

PA Chamber Higher Education Summit

Presented in Partnership with **ST** STEPTOE & JOHNSON
P L L C

September 10, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Rock Lititz Campus

AGENDA

8:00 A.M. Registration, Breakfast, Networking

9:00 A.M. Opening Remarks

- **Luke Bernstein**, President and CEO, PA Chamber

9:05 A.M. How Rock Lititz is Leading Workforce Development

- **Kate Gallagher**, Vice President of Impact, Rock Global

9:15 A.M. Student Panel: Lessons from Live Entertainment

9:35 A.M. Featured Perspective

- **Dr. Christopher Florentino**, Chancellor, PA State System of Higher Education

9:45 A.M. Panel 1: Aligning Higher Education with Workforce Needs

- **Overview:** Explore how higher education institutions, employers, and state government can work collaboratively to close skills gaps, expand experiential learning, and ensure students graduate with the tools required for the workforce. Panelists will also examine how artificial intelligence and demographic shifts are reshaping higher education's role as an economic driver for the Commonwealth.
- **Moderator:**
 - **Jason A. Antin**, Member, Steptoe & Johnson
- **Panelists:**
 - **Dr. Tuesday Stanley**, President, PA Commission for Community Colleges
 - **Dr. Lisa Lambert**, President, Chatham University
 - **Anthony (Tony) Crerand, MBA, FACHE**, Associate Chief Human Resources Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
 - **Grant Ervin**, Vice President of External Affairs and Sustainability, S&B USA

10:45 A.M. Refreshment Break

11:00 A.M. Featured Perspective

- **Tom Foley**, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania

11:10 A.M. Panel 2: Navigating State and Federal Policy Impacts

- **Overview:** Higher education institutions are operating in an increasingly complex policy environment shaped by federal and state decisions on funding, immigration, regulation, and campus governance. At the same time, institutions face mounting pressure to control costs, maintain access and affordability, and foster environments that welcome diverse viewpoints. This panel will examine policy forces affecting higher education today—and what institutional leaders should be preparing for next.
- **Moderator:**
 - **Marcia L. DePaula**, Member, Steptoe & Johnson
- **Panelists:**
 - **Dr. Sylvester Williams, IV, JD, MBA, CCLE**, Dean for College of Business and Management, East Stroudsburg University
 - **Representative Peter G. Schweyer**, Chairman, House Education Committee
 - **Senator David Argall**, Chairman, Senate Policy Committee
 - **Dwayne Lee Pinkney**, Executive Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, University of Pittsburgh

12:15 P.M. “Degrees That Deliver: Accountability through Outcomes”

- **Overview:** This fireside chat will explore how higher education can better align academic programs with the evolving needs of today's workforce. The conversation will focus on elevating student outcomes, strengthening accountability, and ensuring institutions are delivering real value for students, employers, and the broader economy.
- **Panelists:**
 - **Kelly McManus**, Executive Vice President of Education, Arnold Ventures
 - **Dr. Neeli Bendapudi**, President, Penn State University

1:00 P.M. Lunch and Networking

2:00 P.M. Conclude

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Kelly McManus, Executive Vice President of Education, Arnold Ventures

Kelly McManus leads Arnold Ventures' education team, driving efforts to increase the return on investment in the education system for both students and taxpayers. Under Kelly's leadership, the team manages a portfolio of research, policy, advocacy, and litigation investments to create lasting policy change. She has grown Arnold Ventures' education portfolio with a strong focus on accountability, value, and return on investment in education, while building support for evidence-based policies at both the state and federal levels.

Kelly's work spans two decades of experience across K-12 and higher education, including initiatives that connect education and workforce development to economic mobility and stability. She is engaged in career pathways work, ensuring multiple routes to economic security. Her expertise also extends to exploring how K-12 education and workforce policies can drive opportunity and equity nationwide.

Prior to joining Arnold Ventures, Kelly served as the director of government affairs for EdTrust, directing strategy and legislative advocacy across early childhood, K-12 education, higher education, and appropriations issues. Before coming to Washington, D.C., she worked extensively in state-level education policy and advocacy in Arizona and served as a middle school English teacher with Teach For America in Philadelphia.

Kelly earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in political science from Wake Forest University.



Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, President, Penn State

Dr. Neeli Bendapudi has served as the nineteenth president of Penn State since May 2022, leading one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive universities with energy, clarity, and a deep commitment to student success. A nationally respected academic leader and former business executive, she brings more than thirty years of experience across higher education and industry.

