



Workshop Agenda

Monday, July 24

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Check-In

Delta Mezzanine Level

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Goals for the Day

Bayou E

8:45-9:30 a.m.

Opening Keynote: Leading with Vision and Inspiration

Dr. Marjorie Hass, President, Council of Independent Colleges

Bayou E

In these challenging times, every leader must develop a sustainable practice for engaged leadership, inspired visioning, and care for self and teammates. An insightful and empowering keynote talk by national higher education authority Dr. Marjorie Hass will lay the foundation for the day. This interactive session will help participants develop their own resilient leadership voice.

9:30-9:45 a.m.

Introduction to Meditation Session

Julie Bryant, Vice President for Student Success, RNL

Bayou E

You will get a chance to try meditation with this short, guided session, including recommended breathwork to help you feel calm and focused.

9:45-10:30 a.m.

Leadership and Relationships

Wendy Beckemeyer, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Cornell College

Bayou E

How can our relationships influence our leadership? This session will highlight characteristics to invest in for yourself and members of your team and share how you can best feed your team (not just with treats in the breakroom!) for optimal performance and team cooperation. You will learn how to be the dream colleague to your direct reports, your leadership, and your co-workers along with suggestions for adding mental health awareness for all. Plus, this session will help you think about ways to tap into low-cost professional development activities to further enhance leadership skills for you and your team.

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:45-11:15 a.m.

Roundtable Discussions Led by Facilitator

Bayou E

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Mindfulness for Leaders

Theresa Ricke-Kiely, Executive Director for the Center for Common Good, the University of St. Thomas

Bayou E

We hear a lot about mindfulness helping us to be healthy individuals, but what does it mean for us and our teams to be mindful leaders? This session will identify the characteristics of a mindful leader, consider the benefits for our teams to be led mindfully and will also help you institutionalize mindfulness with your colleagues.

12:00 p.m.

Discussion and Wrap-Up

12:00-5:00 p.m.

Your afternoon experience is up to you!

Choose to enjoy a free afternoon or experience one of our recommendations: Enjoy lunch with new contacts. Explore the sights, sounds and tastes of downtown Nashville. Relax at Gaylord's Relâche Spa (mention you are with the RNL National Conference at time of booking and receive 15% off your spa treatment), or book a tee time at Gaylord Springs Golf Course.

Sessions and times are subject to change.

Workshop Presenters



Julie L. Bryant, vice president for student success at RNL, leads the team providing student success solutions for colleges and universities across North America. These solutions include the RNL student motivation and satisfaction assessment tools, which provide valuable data to institutions working to improve retention and graduation rates. She meets with higher education leaders to guide them through their data results and to brainstorm next steps for continuous quality improvement efforts. In addition, Julie is a certified yoga and meditation teacher who leads regular mindfulness sessions for RNL co-workers and RNL National Conference attendees.



Dr. Marjorie Hass is a philosopher, leader, award-winning teacher, mentor, author, and one of the most influential thinkers in the independent higher education sector. She has led the Council of Independent Colleges since 2021.

Dr. Hass' career at independent colleges has encompassed a wide range of roles, including professor, provost, and president. She is inspired by CIC's impact on hundreds of member institutions and the more than two million students they serve. With a focus on sustainability and innovation, Hass is committed to ensuring CIC remains a valuable resource to help independent colleges and universities live out their unique missions vibrantly and fully. She guides CIC's programming to ensure it engages a diverse membership; supports member financial health and innovation; and strengthens CIC's role as a champion of independent higher education.

A philosopher by training, Dr. Hass earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has published widely on the philosophy of language, logic, and feminist philosophy and speaks frequently on leadership, shared governance, and the state and promise of the independent sector in higher education. Insightful and relevant, Dr. Hass combines first-hand leadership experience with data-informed analysis. She has a deep understanding of the challenges presidents face and compassion and admiration for the work that presidents and other campus leaders do.



Dr. Theresa Ricke-Kiely is the executive director of the Center for the Common Good at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has over 20 years of experience teaching leadership and has published in various national and international journals. Dr. Ricke-Kiely's current research focuses on mindful leadership, and she is writing a book on the topic for mission-focused organizations. She earned a BA from SUNY New Paltz, an MPA from Marist College, and an EdD in organizational leadership from the University of Sarasota.



Todd Abbott is a seasoned higher education professional with over 25 years of experience. He joined the enrollment management team at RNL in 2007, and now serves as one of the senior vice presidents for the company. In his current role, Todd works with college and university presidents, chancellors, and other senior leaders to help identify the greatest challenges and opportunities each unique campus faces. His focus is on enrollment growth and shaping of enrollment for undergraduates, graduates, adult, and online students. He has great passion for the impact that marketing and recruitment strategies have on new enrollment and retention efforts for colleges and universities.



Wendy Beckemeyer is the founder of the Pay It Forward conference and vice president for enrollment management at Cornell College, Iowa. She has over 30 years of experience in higher education and is passionate about college affordability. Wendy is one of the authors of "The College Affordability Academy: A Blueprint for Counseling Families." Wendy is a 20+ year member of the RNL staff as a part-time, senior associate consultant and earned her MBA from California Lutheran University.

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