

SACCR

2025 Conference

Southeastern Association for Community College Research
Anchoring Excellence: Strengthening Institutional Impact
September 8 – 10, 2025
Biloxi, MS



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SACCR 2025 CONFERENCE

Sunday, September 7, 2025

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Executive Board Meeting **Gardenia Room**

Monday, September 8, 2025

8:00 am – 3:00 pm Registration **Magnolia Foyer**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Pre-Conference Sessions

IE Evaluator Training **Magnolia B**
Dr. Matveev and Dr. Noe, SACSCOC

Substantive Change Workshop **Magnolia C**
Dr. Sightler, SACSCOC

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **South Corridor**
Lunch for Preconference Attendees and Presenters*

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Opening Session **Magnolia A**

Welcome Mandy Sessions, SACCR President
Dr. Dani Walker, SACCR President-Elect/Program Chair

Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Retired Dean of Academic Instruction at Copenhag-Lincoln Community College, Professional Speaker, Podcast Host, International Best-Selling Author, and Owner of Do Good Leadership

“Anchored in Purpose, Moving with Impact: The Leadership Dance of Institutional Excellence”

Join Dr. Stephanie Duguid for a high-impact keynote exploring two movements from The Leadership Dance: Step In and Step Forward. This session empowers community college professionals to align personal purpose with institutional goals and take intentional action. Through reflection and practical tools, attendees will leave motivated and equipped to lead with clarity, confidence, and impact.

Dinner On Your Own

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registration	Magnolia Foyer
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Magnolia A
9:00 am – 10:00 am	General Session	Magnolia A

Am I Better Off Going to (Your) College

Dr. Alexei Matveev and Dr. Godfrey Fuji Noe, SACSCOC

Higher education stakeholders are increasingly using economic indicators to assess the value of post-secondary education. Institutions must understand various metrics for post-college financial outcomes and how to improve these outcomes for students.

10:15 am – 11:00 am **Concurrent Sessions 1**

Magnolia B

1.1 The Benefits of Assessing General Education Across the Curriculum

Dr. Amanda Bylczynski, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Augusta Technical College

This session will examine the advantages of assessing general education outcomes across the curriculum, highlighting the value such practices offer to both faculty and students. Discussion topics will include the development of general education rubrics, the evaluation of student work across disciplines, and strategies for fostering meaningful faculty engagement in the assessment process.

Magnolia C

1.2 SOS (Supporting Our Students): Improving Academic Performance Through a Data-Informed QEP

Dr. Jendia Grissett, Dean, IRAE
Ms. Breanna Yarbrough, CAREE Director, Faulkner University
United States Naval Community College (USNCC)

Faulkner University's QEP, "Supporting Our Students," focuses on improving academic performance through a structured learning environment, enhanced advising, and student development initiatives. Attendees will gain insights into building a meaningful QEP supported by measurable outcomes.

Magnolia D

1.3 Stronger with Xitracs™—Streamlining Accreditation and Assessment Work for Two Decades

Dr. Stephanie Allen, Senior Director, Customer Engagement & Success

This presentation will give an overview of how Xitracs supports success and continuous improvement in key higher ed accreditation and assessment initiatives. We will wrap up the session with time for your questions and input.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions 2

Magnolia B

2.1 From Benchmark to Boardroom: Using Labor Market Data and Productivity Metrics to Strengthen Institutional Impact

Dr. Jacquelyn Eidson, Director, NCCBP

Dr. Deborah Burks, Central Georgia Technical College

Michelle Taylor, Senior Research Analyst, NCCBP

Explore how community colleges are using workforce and cost-productivity benchmarks, paired with real-time labor market data, to drive strategic decisions and demonstrate institutional value. This session will highlight practical tools and dashboards used by colleges to align programs with regional workforce needs, optimize resource allocation, and communicate impact to stakeholders. Real data from a participating college will be featured to illustrate how these metrics inform planning, program review, and advocacy.

Magnolia C

2.2 Program and Site Closures and Teach-out Plans

Dr. Kevin Sightler, SACSCOC

This session covers the nuts and bolts of creating an effective teach-out plan to secure SACSCOC approval to close a program or off-campus instructional site. Emphasis is on understanding the content of the teach-out plan and handling special cases.

