2026 INNOVATION SUMMIT

Hotel Brookmere, Saratoga, NY

June 16 – June 18

apc Association of Private Colleges

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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

On behalf of the Association of Private Colleges (APC), we are delighted to welcome you to this year's Innovation Summit. We are pleased to bring together faculty, staff, administrators, and valued industry partners from across our member institutions for two days of learning, collaboration, and forward-thinking discussion.

Higher education continues to face unprecedented change. Evolving student demographics, rapid technological advancement, shifting workforce demands, and an increasingly complex regulatory landscape are challenging institutions to rethink traditional approaches and embrace new opportunities. At the same time, our mission remains unchanged: providing students with the education, support, and pathways they need to achieve their goals and contribute meaningfully to their communities and careers.

This year's Summit is designed to help institutions navigate this changing environment with confidence. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, and member lead sessions, attendees will explore emerging trends, innovative practices, and practical strategies that can strengthen student outcomes, improve institutional effectiveness, and prepare campuses for the future. Topics will include artificial intelligence, student engagement, leadership development, workforce alignment, regulatory updates, instructional innovation, and the evolving expectations of today's learners.

Beyond the educational sessions, the Innovation Summit offers an invaluable opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. The collective expertise and creativity represented in this room are among APC's greatest strengths, and we encourage you to take full advantage of the conversations and connections that make this event so valuable.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Innovation Summit Planning Committee, our presenters, sponsors, and education partners for their dedication and support. Their contributions have helped create a program that is timely, relevant, and focused on the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to the ideas, partnerships, and innovations that will emerge from this year's Summit and to continuing our shared commitment to advancing higher education and student success.

2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Christopher Barto
VP, Compliance and Government Relations
Monroe University

Christian Blum
WNY Dean of Instruction
Bryant & Stratton College

Michael Cavalli
Assistant Dean for Campus Life
Five Towns College

Maria Gangi
Vice President, Student Services and Retention
The College of Westchester

Will Moya
Vice President, Student Finance & Institutional Effectiveness
Berkeley College

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, June 16th

11:00AM – 5:00PM	**Registration & Visit Exhibitors**
11:00AM – 12:30PM	**APC Board Meeting**
1:00PM – 1:15PM	**Welcome and Introduction**
1:30PM – 2:30PM	**Surviving in a Regulatory Environment** SPEAKERS • **Kristina Gill,** Partner, Duane Morris • **Katherine Brodie,** Partner, Duane Morris There is plenty of talk these days about federal regulations and the US Department of Education. Learn the facts about the Department's request for negotiated rulemaking and congressional action and proposals related to federal student loans, loan servicing and private loan options.
2:30PM – 3:00PM	**Break — Visit Exhibitors**
3:00PM – 4:00PM	**Fireside Chat with Under Secretary Nicholas Kent, US Department of Education**

4:00PM – 5:00PM

OBBBA and Student Loans: What Institutions Need to Do Now

SPEAKER

- **Howard Leslie,** TIV Consultant

With the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, institutions must quickly adapt to a new and more constrained federal lending environment. Reduced access to key loan programs and shifts in repayment terms will place increased pressure on students—and on the institutions that serve them.

This session will provide a practical roadmap for institutional response. Learn how to adjust financial aid strategies, enhance student communication, anticipate enrollment impacts, and identify gaps that may require new financing solutions or policy engagement.

6:30PM – 7:30PM

Opening Cocktail Reception

7:30PM – 9:30PM

Welcome Dinner

Wednesday, June 17th

7:00AM – 3:00PM

Registration & Visit Exhibitors

7:00AM – 8:30AM

Breakfast

8:30AM – 9:30AM

From Hiring to Career Focused Employment: Building Workforce Pipelines That Actually Stick

SPEAKERS

- **Michael Hatten,** Chairman, New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI)
- **Trey Wright,** Managing Director, The Recruits Wright Group

Career colleges face a growing challenge: not just hiring qualified faculty and administrators, but retaining them in a competitive, rapidly evolving workforce landscape. While many institutions focus on recruitment strategies, fewer have developed sustainable, data-informed hiring pipelines that lead to long-term employee retention and institutional stability.

This session explores how a strategic partnership between a specialized recruiting firm and a career college led to measurable improvements in hiring outcomes and employee retention. Over a twoyear period, this collaboration resulted in 16 successful placements, with a retention rate that has significantly outperformed industry norms. Using this partnership as a case study, we will screen applicants, align hiring practices with institutional goals, industry needs, and student success.