Under her leadership, Penn State has achieved a balanced budget a year ahead of schedule, completed its most successful fundraising year ever in 2024-25, and reached new heights in research, intellectual property, and external engagement. She has accelerated interdisciplinary research, continued to build Penn State as a national leader in public impact and innovation, and initiated a multi-year reimagining of the Commonwealth Campus structure.

President Bendapudi previously served as president of the University of Louisville and held senior academic roles at the University of Kansas and The Ohio State University. She holds a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Kansas, and her research on consumer behavior has appeared in top academic and professional journals.

Widely recognized for her visionary leadership and people-centered approach, she is a proud advocate for public higher education and the power it holds to transform lives.



Jason A. Antin, Member, Steptoe & Johnson

Jason Antin concentrates his practice in real estate and general corporate law. He adds value by being a creative problem solver and an effective deal leader.

Antin advises colleges and universities on a broad range of institutional matters, including real estate development, long term strategic planning, financing structures, and tax exempt considerations. His work supports leadership teams as they evaluate campus growth initiatives, structure capital projects, navigate regulatory and governance requirements, and manage urgent operational challenges when they arise. He helps

institutions align facilities decisions, financial planning, and mission driven objectives to create durable, sustainable frameworks for future development.

He has tremendous experience in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including the acquisition, development, leasing, financing, and disposition of industrial, multifamily, office, and retail property. He has represented closely-held entities, real estate developers, corporations, and investment groups. His real estate practice has included a wide range of projects, including urban development, build-to-rent communities, corporate leasing, ground leases, master leases, government entities, real estate related to mergers and acquisitions/portfolios, and joint ventures.

He also has a background as an owner-operator in residential real estate and is a licensed Pennsylvania Broker of Record.

Jason's corporate law practice focuses on providing general counsel services and strategic advice to a wide range of businesses, ranging from multi-generational family businesses to private equity funds. He advises companies on both day-to-day and complex matters.

Previously, Antin was a partner at a large, international law firm and clerked for the Chief District Judge of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The George Washington University and holds a JD/MBA from Emory University as well as a LLM from NYU.



Dr. Tuesday Stanley, President, PA Commission for Community Colleges

Dr. Tuesday Stanley is President of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, where she represents Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges and advocates for policies, funding, and partnerships that strengthen workforce development, economic growth, and student success across the Commonwealth. In this role, she works closely with business leaders, legislators, educators, and industry partners to ensure community colleges are responsive to evolving workforce needs and help employers build the talent pipeline they require.

With more than three decades of leadership experience in higher education, Dr. Stanley has served as a college president, vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, and executive leader at institutions across the country. Throughout her career, she has championed innovative workforce training, industry partnerships, student access initiatives, and strategic investments in technology to improve organizational effectiveness and student outcomes. She also serves as President of Higher Education Consultants, advising colleges and education technology companies on strategy, enrollment, governance, and market alignment.

Dr. Stanley holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania, an MBA from Lehigh University, and a bachelor's degree from Purdue University.



Marcia L. DePaula, Member, Steptoe and Johnson

Marcia DePaula understands the importance of authentic connections by engaging in thoughtful conversation, active listening, and exhibiting empathy. Clients appreciate Marcia's ability to make connections with them, but more importantly, her ability to provide solutions to their problems.

Marcia understands the importance of being face-to-face with clients, and she can routinely be found conducting on-site client visits, seeking feedback, and providing training.

Marcia focuses her practice in the areas of labor and employment law and higher education. Marcia's practice is a unique blend of litigation prevention and litigation defense. Marcia helps employers work through Title VII, ADA, FMLA, and ADEA related to discrimination, harassment, accommodations, discipline, and termination. Success in counseling clients is rooted in her willingness to listen to her client in order to understand the legal situation, as well as the impact on business operations and workplace environment. Marcia negotiates collective bargaining agreements and handles grievance arbitrations.

While litigation can be exciting, most employers don't have the same mindset. Marcia works to make the litigation process as effortless as possible for her clients. Marcia is frequently advocating for and defending clients before administrative agencies, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and in state and federal courts.

Marcia is a very well-rounded attorney. In addition to her employment practice, Marcia advises private universities on GDPR, FERPA, Title IX, and Title VII. Marcia has extensive experience in commercial and business litigation, including banking, construction, and advertising.

Additionally, Marcia serves as Practice Group Leader for the Labor & Employment Department and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the firm. She participates in the firm's Higher Education, Banking, Real Estate, and Financial Services teams. Similar to the way she connects with clients, Marcia has an open-door policy and uses her leadership and relationship-building skills to develop and mentor other firm lawyers.