Magnolia D

2.3 Harnessing Analytics to Drive Student-Centric Operations

Ben Chester, Sr. Director, Enterprise Partnerships, Coursera

Traditionally, academic processes such as scheduling, curriculum management, the catalog, and assessment lived in isolation, making it difficult to access valuable data. Today, new solutions bring these disparate processes and associated data together. Discover how unified data in academic operations can unlock fresh insights and analytics that drive student retention and strengthen the financial stability of your institution.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

General Session

Magnolia A

*Lunch Provided

Keynote Speaker Eric S. Atchison, Vice President for Strategic Research, Arkansas State University System

“Measures that Matter when Strengthening Institutional Improvement”

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions 3

Magnolia B

3.1 Rooted in Data: An Introspective Look Through a 40-Year Lens at Agriculture Student Success

Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols, Communications and Governmental Relations Coordinator
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Elevating education through improved institutional research, this session highlights 40 years of agriculture student data and explores how meaningful data analysis shapes student outcomes and statewide initiatives. Attendees will learn techniques for data storytelling and policy alignment.

Magnolia C

3.2 A Proven Model for Developing, Implementing, and Administering Competency-Based Education Programs in Community Colleges

Dr. Kevin Peek, Professor of Economics

Dr. Ali Esmaeili, Dean of Math, Science, Information Technology, and CBE Bachelor's Programs
South Texas College

The primary purpose of this session is to share our model for implementing and administering quality competency-based education programs in community colleges. The secondary purpose is to stimulate dialogue on the model applicability in other colleges.

Magnolia D

3.3 Bridging Strategy and Action: Operationalizing Planning for Institutional Impact

Dr. Carlee Ranalli, Dean, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Hagerstown Community College

This session presents a four-phase planning model to connect strategy to results. Learn how to embed data into annual planning, define institutional effectiveness clearly, and use dashboards for performance monitoring and actionable outcomes.

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions 4

Magnolia A

4.1 Mastering the myFocus™ Instructor Development Report

Ronald Jennings, Solution Consultant

Discover how the SmartEvals myFocus™ Report helps instructors focus on what matters most. This tool highlights strengths, pinpoints growth opportunities, and provides tailored resources and action plans. Learn how to use myFocus™ to streamline professional development, track progress, and contribute to a culture of continuous improvement.

Magnolia B

4.2 Stronger Together: Empowering a Community of Program Directors for Growth and Leadership

Dr. Holly French Hart, Provost/Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness, Bossier Parish Community College

This session focuses on a successful strategy, a Program Director Summit framework, for Program Directors to come together, learn from one another, and gain insights into leading and directing academic programs in an impactful way and promote quality assurance. The best practices and lessons learned will be shared for effective methods in delivering the Summit and creating a community of Program Directors who will have a more informed and better understanding of their role in institutional operations and effectiveness. Participants will be able to return to their own campuses with a Summit framework to implement at their institutions.

Magnolia C

4.3 Developing an Annual Pathway Review Model for Pellissippi State

Dr. Austin Lawson, Data Analyst

Marisol Benitez Ramirez, Director of Institutional Research

Pellissippi State Community College

We will share a program review model that uses metrics in broad categories, notably including post-completion, and discuss the model development process including stakeholder input, data collection, normalization, visualization, and other considerations.

Magnolia D

4.4 Developing a Culture of Inquiry

Brandi Torres, Director of Institutional Effectiveness

Itawamba Community College

This session focuses on building and sustaining a culture of assessment and continuous improvement. Attendees will take away practical steps for fostering engagement and collaboration among faculty and staff.