9:30AM – 10:30AM

Course Design as Product Development

SPEAKER

- **Cara Ruggiero,** Senior Director, Center for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology, Berkeley College

What do students actually want from their education, and are we designing for them? This interactive workshop-style session applies product development methodology to course design, challenging educators to shift from content

deliverers to experience makers. Drawing on principles of user research, rapid iteration, and feedback-driven design, participants will explore practical strategies for building courses that students feel genuinely invested in—from simple ways to capture student feedback to more sophisticated approaches for embedding iterative redesign into your development process. Whether you're making a small tweak or rethinking a course from the ground up, this framework meets you where you are, and reflects students wants and needs, which ultimately can help with such issues as student disengagement, chronic absenteeism, and the occasional skepticism of a college education from modern learners.

10:30AM – 11:00AM

Morning Break — Visit Exhibitors

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Meeting Students Where They Are: Practical Strategies for Holistic Support

MODERATOR

- **Maria Gangi,** VP of Student Services and Retention, The College of Westchester

SPEAKERS

- **Alex Canals,** Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Monroe University
- **Saadia Del-LLano,** Executive Director, Health and Wellness & 504 Services, Monroe University
- **Michael Cavalli,** Assistant Dean for Campus Life, Five Towns College
- **Will Moya,** Vice President, Student Finance & Institutional Effectiveness, Berkeley College

Today's students bring complex needs that extend far beyond academics. Institutions must be equipped to address mental health concerns, housing and food insecurity, childcare challenges, and access to healthcare—while also ensuring that students with disabilities are effectively identified and supported.

This session will highlight actionable strategies and real-world approaches institutions are using to connect students with critical resources, strengthen support systems, and create more inclusive learning environments. Learn what's working, where gaps remain, and how to implement solutions on your campus.

12:00PM – 1:00PM

Cybersecurity & Fraud in Higher Education: Protecting Institutional Integrity in a High-Risk Environment

SPEAKERS

- **Howard Leslie,** TIV Consultant
- **John McCormick,** Chief Information Officer, Monroe University

Cyber threats and fraud schemes targeting higher education institutions are growing in both frequency and sophistication. From ransomware attacks and data breaches to financial aid fraud and business email compromise, APC member institutions face increasing exposure across multiple fronts.

This session will provide a high-level overview of the current threat landscape and outline practical strategies to strengthen institutional resilience. Attendees will gain insight into emerging risks, internal control vulnerabilities, and best practices for prevention, detection, and response—ensuring the protection of sensitive data, financial resources, and institutional reputation.

1:00PM – 2:00PM

Lunch and APC Member Business Meeting

2:00PM – 3:00PM

From Self-Study to Strategy: Leveraging AI to Transform Accreditation, Learning, and Institutional Operations

SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Scott Carnz,** Provost, LIM College
- **Dr. Peter E. Zirogiannis,** Dean of Academic Administration, LIM College

This session explores how LIM College implemented artificial intelligence (AI) across academic support services, classrooms, and administrative operations, with a particular focus on its transformative role in the institutional accreditation self-study process.

3:15PM – 4:15PM

From Self-Study to Site Visit: Strategic Approaches to Middle States Accreditation

MODERATOR

- **David Cohen,** President, Five Towns College

SPEAKERS

- **Erica Schacht,** VP of Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty, College of Westchester
- **Scott Carnz,** Provost, LIM College
- **Anne Loria,** EVP of Strategic Planning, Bryant & Stratton College
- **Christopher Keaton,** System Director of Institutional Research & Analytics, Bryant & Stratton College
- **Christopher Barto,** VP, Compliance and Government Relations, Monroe University

Preparing for a Middle States Commission on Higher Education review can be a complex and resource-intensive process. This panel brings together institutional leaders who have recently completed or are actively navigating accreditation to share candid insights and practical lessons learned.

Panelists will discuss effective approaches to self-study development, organizing evidence, engaging campus stakeholders, and preparing for site visits. Attendees will gain actionable tips to streamline the process, avoid common pitfalls, and position their institutions for a successful outcome.

