



15TH ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
BREAKING BOUNDARIES AND BUILDING THE FUTURE
JANUARY 16-18, 2020

Inn at Penn
3600 Sansom Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

DAY 1: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm **Alumni Advisory Board Meeting**
Location: Chancellor Boardroom
- 1:30 pm **Registration Opens**
Woodlands Ballroom Pre-Function area
Inn at Penn, 3600 Sansom Street Philadelphia, PA
- 2:00 – 2:10 pm **Conference Welcome and Overview**
Colin Hennessy (C14), 2020 Conference Chair
Melissa Trotta (C11), Alumni Advisory Board Chair
Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B
- 2:15 - 3:50 pm **Improving Access and Success for First-Generation College Students**

Moderator: Laura Perna | GSE Centennial Presidential Professor & Higher Education Division Chair
Peter Jordan (C6) | President, Tarrant County College, South Campus
Marc Lo | Executive Director, Penn First Plus
Sarah Whitley | Senior Director, Center for First-Generation Student Success, NASPA
Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm **A Conversation with Bob Zemsky and Dr. Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania**

Introduction: Pam Grossman, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School of Education
Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B
- 6:30 pm **2020 Zemsky Medal Gala & Awards Dinner**
Location: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St.

Presentation of the Zemsky Medal for Innovation in Higher Education
Dr. Amy Gutmann | President, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science in the School of



Arts & Sciences and Professor of Communication, University of Pennsylvania
Introduction: Pam Grossman, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School of Education

Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award
Jenny Rickard (C7) | President & CEO, The Common Application

Introduction: David Hanson (C7) | Principal, Winthrop & Associates
Location: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St.

DAY 2: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00 - 8:45 am

Breakfast

Location: Woodlands C/D & Regent rooms, Inn at Penn

9:00 – 9:10 am

5th Year Reunion Recognition, Cohort 13

Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

9:15 - 10:30 am

Technology in Higher Education: Competitive Advantage or Costly Mistake?

Moderator: Kristin Tichenor (C17) | Special Assistant to the President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Gus Schmedlen (C17) | Vice President for Worldwide Education, Hewlett Packard
Deborah Scott | Chief Information Officer, Harvard Medical School
Deirdre Woods | Founder and Principal, Deirdre Woods Technology Advisors; Former Senior Strategist at Dell
Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

10:30 – 10:45 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Legal Issues Facing Higher Education Panel

Moderator: David Bunis | Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yvonne Romero da Silva (C15) | Vice President for Enrollment, Rice University
Karen Weaver (C7) | Associate Clinical Professor in Sport Management, Drexel University
Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

12:00 – 12:10 pm

10th Year Reunion Recognition, Cohort 8

Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B



12:15 - 1:30 pm

Social Lunch

Location: Woodlands C/D & Regent rooms, Inn at Penn

1:30 – 1:40 pm

15th Year Reunion Recognition, Cohort 3

Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

1:45 – 3:00 pm

Income Share Agreements

Moderator: Debra Chromy (C4) | President, Education Finance Council

Courtney McBeth (C16) | Special Assistant to the President and Project Director, University of Utah, Alliance for the American Dream

Christina Rajmaira (C16) | Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Life, Marymount University

Kathryn Regjo (C12) | Vice President of Academic Affairs, Colorado Mountain College, Central

Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

3:00 – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 – 4:30 pm

Faculty Showcase: Amalia Dache, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Higher Education Division, Penn GSE

Location: Woodlands Ballrooms A/B

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Free Time, Visit Bookstore, Etc.

5:30 – 8:00 pm

All Cohort Evening Reception

Location: Perry World House, 3803 Locust Walk

DAY 3: SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

7:45 - 8:45 am

Breakfast

Location: Woodlands C/D & Regent rooms, Inn at Penn

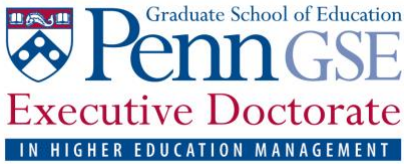
9:00 – 9:40 am

Annual Alumni Meeting -- All alumni encouraged to attend.

Diane Eynon (C8), Program Director and Senior Fellow

Melissa Trotta (C11), Alumni Advisory Board Chair

Location: Woodlands Ballroom A/B



9:45 – 11:00 am

Leadership Matters: Managing the Complexities of Free Expression, Campus Safety, and Civic Responsibility

Moderator: Lawrence P. Ward (C9) | Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Babson College

Sigal Ben-Porath | Professor of Literacy, Culture, and International Education, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

John Kroger | Chief Learning Officer, United States Navy, & Former President, Reed College

Dawn Pleas (C5) | Vice President for Retention and Student Success, Southwestern College

Location: Woodlands Ballroom A/B

Session Description: There are many pressing issues facing higher education leaders today. The tension between the expectation for free expression and the commitment to creating safe learning environments is among the most challenging. This panel will explore the pressure between these issues through the perspectives and expertise of three seasoned leaders with experience inside and outside of higher education. Panelists will explore the legal protections and limits of free expression and will share stories of their own challenges in managing the complexities between these two painstakingly held higher education values. Participants will be asked to discuss the significant intricacies involved with handling incidents of hate and bias, responding to student activism, and managing the appearance of controversial speakers, among other issues.

11:00 am

Conference Closes