4:30 pm – Until

SACCR Membership Special Event

Gulfport, MS



SACCR 2025 CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Magnolia A

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 9:30 am** Membership Round Table Discussion with Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt, SACSCOC President
- 9:45 am – 10:30 am** Closing Keynote Address
Introductions: Dr. Deborah J. Burks, SACCR Past President/Secretary
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt, SACSCOC President
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am** Business Meeting - Raffle

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions 5

Magnolia B

5.1 SACSCOC Section 13 Financial and Physical Resources: Achieve Compliance by Integrating Presidential Oversight and Institutional Assessment into SACSCOC Cycles

Ray Pinner, Senior VP for Finance and Administration (retired)

University of Alabama in Huntsville

A guide for presidents to implement financial planning optimized for compliance with Section 13 of the SACSCOC Compliance Certification, supported by assessment activities specifically designed to provide strong evidence of compliance. Tips for a logical structure for Section 13 that your SACSCOC finance evaluator and committee will love, along with some specific institutional assessment recommendations for CS 13.7 (Physical Resources) and CS 13.8 (Institutional Environment).

Magnolia C

5.2 Factors That Impact Transfer: One Community College's Findings

Dr. Duane Akroyd, Professor

North Carolina State University

The participants in this presentation will look at demographic, precollege, academic, financial, and environmental factors (13 in all) that past research has been suggested to impact transfer. Yet research is mixed on which has the greatest impact (or any impact) and the context of the college also plays a role in how such factors can influence student successful upward transfer. We will review the 3 or 4 most influential factors on upward transfer and the magnitude of their impact and implication for practice; Additionally, the audience will discuss how college context plays a role on transfer (urban, suburban, and rural).

Magnolia D

5.3 Elevating Institutional Success Through Strategic Planning Excellence

Dr. Jammie Wilbanks

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Learn how to design and implement a strategic planning process that drives measurable institutional success. This session explores proven strategies for engaging stakeholders, aligning goals with mission, and turning plans into action. Attendees will explore effective, inclusive methods for gathering meaningful stakeholder feedback to inform strategic planning. They'll learn how to design listening sessions, surveys, and community engagement strategies that capture diverse perspectives and generate actionable insights.

12:00 pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Executive Board Meeting

Thank You to Our Conference Presenters



Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Do Good Leadership

Dr. Stephanie Duguid is an expert in educational leadership, an international best-selling author, and the founder of Do Good Leadership. A former K–12 and college administrator, she is known for empowering leaders through clarity, confidence, and communication. With over 100 speaking appearances nationwide, Dr. Stephanie is also the host of the Exponentially Elevate Your Leadership Impact podcast and blog. Inspired by her late mother’s legacy, she supports community college scholarships and is passionate about helping leaders grow with purpose, grace, and impact.

Dr. Alexei G. Matveev

SACSCOC

Alexei G. Matveev serves as director of training & research at SACSCOC. His higher education career spans more than 30 years serving in a variety of roles including faculty member, IE professional, and director of QEP. Dr. Matveev holds a degree in philology from Udmurt State U. (USSR), an M.Ed. from Kent State U. (OH), an M.A. in economic sociology from Central European U./Lancaster U. (Poland/Hungary/UK), and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the College of William & Mary (VA).



Dr. Godfrey Fuji Noe

SACSCOC

Godfrey Fuji Noe, PhD, MA is currently the Coordinator of Training and Research at SACSCOC. His professional experience includes statistics, software development, business intelligence, teaching and learning, and gamification in higher education. He has also worked in institutional research and information technology. Dr. Noe holds a bachelor’s degree in economics, a master’s degree in cultural anthropology, and a doctorate’s degree in medical sociology.

Dr. Amanda Bylczynski

Augusta Technical College

Dr. Amanda Bylczynski brings 18 years of experience in higher education, having served in diverse roles including faculty member, department chair, Dean of Accreditation, and student success advisor. She holds an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership (Ferris State University), an M.S. in Educational Technology (University of Central Missouri), an M.S. in History (Illinois State University), and a B.A. in History and Political Science (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater). Her doctoral research centered on the application of academic assessment methodologies within student affairs. She currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Dr. Jendia Grissett

United States Naval Community College (USNCC)

Dr. Grissett brings over 15 years of executive leadership in higher education and currently serves as Dean of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Effectiveness at USNCC. Her career spans student affairs, academic support, DEI, and assessment. She has led multiple institutions through accreditation and QEP implementation. Dr. Grissett holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law, M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master of Social Work. She is a frequent speaker and advocate for student-centered innovation.