4:00PM – 6:30PM

Free Time in and around Saratoga and downtown Saratoga

6:30PM – 9:30PM

Cocktail Reception and Closing Dinner

Thursday, June 18th

7:00AM – 11:00AM	**Breakfast on your own**
11:00AM	**Hotel Checkout**

GUEST SPEAKER

Under Secretary Nicholas Kent

Nicholas Kent was sworn in as the 15th Under Secretary of Education on August 4, 2025, following his nomination by President Donald J. Trump and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. As of February 5, 2026, Kent has also been delegated the duties of Deputy Secretary of Education.

As a first-generation college student and a respected education policy expert with more than two decades of experience, Kent serves as the nation's top federal official for higher education. As Under Secretary, Kent oversees the Department's postsecondary education, career, technical, and adult education, and federal student aid programs. This includes managing the $1.6 trillion federal student loan portfolio and the over $30 billion Pell Grant program.

Kent is responsible for implementing President Trump's mission to restore the greatness of American higher education and ensure that our taxpayer-supported colleges, universities, vocational schools, and other postsecondary programs are genuinely helping high school graduates and working adults launch and grow their careers. Kent spearheads the implementation of President Trump's landmark legislation, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, which will lower the cost of higher education, simplify student loan repayment, expand workforce trainings options, and hold institutions accountable for degrees that do not provide a return on investment.

Before joining the U.S. Department of Education, Kent served as Deputy Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia under Governor Glenn Youngkin. In that role, he led efforts to reduce the cost of higher education, expand access to career and technical education, and increase institutional transparency and accountability.

Kent previously served as Chief Policy Officer at Career Education Colleges and Universities, where he advocated for federal policies that support career-focused education and promote choice and innovation in higher education. He was also the founding President of the CECU Research Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing data-driven solutions to support student success.

He has also served in executive roles at a private-sector education company, where he led regulatory and accreditation operations for a national system of postsecondary institutions. Kent also has experience in K-12 education, having served as Director of Policy, Planning, and Research at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education. He began his career in education policy as a professional staff member at an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Kent holds a bachelor's degree in political science from West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he attended on a Pell Grant. He also holds a master's degree in higher education administration from The George Washington University. He and his partner reside in Virginia.

SPEAKERS

Kristina Gill

Kristina Gill practices in the area of education law. Ms. Gill's practice focuses on issues related to federal and state higher education law from both a policy and regulatory compliance perspective. Her experience and advice includes issues surrounding compliance with the federal regulatory process, particularly as related to the Title IV student financial aid programs authorized by the Higher Education Act and administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Specifically, Ms. Gill counsels institutions regarding institutional, student and program Title IV eligibility requirements, including Title IV program review and audit response and resolution, Title IX (sexual harassment) and Clery Act (campus safety) compliance, Annual Safety Reports, EEOC complaints, change of ownership questions and approvals, incentive compensation, licensing requirements, state authorization (on-ground and distance education), DOD/VA educational benefit regulations, gainful employment compliance, and borrower defense to repayment issues. She also advises schools regarding consumer protection and disclosure regulations and trends, and a variety of other legal and regulatory issues impacting educational institutions, including marketing and advertising practices, and third party servicer relationships. She assists clients in providing formal responses to rulemaking and draft legislation.

As a former staffer on Capitol Hill and registered lobbyist, Ms. Gill brings an insiders perspective to the federal legislative process. She has a strong command of the intersection between policy and regulations. She works with clients to develop advocacy and engagement strategies for issues related to higher education and more specifically the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. She is a speaker at higher education conferences on emerging and on-going regulatory issues impacting postsecondary educational institutions.

Katherine D. Brodie

Katherine D. Brodie leads the Washington, D.C., team of the firm's national education law and policy practice and serves as a Team Lead for the Duane Morris Education industry group. She is one of a small number of attorneys in the United States with a daily practice devoted primarily to the needs of educational institutions (nonprofit, public and proprietary), education associations, education companies and investors in education. She has a strong interest in supporting mission-driven educational institutions and their partners to effectively lead and adapt to the rapid pace of change in the U.S. education sector while maintaining high quality educational services as measured in cost, accessibility and student outcomes.

Ms. Brodie's experience includes, among other areas of the law, those laws and regulations that directly impact educational institutions, including U.S. Department of Education regulations (Title IV student financial aid); Title IX compliance and response; Clery Act/campus safety; privacy and data security; accrediting agency standards including substantive change (ownership and governance, program, location and other changes); state licensing and authorization; admissions and marketing; online and hybrid education; foreign school and overseas operations including study abroad programs; OPM and partnership agreements; income share agreements; and skills-based, non-degree short term programs. Her advice also includes compliance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), U.S. Department of Veterans (VA)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) education benefits, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) participation and funding, state education grant programs, and other federal and state regulations and programs relevant to institutional operations. Because the needs of institutions are so diverse, she is often aided in her work by subject matter professionals in the firm's other disciplines including tax, employment, real estate, immigration, corporate and trial.

