

Invited Speakers

Sunday, June 17, 4:15–5:15 pm

The Financial Resilience of Independent Colleges and Universities

Michael Williams (Vice President, Ruffalo Noel Levitz)



Mike started his professional life in academe as an English professor and the classroom was his main focus for over twenty years, most recently at William Jewell College near Kansas City. In the late 80's the president asked Mike to lead a strategic planning group for the college, and even as a specialist in Victorian Literature, he saw the importance of data to support decision making. For the past fifteen years, Mike has worked with The Austen Group, now a part of Ruffalo Noel Levitz. Today Mike's time is divided between academic program planning on individual campuses and benchmarking reports for national associations. The Austen Group produces the Key Indicator and Financial Indicator Tools for the Council for Independent Colleges and the CCCU Financial Ratios Report for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Tuesday, June 19, 8:30–9:30 am

Data Rich, but Information Poor: The Value of Improving Federal Data Systems

Amanda Janice Roberson (Assistant Director of Research and Policy, Institute for Higher Education Policy)



Amanda is Assistant Director of Research and Policy at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), where she helps to lead the policy research team. Her research interests include college access, affordability and success; using data to inform policy and practice; and federal higher education policy. Much of her work at IHEP centers on postsecondary data, metrics, and infrastructure, including contributions to the postsecondary metrics framework. Prior to joining IHEP, Amanda served as the assistant director for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, managing the scholarship program, assisting students with college financial aid, and tracking outcomes of program participants. This position sparked a passion for college access and success for low-income and underserved students. Amanda earned her M.P.A. from the George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and B.A. in political science, both from Ohio University.