Ms. Breanna Yarbrough

CAREE Director, Faulkner University

Breanna Yarbrough serves as Director of the Center for Assessment, Research, Effectiveness, and Enhancement at Faulkner University, where she has worked since 2012. She holds an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and an MBA. Her work focuses on institutional research, faculty development, grant writing and evaluation, and accreditation processes. She has contributed to multiple SACSCOC reports, including two Fifth-Year Interim Reports and a Compliance Certification Report, as well as specialized accreditation efforts. Breanna also has experience in undergraduate instruction, curriculum development, and interdisciplinary program coordination.





Dr. Jacquelyn Eidson

National Community College Benchmarking Project (NCCBP)

Dr. Jacquelyn Eidson serves as Director of the NCCBP. She is a leader in institutional benchmarking, cost-effectiveness research, and performance-based funding models. Her work informs how colleges use data to align programs with workforce needs. Eidson has worked across institutional research, planning, and analytics, helping colleges connect data to policy and advocacy.

Michelle Taylor

Senior Research Analyst, NCCBP

Michelle Taylor is a Senior Research Analyst with the National Community College Benchmarking Project. She specializes in institutional benchmarking, workforce alignment, and performance data storytelling. With extensive experience supporting data-driven decision-making, Michelle helps institutions connect benchmarking insights to actionable planning strategies.



Dr. Kevin Sightler

SACSCOC

Kevin Sightler is the substantive change director at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in Atlanta, GA. He and his staff manage the substantive change policy and the review of institutional, program, and off-campus instructional site changes for about 780 accredited colleges and universities.

Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols serves as Communications and Governmental Relations Coordinator for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. She is an advocate for agriculture-focused educational initiatives and policy alignment. Her research explores student trends and the power of longitudinal data to guide outcomes. Dr. Nichols brings a unique blend of communication strategy and institutional research experience to her work.



Dr. Kevin Peek

South Texas College

Dr. Kevin Peek is a Professor of Economics at South Texas College. He has extensive experience leading institutional QEP development and SACSCOC-related efforts. He specializes in continuous improvement strategies and integrating assessment models into teaching and learning. Dr. Peek frequently presents on evidence-based improvement in higher education and the alignment of accreditation standards with classroom practice.

Dr. Carlee Ranalli

Hagerstown Community College

Dr. Carlee Ranalli is the Dean of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Hagerstown Community College. She is an expert in operationalizing strategic planning and developing performance dashboards. Dr. Ranalli supports institutional effectiveness by embedding data into campus-wide initiatives and connecting planning to actionable results.





Dr. Holly French Hart

Bossier Parish Community College

Dr. Holly French Hart is the Provost/Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness at Bossier Parish Community College. With over twenty-eight years of experience in higher education, she brings extensive experience in academic leadership and institutional planning, with a focus on cross-departmental collaboration and faculty engagement. Dr. Hart also brings a wealth of experience in accreditation, having served as a SACSCOC Peer Evaluator for On-Site Reaffirmation Committees, Fifth-Year Interim Review Committees, and an Off-Site Review Committee. She now serves as Chair and has chaired SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation, Substantive Change (Level Change), and Substantive Change (OCIS)

Committees, and she is a SACSCOC Arbitrator.

Austin Lawson

Pellissippi State Community College

Dr. Austin Lawson is a Data Analyst at Pellissippi State Community College, where he works within the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Assessment, and Planning. He works to develop and refine data-informed models and analyses to support academic pathways, institutional planning, and continuous improvement. His focus is on the accessibility and transparency of data, user-friendly design, and alignment with institutional effectiveness goals. Dr. Lawson holds a Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Marisol Benitez Ramirez

Pellissippi State Community College

Marisol Benitez Ramirez serves as Director of Institutional Research at Pellissippi State Community College in Tennessee with 10 years of experience in the field. She dedicates most of her time to data analysis and data visualization. She is also the IPEDS Keyholder for her institution.

Brandi Torres

Itawamba Community College

Dr. Brandi Torres is Director of Institutional Effectiveness at ICC and brings over 17 years of experience to her role. She has led initiatives to strengthen a culture of inquiry at small colleges, emphasizing practical, collaborative approaches to assessment and improvement. Her current focus is engaging faculty and staff in continuous improvement through data-informed decision-making.