She is a frequent speaker and writer on higher education topics and trends and, as a registered federal lobbyist, advocates before the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education on education policy reform and funding proposals.

Howard Leslie

Howard Leslie, who is celebrating an impressive 50-year career in Financial Aid, most recently served as Vice President of Financial Aid Compliance at Berkeley College in New York and New Jersey. He now offers his expertise as a consultant and is a Past President of the New York State Association of Financial Aid Administrators (NYSFAAA).

Throughout his distinguished career, Howard has provided consulting services to numerous institutions, served as a federal trainer for the U.S. Department of Education, and contributed

to the original development of the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). He has also participated in several high-level initiatives with both the Department of Education and the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation. In addition, he has remained an active and engaged member of both NYSFAAA and EASFAA.

Among his many contributions to the field, Howard was the first individual in the nation to certify an electronic student loan, as part of a New York State and federal partnership to advance electronic loan processing. He also pioneered the concept of PLUS pre-approvals, which he beta tested in collaboration with Chase and the School of Visual Arts—an innovation that was quickly adopted nationwide.

Further highlighting his impact, Howard founded Student Financial Literacy in partnership with Nellie Mae, an effort that earned him a letter of commendation from President Carter. He also served on the committees that contributed to the development of the G5 system as well as the FSA Partner Portal we know today. More recently, he has trained, via webinars, approximately 3,000 financial aid administrators on the OB3 Schedule of Reduction.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Howard has been happily married to his wife, Lisa, for 49 years. Together they have one son, three grandchildren, and a beloved poodle, Rory.

APC MEMBER PRESENTERS

BERKELEY COLLEGE

Will Moya

Will Moya serves as Vice President of Student Finance and Institutional Effectiveness at Berkeley College, where he oversees Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Student Receivables, the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Mr. Moya began his career at Berkeley College in 2001 and has held leadership roles across Academic Advisement and Student Records, Academic Affairs, Records Management, Institutional Advancement, Financial Aid, and Campus Operations. He previously served as Vice President of Campus Operations and Enrollment and was named Berkeley College Associate of the Year in both 2003 and 2004.

In 2022, Mr. Moya was recognized by *Crain's New York Business* as one of its Notable Hispanic Leaders. He also serves as a peer evaluator with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and recently completed a complex substantive change review for two U.S. government colleges.

Mr. Moya holds an MBA from Nova Southeastern University, a BBA in Information Systems Management from Berkeley College, and an AAS in Office Systems Management from Berkeley College. He is currently pursuing his doctorate at Liberty University.

Cara Ruggiero

Cara Ruggiero is the Senior Director of the Center for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology at Berkeley College with over 10 years of experience in teaching and school administration. Cara has taught students every age from preschool through college, mentored teachers and facilitated professional development in the PreK-12 and higher education spaces. After receiving her Masters in Curriculum and Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University, Cara found her greatest passion in curriculum development, namely curriculum that highlights creativity and collaboration. At Berkeley College, Cara consults with faculty to incorporate student-centered teaching approaches throughout courses to engage learners in 21st century skills.

BRYANT & STRATTON COLLEGE

Anne Loria

Anne Loria is the Executive Vice President for Bryant & Stratton College. Prior to her current position, Ms. Loria served as the first Vice President of Research, Strategic Planning & Assessment from 2017 to 2022. She has held various roles at the College since 1992 including: Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment, Director of Rochester Colleges, Campus Director, Director of Campus Operations, and Business Office Director. She is also Corporate Secretary for the College.

Ms. Loria has served on several Middle States Commission on Higher Education peer review teams, is currently a committee member of the MSCHE (Middle States Commission on Higher Education) New Applicant Committee Review and has also served on multiple boards in the community as a member and in a leadership capacity.

Ms. Loria has a Master of Science in Management and Strategic Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She also received a master's level certification in Not-for-Profit Leadership. Anne also has a green belt certification in Six Sigma.