Dr. Sylvester Williams, IV, JD, MBA, CCLE, Dean for College of Business and Management, East Stroudsburg University

Dr. Sylvester Williams is the Dean of the College of Business and Management at East Stroudsburg University. He has had an extensive career in both the public and private sectors, having worked as a legislative aide for the United States Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Early in his career, Dr. Williams was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a four-year term. He was a staff attorney in the Mass Media Bureau during President George Bush's administration. He has extensive work experience in the entertainment area of business, working with law firms as well as Time Warner. He spent 14 years working at Time Warner's corporate office across its cable, movie, and music divisions.

Also in the private sector, Dr. Williams worked as an economic policy analyst for a consulting firm and as an investment advisor for a regional investment firm in Washington, D.C.

He has written several workbooks on e-commerce law, project management, and Internet marketing, and has published over 75 articles on various business topics. As a public official, he has written and presented several documents on various topics relating to free trade and free trade agreements.

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics and finance from Howard University; his MBA from Wake Forest University; and his JD from Wake Forest University, along with certifications and executive leadership studies at Catholic University of America and Harvard University.



Grant Ervin, Vice President of External Affairs and Sustainability, S&B USA

Grant Ervin serves as Vice President for External Affairs and Sustainability for S&B USA, where he leads stakeholder engagement, marketing and communications, strategic partnership development, government affairs, and corporate philanthropy that advances S&B's infrastructure investment pursuits and construction activities in North America. He specializes in forming public, private and university partnerships that catalyze the creation of innovative infrastructure solutions and career opportunities for the next generation of builders.

Ervin has over 25 years of experience integrating infrastructure solutions, sustainability and social responsibility practices into operations, policies, communications strategy and organizational initiatives with community, government, private and university partnerships.

He previously served as the Chief Resilience Officer and Assistant Director for the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning and Department of Innovation and Performance and Department of Innovation and Performance. His accomplishments include the development of Hays Woods into Pittsburgh's newest park, the catalyst for the Uptown Eco Innovation District which has spurred over \$500 million in infrastructure and construction activities, the ONEPGH resilience strategy and public private partnership platform, The Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan and the Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium Renewable Energy Procurement Program among many other initiatives. Mr. Ervin's activities led to the City's participation in number national and global partnerships with the Rockefeller Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies, which connected his hometown of Pittsburgh with the world.

Ervin currently serves as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) Manufactures and Commerce, on the Green Builders Committee of the Master Builders of Western Pennsylvania, the transportation policy advisory committees of the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, as an advisor to Pittsburgh Earth Day – where he hosts the monthly Green Voice Podcast, and on the board of directors of CONNECT (the Congress of Neighboring Communities), The Pennsylvania Economy League, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and The Challenge Program.

Ervin continues to advise cities and local governments on matters of sustainability and infrastructure. He holds a Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) with a specialization in Global Political Economy from the University of Pittsburgh – Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, a BA from Washington and Jefferson College, and his Environmental Social and Governance Executive Certificate through Wharton Executive Education at the University of Pennsylvania.



Anthony (Tony) Crerand, MBA, FACHE, Associate Chief Human Resources Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health

Anthony (Tony) Crerand, MBA, FACHE, is Associate Chief Human Resources Officer at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health and has been employed by the organization since 2017.

In his current role, Tony provides executive leadership and strategic oversight for all Human Resources functionality, partnering closely with his senior team to align workforce strategy with organizational priorities to support LGH's nearly 10,000 employees. In addition to his role with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, Tony is also an adjunct professor in the Executive MBA Program at Lebanon Valley College most recently teaching Ethical, Legal and Policy Issues in Healthcare Management.

Prior to serving in Human Resources leadership, Tony held progressive operational leadership roles within Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, including Regional Director of Operations, where he oversaw primary care practices, regional outpatient centers, and virtual care services. Earlier in his career, he served in leadership roles with WellSpan Medical Group and Family Health Associates, leading multi-site healthcare operations and large interdisciplinary teams.

Tony holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Saint Joseph's University and a Master of Business Administration from York College of Pennsylvania. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and is also actively engaged in several professional and community service organizations throughout the South Central Pennsylvania region.



Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D., Chancellor, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)

Dr. Fiorentino was named the sixth chancellor of PASSHE in 2025, leading the system of 10 state universities that serve more than 80,000 students. Dr. Fiorentino is an educator and economist who served as president of West Chester University (WCU) from 2017 to 2024 and retired from that role having served the university for 41 years, starting as an assistant professor of economics in 1983.

