM, Lisa worked for nearly two decades in strategic planning and managing special projects on several postsecondary campuses. As Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the President at the University of Texas at San Antonio, she led a yearlong effort to refresh the university's ten-year strategic plan. Between 2007 and 2022, she served as special assistant to the vice president of academic affairs at Trinity University where she oversaw a diverse portfolio of projects including strategic planning, a faculty-led revision of the general education curriculum, and the construction and renovation of academic buildings. She served as a PI on a grant-funded program to support the development of department chairs as leaders of organizational change.

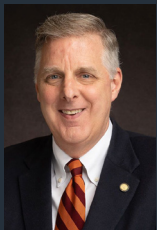
Jasinski is the author of *Stepping Away: Returning to the Faculty from Senior Academic Leadership* and co-author of *Faculty as Global Learners: Opportunities and Strategies to Support Off-Campus Study Leaders at Liberal Arts Colleges*.

Lisa completed an American Council on Education Fellowship at the University of New Mexico and has served as a fellow of the Society of College and University Planners. She considers it the honor of a lifetime to have been selected by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a Fulbright Specialist at the University of Jyväskylä and the Finnish Institution for Educational Research.

A true believer in the transformative power of higher education, Lisa is proud to be the first member of her immediate family to have earned a college degree. She holds a BA in the History of Art and Architecture from Middlebury College, an MA in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy from The University of Texas at Austin. She has completed the Nonprofit Financial Stewardship Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education and the Professional Certificate in Foresight from the University of Houston.

A New Englander by birth, Lisa lives in Chicago, Illinois, and San Antonio, Texas, with her husband, Patrick Keating, a film historian, and their orange cat, Oliver.





L. Jay Lemons

President and Senior Consultant, Academic Search

Dr. L. Jay Lemons became President of Academic Search in 2017 after serving for twenty-five years as a college president in both public and private higher education. A recognized leader in the academy, Dr. Lemons is devoted to supporting leadership and talent development by working with new college presidents on the faculty of the presidents' programs of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), and through the professional development programs for aspiring leaders of the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI).

Dr. Lemons was President of Susquehanna University, from 2001 through June 30, 2017, and prior to that served as Chancellor of the University of Virginia's (UVA) College at Wise, UVA's public liberal arts college in southwestern Virginia. Both institutions experienced highly generative periods of growth and development under his leadership. As a result, he understands colleges and universities and the leadership needed to propel institutions into the future. Earlier in his career, Dr. Lemons served in various roles at Texas A&M University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the University of Virginia. Each of these experiences deepened his knowledge of the complex array of positions and leadership talent needed for institutions to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

Most recently, he is the immediate past vice chair and acting chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Board of Governors. Dr. Lemons also chaired the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, the Council of Presidents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Pennsylvania Campus Compact, and the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he served on boards or committees of the Council of Independent Colleges, the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Lemons earned his PhD in higher education administration at the University of Virginia, an MEd in educational psychology at the University of Nebraska, and his baccalaureate degree at Nebraska Wesleyan.



Pamela Pezzoli

Partner, Isaacson, Miller

Pam's practice is focused on higher education, non-profit advocacy organizations, and professional associations. She recruits presidents, chancellors, provosts, deans, and vice presidents in large public systems and research universities, as well as comprehensive and private universities. She also conducts academic leadership searches in a variety of professional areas including academic medicine, business, law, and fine arts. In addition to her deep experience and portfolio of work in higher education, she has recruited executive directors and chief operating officers for national non-profit and state-affiliated organizations.

Pam first joined Isaacson, Miller in 2007 and previously worked with a boutique search firm, where she developed experience recruiting for CHRO and CFO roles in associations and private equity-backed companies. In her career prior to search, Pam worked for nearly a decade in student affairs as an academic advisor and administrator at Boston University's College of Communication and Georgetown University's School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Throughout Pam's career, clients have appreciated her detail-oriented and highly consultative approach, and her ability to adapt to the organization's needs for leadership assessment and recruitment. In addition to her professional career, Pam serves as an advocate and volunteer for a non-profit animal rescue organization in the Washington, DC region. Pam holds a BA from the University of Delaware and an MS from Northeastern University.

Eduardo Peñalver

President, Georgetown University

Eduardo M. Peñalver is the forty-ninth president of Georgetown University and had served as the twenty-second president of Seattle University from 2021 to 2026. He was the first layperson to lead the university since its founding in 1891.

Peñalver studied philosophy and theology at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and law degree from Yale Law School. After earning his law degree in 1999, Peñalver clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. He later spoke at a memorial service for Justice Stevens in 2022 hosted by the Supreme Court Bar.

Peñalver began his academic career at Fordham Law School, where he began to research property law. In the years since, he has been published in scholarly law journals at Yale University, the University of Michigan, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania. He has published two books, *Property Outlaws* and *An Introduction to Property Theory*, and he is considered a leading scholar of progressive property theory, with many of his insights informed by Catholic social teaching.

After teaching at Fordham, Cornell Law School and the University of Chicago Law School, Peñalver was appointed dean of his alma mater's law school in 2014. There, increased the quality of applicants and diversity of the student body, launched new degree programs on its New York City campus and online, recruited new faculty, and established three clinical programs: the Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic, the First Amendment Clinic and the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic.

In 2021, Peñalver was appointed president of Seattle University. In the years since, he led the university to establish the new Cornish College of the Arts, located in the South Lake Union neighborhood of Seattle. During his tenure, the university received the largest gift of art ever given to a U.S. university, which will be used to create the Seattle University Museum of Art. He also helped the university accelerate its commitment to the environment and sustainability by signing onto Pope Francis' *Seven-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology*.





Heidi Tseu

Assistant Vice President, National Engagement, American Council on Education

Heidi Tseu is a higher education and government relations professional with experience executing public policy strategies and community engagement initiatives. She comes to ACE from Georgetown University, where she was the associate vice president for local government and community engagement.

Prior to joining Georgetown in 2016, Tseu served in a variety of leadership positions within the Council of the District of Columbia (DC). Tseu was the legislative committee director for DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson when he served as chair of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, and she was later senior counsel to Councilmember Tommy Wells during his transition to chairing the committee. Tseu has served on various boards, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's State Office of Career and Technical Education. She currently holds board leadership positions with the Uniform Law Commission and the ACLU of DC.

Tseu is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and American University Washington College of Law.



Anna Drake Warshaw

President, Associated Colleges of the South

Anna Drake Warshaw is a national leader in student-centered innovation in higher education. Prior to joining ACS, she was Managing Director of the University Innovation Alliance, a national consortium of public research universities working to increase the number and diversity of college graduates.

Anna is an alumna of ACS member institution Davidson College, where she earned a BA in Religion. She earned her PhD in Higher Education Leadership and Policy from the University of Texas at Austin, where she received the College of Education Dean's Research Fellowship and studied state politics and policies affecting college affordability. She later served as University Innovation Alliance Fellow and Assistant Director of the Center for Higher Education Innovation at the University of Central Florida, then as Director of Partnerships, Learning, and Evaluation for the University Innovation Alliance. She is an avid collaborator and firm believer in the power of networks to drive collective change.