Chris Keaton

With years of experience in Information Management and Technology leadership, Chris has a passion for improving the way people access and interact with information. Throughout his career, he has constantly advanced the role of information within companies, often maturing reporting teams into IT driven analytic powerhouses. A highly sought-after speaker, he has spoken at numerous conferences such as HIMSS

commercial, government, and not for profit organizations in the US - including American Eagle Outfitters, City of Rochester, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Duquesne University, Wayne State University, and many more. Prior to joining Bryant & Stratton College, he was Director of Analytics & Operations for LPA. In addition, he has lead Analytic innovation for HealthNow New York, and he spent nearly a decade as a senior consultant with WNY-based Inergex. He holds a Master of Science in IT from RIT, and a Bachelor's from Syracuse University in the field of Information Management and Technology.

THE COLLEGE OF WESTCHESTER

Maria Gangi

Maria Gangi is the Vice President of Student Services and Retention at The College of Westchester, where she leads strategic efforts to enhance student success through holistic, student-centered support. She oversees academic advising, career services, student support services, and cross-functional initiatives that focus on meeting students where they are, academically, professionally, and personally. A proud alumna of The College of Westchester, Maria is deeply committed to transformative learning and creating pathways that empower diverse learners to thrive and succeed in their careers.

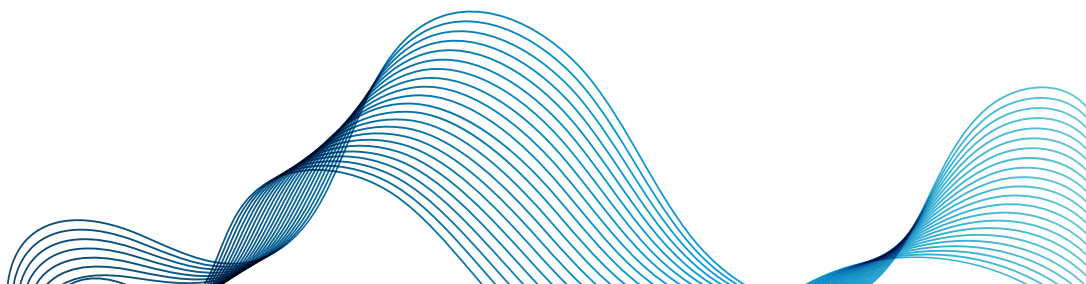
Dr. Erica Schacht

Dr. Erica Schacht serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of Faculty, and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) at The College of Westchester. With nearly two decades of experience in higher education, her professional expertise includes curriculum design, faculty development, assessment, and accreditation. Dr. Schacht holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Walden University, a Master of Arts in Literature from Iona University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from Salve Regina University. Most recently, Dr. Schacht served as Co-Chair of The College of Westchester's Middle States Commission Self-Study.

FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

Michael Cavalli, MSW

Michael Cavalli, MSW has over 13 years of professional experience in Student Affairs, with a core portfolio in residential life, student activities, and advising. Currently, Michael serves as the Assistant Dean for Campus Life with Five Towns College, providing leadership and support for the Offices of Residence Life, Campus Events, Public Safety, and Food Services. In his role, Michael supports the FTC community across a broad range of co-curricular experiences.



David Cohen

David Cohen currently serves as President of Five Towns College, a position he has held in 2016. Prior to that appointment, he served as Chief Executive Officer/President of the Institute of Audio Research (NYC), and as Chief Academic Officer/Provost of Briarcliffe College (Bethpage, NY).

After joining the Five Towns College faculty in 1987, he was named Dean of Administration and General Counsel, a position he held until being named Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost in 2009.

Under Cohen's leadership, the College acquired a permanent campus, transitioned into a residential college, constructed residence halls, added athletic programs, expanded its degree authority multiple times, and achieved programmatic accreditation from NAST and NASM, while reaffirming its accredited status with the Middle States Commission.

David M. Cohen remains active in higher education. He chairs the Council of Presidents of the North American Council for Intercollegiate Athletics (NACIA), is a member of the Long Island Regional Advisory Council on Higher Education (LIRACHE), and is chair of the Association of Private Colleges (APC) – an association representing 12 colleges and universities across New York State and the 25,000 students. Previously he served as School Commissioner for the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

LIM COLLEGE

Dr. Scott Carnz

Dr. Scott Carnz is Provost and Chief Academic Officer at LIM College in New York City, where he provides strategic leadership for the institution's academic and administrative operations, advancing innovation, academic quality, and student success in a college dedicated to the business of fashion and related industries. With nearly three decades of higher education leadership experience, Dr. Carnz has served as provost, dean, faculty member, and interim president across a variety of institutions. Prior to joining LIM College, he served as Provost of City University of Seattle, where he led a comprehensive reorganization of academic affairs, established the university's first Office of Social Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, launched a faculty and student research

institute, oversaw the transition to a new learning management system, and helped increase student persistence rates. His career has been marked by a consistent focus on organizational transformation, accreditation, student success, and the alignment of academic programs with evolving workforce needs.

