

# ACAD

AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
OF ACADEMIC DEANS

74th Annual Meeting  
January 24-27, 2017  
Washington, DC

## **Navigate, Balance, Connect: Academic Leadership for Today's Higher Education**

Throughout American history higher education has been seen as the gateway to opportunity, allowing people to step beyond limited means and helping people engage in continual improvement from generation to generation. The 2018 ACAD Annual Meeting program focuses on academic leadership in today's Higher Education and features sessions that academic administrators will find useful, challenging, and enriching. ACAD sessions are known for their emphasis on practice and the use of interactive methods of presentation.

## **ACAD Conference Highlights**

### **ACAD 7th Annual Deans' Institute, Wednesday, January 24 8:45am—4:30pm**

The Deans' Institute, sponsored by the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD), provides an opportunity for academic administrators to develop their leadership abilities in a supportive environment. It is designed especially for deans, provosts, associate deans and associate provosts, and other academic leaders above the rank of department head.

The featured opening plenary speaker for the day is Nayef Samhat, President, Wofford College. The closing speaker will be Stephanie Fabritius, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Centre College. The Institute will also include a series of roundtable discussion opportunities on over 15 different topics/themes.

The goals of the day-long institute are:

- ≡ Advancing the leadership abilities of deans and academic administrators
- ≡ Sharing valuable information about the current state of the deanship
- ≡ Providing updates on important developments in the world of higher education
- ≡ Creating networking opportunities

A full Institute program can be found by visiting the ACAD website at [www.acad.org](http://www.acad.org).

### **ACAD Keynote Luncheon (*additional fee*)**

**Friday, January 26, 11:45 a.m.**

### ***Intergenerational Mobility and Higher Education in America: New Findings from Big Data***

**John N. Friedman**, PI for the Equality of Opportunity Project, Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs and Public Policy, Brown University

Which colleges and universities account for the most upward mobility? And how is this changing over time? Recent research on these questions using big data has provided the most detailed picture yet of student backgrounds and long-term outcomes for colleges and universities of all types. Prof. Friedman will present key findings from this research to offer a new perspective on

student success in higher education in America and suggest new directions for policies to improve opportunities for all students.

John N. Friedman is an Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs and Public Policy at Brown University. His research brings together theory and data and harnesses the power of large administrative datasets to yield policy-relevant insights on a wide range of topics, including education, taxation, retirement, and healthcare. His work has appeared in top academic journals as well as in major media outlets, and his work on the long-term effects of teachers was cited by President Obama in his 2012 State of the Union Address. From 2013-2014, Prof. Friedman worked as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy at the National Economic Council in the White House. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics, an A.M. in Statistics, and a B.A. in Economics, all from Harvard University. He is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

### **ACAD Pre-Conference Workshops (*additional fee*)**

**Wednesday, January 24 2:00—5:00pm**

#### **“Through the Looking Glass”: Leadership Lessons on Negotiating Race and Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Academy**

What happens when you turn on the television news and racists groups are planning a march on your campus? As a person of color serving in academic leadership, what can you do when efforts to threaten, demean, or degrade people who look like you are an assault against your whole community and it goes unchallenged? What is your role as academic leader in the face of domestic terrorism? Borrowing the metaphorical expression “through the looking glass,” which means, “on the strange side, in the twilight zone, or in a strange parallel world,” people of color in academic leadership find themselves in an analogous position when their campus is threatened with acts of racism, bigotry and hatred. How are they “expected” to lead?

This interactive session presents case studies on negotiating race in the academy. Workshop participants will explore institutional challenges such as backlash and impact of not responding. Moreover, participants will grapple with the reality of negotiating one’s race or identity and the “expectation” having an ability to balance the “self” separately from the “leader” in these nuanced, complex situations. The workshop offers solution-focused perspectives leading authentically from a diverse panel of academic deans.

**Lawrence T. Potter, Jr.**, Dean and Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, University of La Verne; **Kendrick Brown**, Dean and Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Redlands; **Hideko Sera**, Associate Dean, School of Education, University of Redlands

#### **Learning to Thrive “In-Between”: Succeeding as an Assistant/Associate Dean**

Assistant/Associate Deans are often caught “in-between”: in-between the faculty and the Dean, in-between different departments and/or faculty, in-between Academic Affairs and other offices at the institution, and even in-between career steps. This “in-betweenness” creates challenges (mistrust, lack of power, confusion), but it also opens opportunities to build bridges that can lead to institutional transformation and professional growth.

In this interactive session, participants will consider many elements of associate deaning—such as entering administrative work, (re)building trust with faculty colleagues, launching and leading academic initiatives, working across the entire institution, supervising staff, prioritizing a seemingly-endless workload, managing “up”, communicating with grace, and preparing for one’s next professional step. Using case studies and shared insights, the group will explore the challenges of this work and develop practical strategies that can apply to a variety of institutional settings. This is a valuable development and networking opportunity for both new and not-as-new Assistant/Associate Deans.

**James M. Sloat**, Associate Provost and Associate Dean of Faculty, Colby College; **Marcia France**, Associate Provost, Washington and Lee University; **Michael Houf**, Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences, Texas A&M University, Kingsville; **Maryse Jayasuriya**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at El Paso

### **ACAD Sessions**

ACAD sponsored sessions are open to all attendees and include the following:

- Deans’ Reflections on Creative Tension in the Academy
- Shared Governance in Practice: What Every Dean Needs to Know
- Can the Subaltern Speak?: Listening to Conservatives on Campus
- The Storytelling Imperative: Articulating the Value of Higher Education
- Higher Education Today: Practices for Survival
- The Dean as Public Intellectual and Advocate for Higher Education
- Bridging the Liberal Arts - Vocational "Divide"
- Toward Life and Career: Re-organizing and Re-imagining Student Success Initiatives
- Liberal Education and Preparation for Career and Life: Is General Education a Help or a Hurdle?
- STEM to STEAM to STREAM: Balance and Realignment for Humanities

### **ACAD and CCAS Joint Reception**

**Friday, January 26 5:30pm**

ACAD and CCAS (Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences) are co-hosting a reception Friday evening. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate our new partnership.