Prior to being named president of WCU, Dr. Fiorentino served as interim president for one year and vice president for external operations for three years. He previously spent nearly 20 years as dean of WCU's College of Business and Public Affairs (now the College of Business and Public Management); his tenure within the Department of Economics included four years as chair.

As president of the largest university in PASSHE, Dr. Fiorentino led the university through a global pandemic and provided valuable thought-partnership to his fellow presidents and system leaders amid the nationwide demographic shift as the number of high-school graduates declined.

Throughout his leadership, Dr. Fiorentino — who was named to Philadelphia Business Journal's Power 100 list in 2021, 2022 and 2023 — instilled a spirit of innovation and ownership that has empowered students, faculty, and staff. Just prior to his retirement, he was inducted into the Chester County Hall of Fame by the Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC). The Board of Governors conferred the status of President Emeritus upon Dr. Fiorentino in the summer of 2024, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate for public service by Bucks County Community College, which he attended prior to transferring to Temple University.

Committed to propelling the university forward, Dr. Fiorentino oversaw the construction of the largest building project on the university's campus — the 175,000-square-foot Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons.

Early on, Dr. Fiorentino helped WCU fulfill its mission to serve local communities and the Commonwealth as a source of knowledge and skill development, a research center, and a service provider. As dean, he helped to secure AACSB accreditation for the School of Business; developed off-campus academic centers, including the Graduate Center in West Goshen Township; and worked with faculty and supporters to create the Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center. Dr. Fiorentino also spearheaded the development of the Center for Community Solutions, which links business and civic leaders who have research needs with university faculty and staff who can address those needs.

Dr. Fiorentino earned his baccalaureate, master's, and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Temple University. He and his wife Sue reside in Chester County, PA.



Tom Foley, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania

Thomas P. Foley has worked in senior leadership positions in both workforce development and higher education. He led Pennsylvania's job training programs as the Commonwealth's Secretary of Labor and Industry, and spent another decade as President of an independent nonprofit college, where 90 percent of the students were in career-focused majors at a liberal arts-based institution. He currently serves as President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), representing more than 80 independent nonprofit schools that educate more than half of PA's post-secondary students. He has authored dozens of articles on education and the workforce and has testified on these topics more than 40 times before state and federal legislative bodies.

Foley's deep commitment to public and community service includes two years as a volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and more than a decade as President and CEO of the Commonwealth's two largest volunteer-based nonprofits - the United Way of Pennsylvania and Red Cross (of Southeastern Pennsylvania). Foley is a first-generation college graduate, thanks to scholarships from Dartmouth College, University College Dublin, and Yale Law School. His wife, Michele, has taught English and Spanish at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels over a 30-year career.



Kate Gallagher, Vice President of Impact, Rock Global

Kate Gallagher is Vice President of Impact for Rock Global. She brings more than two decades of experience to her role, with skills in strategic planning, operations, organizational development, and mission-driven leadership.

Throughout her career, Kate has helped purpose-driven organizations turn ambitious ideas into clear strategies, aligned action, and measurable, lasting outcomes. Her work is grounded in collaboration, lived experience, and a commitment to expanding opportunity, strengthening education-to-workforce connections, and advancing economic mobility for students and communities.

Kate holds a Master of Nonprofit Management from Regis University and a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State University.



Representative Peter G. Schweyer, Chairman, House Education Committee

Representative Peter G. Schweyer was first elected as State Representative in 2014, representing Lehigh County. He currently serves as Majority Chairperson of the House Education Committee, where he led the fight to create a fairer system of funding public schools in the Commonwealth.

This work earned the praise of Governor Josh Shapiro, who at a bill signing ceremony in his district, said this about Schweyer, "Democrats, Republicans, House members, Senate members, people inside government, and people outside government. And we came up with a plan through a commission led by Chairman Schweyer, and then ultimately through legislation."

In his role as Education Chair, Schweyer also crafted the biggest change to Pennsylvania's system of higher education in nearly four decades, creating new scholarships and immediate new pathways to higher education while helping to control the cost of higher education in the long term through the creation of the State Board of Higher Education.

In addition to his work in education policy, Peter has authored legislation that has helped the Lehigh Valley's craft beer, wine, and spirits industry grow, has fought to protect our community from gun violence, and has been a leader on renewable energy, specifically community solar. Lastly, having been appointed as a member of the bipartisan medical marijuana policy work group, he crafted Pennsylvania's medical marijuana law.