Dr. Carnz holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and is a recognized thought leader on higher education innovation, assessment, student success, and the intersection of design thinking and learning. He has authored and contributed to numerous publications on accreditation, technology-enabled assessment, business-higher education partnerships, and data-informed decision-making, and has presented internationally on topics including digital transformation, online learning readiness, design thinking, and educational leadership. A peer evaluator and committee member for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Dr. Carnz is also an experienced nonprofit consultant, organizational development strategist, and benefit auctioneer. His work is driven by a commitment to building inclusive, future-focused institutions that prepare students to thrive in an increasingly complex and technology-driven world.

Dr. Peter E. Zirogiannis

Peter E. Zirogiannis, Ed.D., is a higher education administrator with more than 15 years of experience in academic administration, assessment, accreditation, student success, and institutional effectiveness. He currently serves as Dean of Academic Administration at LIM College, where his work focuses on strengthening academic operations, supporting institutional assessment practices, advancing accreditation readiness, and promoting data-informed strategies to improve student retention and academic outcomes.

Dr. Zirogiannis has held a variety of leadership roles across higher education, including Dean, Assistant Dean, Director of Education, Director of Career Services, and Deputy Registrar. Across these positions, he has developed a broad and practical understanding of the student lifecycle, from enrollment and academic progression to retention, career preparation, and completion. His professional work has consistently centered on building systems that support student achievement, institutional accountability, continuous improvement, and mission-driven decision-making.

His areas of specialization include outcomes assessment, accreditation, student retention, developmental education, academic policy, curriculum support, and the use of data to identify barriers to student success. At LIM College, he has been actively involved in institutional initiatives related to assessment planning, Middle States accreditation, academic scheduling, retention analysis, and continuous improvement across academic and administrative units.

Dr. Zirogiannis earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from New York University and a Doctor of Education degree from LIU Post, with a focus in Transformational Leadership. His academic and professional background reflects a commitment to student-centered leadership, evidence-based planning, and the development of educational environments that promote access, persistence, and long-term student success.

MONROE UNIVERSITY

Christopher Barto

Christopher Barto currently serves as Vice President for Compliance and Government Relations at Monroe University, where he oversees institutional compliance initiatives and government relations activities. With more than three decades of experience in higher education administration, financial aid, compliance, and public policy, Christopher has established himself as a respected leader and advocate within the higher education community.

Prior to joining Monroe University in 2024, Christopher spent more than 20 years at LIM College, holding several senior leadership positions. His roles included Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs, Vice President for Student Finance, and Vice President for Student Finance & Chief Compliance Officer. In these capacities, he led institutional compliance efforts, managed student financial services operations, and advanced the college's engagement with government and community stakeholders.

Earlier in his career, Christopher served as Campus Director of Financial Aid for the New York City campus of Pace University, Interim Director of Financial Aid and Assistant Director at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and Financial Aid Counselor at Columbia University.

Throughout his career, Christopher has been deeply involved in higher education policy, regulatory compliance, student financial aid administration, and government relations. His extensive experience working across both institutional operations and public policy has made him a valued resource on issues affecting student access, affordability, and regulatory compliance in higher education.

Alexander Canals

Alexander Canals currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Monroe University's New Rochelle Campus. With nearly three decades of dedicated service at Monroe, Alex has held numerous leadership roles, including Assistant Vice President for Graduate Affairs and Dean of Graduate Admissions and Student Services for the King Graduate School as well as the Dean for the School of General Studies and Associate Dean of Student Services. . In his current role, he oversees key student support areas including Student Services, Residential Life, International Student Services, Health and Wellness, and Campus Programming.

Alex is deeply committed to student success and equity in education. Beyond administration, he has taught first-year transition courses, coached in the Aim High Empowerment Institute, and mentored students and staff through Monroe's First-Year Experience Program. He is passionate about nurturing future leaders through guidance and professional development.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Social Sciences from Binghamton University and a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Personnel Administration from New York University.