Ray Pinner

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Ray Pinner has over forty years of successful higher education finance and leadership experience. He has served in executive-level administrative roles and has worked extensively on budgeting, facilities planning, and SACSCOC compliance. His expertise supports effective Section 13 preparation and long-term fiscal planning.

Dr. Duane Akroyd

North Carolina State University

Dr. Duane Akroyd is a Professor at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on adult and community college education, including faculty workload, leadership, and transfer student outcomes. With decades of experience in higher education, he brings valuable insights into student pathways and institutional effectiveness.





Dr. Jammie Wilbanks

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Dr. Jammie Wilbanks serves as the Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, drawing on two decades of leadership in higher education. With experience spanning enrollment management, academic affairs, academic program management, strategic planning, and institutional research, she has pioneered transformative initiatives in advising, retention, and student success. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt

President, SACSCOC

Dr. Pruitt was officially installed as president of SACSCOC on August 1, 2025.

He comes to the role with more than 30 years of professional experience in the field of education. With skills and experience ranging from leading classroom instruction to, most recently, serving as the president of the Southern Regional Education Board, Pruitt's knowledge of all aspects of education makes him highly qualified to lead SACSCOC as it enters this new chapter.

Dr. Pruitt has earned degrees from three SACSCOC accredited institutions: a Doctor of Philosophy in chemistry education from Auburn University, a Master of Education in secondary science from University of West Georgia, and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of North Georgia. Throughout his professional career Dr. Pruitt has led multiple education governing bodies, including as commissioner of education for the Kentucky Department of Education, and as chief of staff and associate state superintendent for the Georgia Department of Education.



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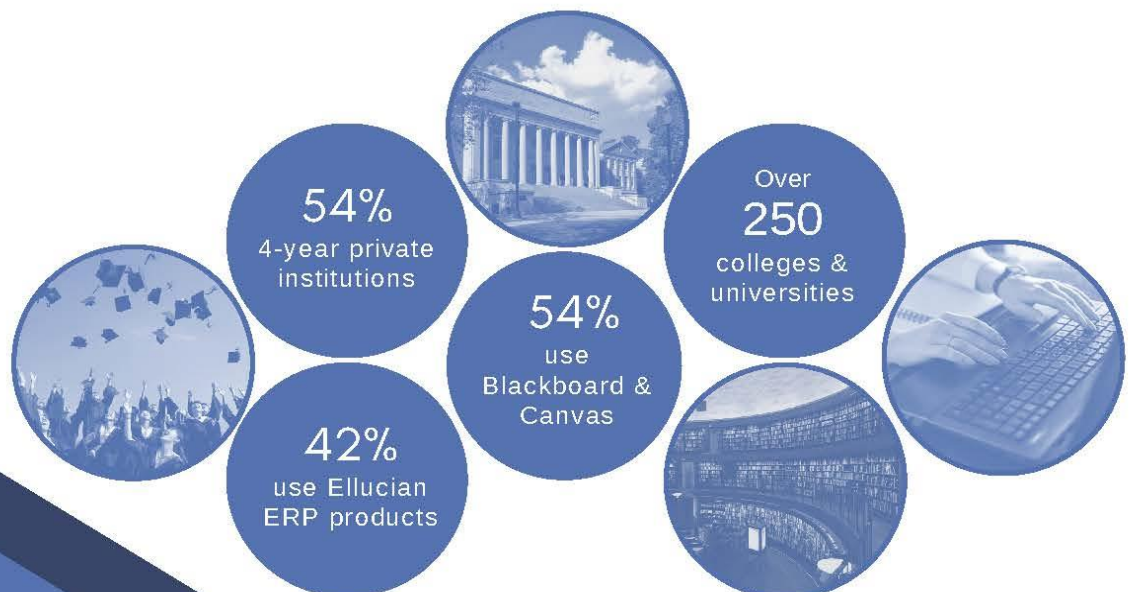
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Thank You for attending SACCR 2025.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026. Please remember to vote on the following sites to help the Board determine our 2026 location.

- **Charleston, SC**
- **San Antonio, TX**
- **Lexington, KY**

Presentations found within will be loaded to the SACCR Membership portal after the Conference.

SACCR Board