Schweyer served for nearly six years as a member of Allentown City Council, including a stint as Council President. His accomplishments there include reforming the city's finances and pension, creating a highly successful gun buyback program, and crafting the city's comprehensive anti-graffiti law.

Schweyer serves as a member of the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and the PA State Board of Education. He has been appointed as a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Higher Education Task Force and is a member of the national group Education Commission of the States.

Lastly, Speaker Joanna McClinton also appointed Schweyer as Chair of the PA State House Ethics Committee.

He has received numerous awards from the PA School Boards' Association, Penn State, the Literacy Center, Lehigh Valley Labor Council, and the PA Beer Alliance, to name a few. He was named a Trailblazer in Higher Education in 2024 by City and State Magazine and was named a 20 Under 40 by the East Penn Business Journal (now known as Lehigh Valley Business) in 2011.

He and his wife, Jennifer, have been married since 2005 and live in the same South Allentown home that they purchased a few months after they were married. They have two wonderful daughters, Sarah and Erin, both products of the Allentown Public School District. Sarah, a recent ASD graduate, attends Penn State, while Erin is in high school.

Peter attended Cathedral of St. Catherine of Sienna (Now St. John Vianney) and graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School. He then graduated from Penn State University with an Honors Degree in Political Science.

Schweyer is an avid Penn State Football fan, and (randomly) is a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan. His hobbies include playing guitar, boating on the Lehigh River, and cooking. Senator Dave Argall represents 102 municipalities in northeastern Pennsylvania's Schuylkill and Carbon Counties and part of Luzerne County including the city of Hazleton.



Senator David Argall, Chairman, Senate Policy Committee

As a member of the Senate's majority leadership team, Chairman of its Senate Majority Policy Committee, and the proud grandson of Cornish, Welsh, and German farmers, coal miners, and factory workers, Senator Argall's top priority is revitalizing our older industrial communities.

Growing up, he witnessed first-hand the devastating impact of job losses in manufacturing and mining. Because of his grassroots teamwork, blighted communities have witnessed a positive transformation.

He chaired a bipartisan commission which unanimously recommended more than \$400 million in savings and is a leader in conservation and abandoned mine reclamation initiatives, locally as a volunteer Scout leader and as the author of legislation which has recycled more than 97 percent of Pennsylvania's waste tires.

Senator Argall earned a bachelor's degree from Lycoming College and a Ph.D. from Penn State. His studies included the economic and political transformations in Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the benefits and drawbacks of Pennsylvania's tax-free "Keystone Opportunity Zones."

Dr. Argall has served as a part-time public policy instructor for more than 30 years at Lycoming College, Penn State, and at Lehigh Carbon Community College, where he helped to lead the transformation of the junior high school where his parents once taught into LCCC's Morgan Center.

Senator Argall and his wife Beth are the proud parents of AJ and Elise, who are pursuing careers in patent law and communications and the grandparents of Amelia and Charlie.



Dwayne Lee Pinkney, Executive Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, University of Pittsburgh

Dwayne Lee Pinkney is the University of Pittsburgh's executive senior vice chancellor for administration and finance and chief financial officer.

Pinkney serves as a key adviser to Chancellor Joan Gabel and the senior leadership team on financial objectives and policies. From student housing, dining and campus safety, to the budget, student payments, purchasing and payroll, Pinkney leads a team of 1,400 staff members who provide foundational support and strategically use resources to further the University's mission and strategic plan, the Plan for Pitt 2028.

Pinkney brings decades of experience in a range of fiscal and operational roles, combining expert knowledge and strategic focus. He holds a long-standing commitment to students and shared governance; is well versed in collaborating with governance boards, presenting executive-level financial and operational data to internal and external stakeholders; and has a robust track record of effective advocacy and experience with capital construction planning, strategy and execution.

An alum of Pitt's School of Public and International Affairs, Pinkney (SPIA '87G) returned to Pitt after serving as the inaugural executive vice president for finance and administration at Indiana University, where he was responsible for leading the finance and administration organization. Prior to his time at IU, he served as senior vice president and chief business officer at Virginia Tech and as chief financial officer and senior associate vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He began his career in the North Carolina General Assembly as an analyst and served as the deputy secretary for administration with the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State.

Pinkney serves on the board of the UPMC Health Plan and on the NCAA Investment Subcommittee of the Finance and Audit Committee, which focuses on financial investment strategies.

In addition to a master's degree in public administration from Pitt, Pinkney holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree in English and journalism from North Carolina A&T State University.

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