Saadia Del-Llano

Saadia Del-Llano, Executive Director Health and Wellness and 504 Services - Saadia Del-Llano brings over thirty-five years of experience in higher education, with a notable career dedicated to student success and community engagement. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Health and Wellness & 504 Services. Saadia began her journey in higher education as a recruiter and advisor for the Higher Education Opportunity Program / Community Leadership Program (HEOP/CLP), and has since devoted the majority of her career to Student Affairs. Her extensive leadership experience includes roles as Director of the 504 Office of Disability Services, Parent Liaison, Director of Special Projects, Director of Adult Student Admissions Programs, Director of Residence Life, and Associate Director of Student Activities & Leadership.

Beyond her campus contributions, Saadia has held executive board positions and served as a member of numerous community organizations, including Hispanic Woman Leaders of

Westchester, the Westchester Racial Diversity Steering Committee, the Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland County Counseling Association, the Westchester Alcohol and Other Drug Consortium, the New Rochelle Council of Community Services (NRCCS), and the National Latino Officers Association.

Saadia's lifelong commitment to building bridges that access education, and to the advocacy of possibilities both on campus and throughout the broader community has been an enduring calling to which she has endeavored to serve. As of the end of August 2026, she will be retiring to peruse spending more time with family and to pursue personal interests that have long been set aside.

John McCormick

John McCormick has been Monroe University's CIO for more than a year. He has extensive experience as a CIO, CTO, and CISO, including as the CTO and CISO of TIAA Gresham Investment Management for 7 years. Additionally, he held senior leadership roles at Brookfield Asset Management, JP Morgan Chase, ADP, Microsoft, and Deloitte. John holds an MBA from NYU Stern and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Union College.

He designed and implemented the world's most sophisticated counterterrorism system for the NYPD and developed a global systematic trading platform using an Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure multi-cloud architecture. He is a member of FBI InfraGard and served on Brookfield's Technology Fund Board.

NEW YORK AUTOMOTIVE AND DIESEL INSTITUTE

Michael Hatten

Michael Hatten is a seasoned postsecondary education leader and school owner with more than four decades of experience in career-focused education. He currently serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Automotive and Diesel Institute, LLC, which operates the New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI). Under his leadership, NYADI has achieved national accreditation and programmatic recognition from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF).

Mr. Hatten's expertise spans institutional leadership, accreditation and regulatory compliance, curriculum development, and strategic growth. He is widely recognized for his ability to build and sustain high-performing, student-centered institutions within the career education sector.

Trey Wright

Trey Wright is the Managing Director of The Recruits Wright Group (RWG), a search and advisory firm specializing in talent acquisition for career colleges and postsecondary institutions. He has a strong track record of partnering with institutions to identify, attract, and place high-impact leaders and individual contributors across admissions, financial aid, academics, and campus operations, with a focus on improving performance and long-term retention.

In addition to his recruiting work, Trey is the creator of the Accreditation Stabilization Program for Career Colleges, an initiative designed to help institutions strengthen compliance, improve operational alignment, and successfully navigate accreditation challenges. His work sits at the intersection of talent strategy, regulatory awareness, and institutional effectiveness.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Thanks to our 2026 Innovation Summit Corporate Partners:

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CSPEN and APC combine for a unique New York City experience

APC INNOVATION SUMMIT

TFC Tuition

You may already know us. *You may not know everything we do.*

The names are new. The results aren't.

THE CONTEXT

Federal loan limits are shifting in ways that will strain enrollment, stress student accounts, and test your institution's financial flexibility. The schools that navigate this well won't be the ones that react fastest. They'll be the ones that had the right partner already.

TFC has been that partner for more than 55 years. **This summer, we're giving our solutions the names they've earned, including several we've built and refined specifically for this moment.**

THE SOLUTIONS

RETENTION

Flexible solutions designed to keep your students enrolled when federal aid falls short while supporting your institution's completion goals.

RECONNECT

Compassionate tools to recover revenue from former students while preserving relationships that matter to your institution.

INSTITUTIONAL LENDING

Customizable campus based loan programs for your highest-need students, designed to fill the gaps that federal aid no longer covers.

The solutions are here. The conversation starts now. LET'S TALK

Outcomes Over Optics

info@tfctuition.com I 516-358-1900 I www.tfctuition.com

apc Association of Private Colleges

THANK YOU

(518) 437-1867

apc@apc-colleges.org

apc-colleges.org

121 State Street,
Albany, NY 12207