



**FINAL
PROGRAM**

CLS 2025

Be Still

Phoenix, AZ

New Superintendents
Academy (NSA)
October 18-19, 2025

Catholic Leadership
Summit (CLS)
October 19-22, 2025

HILTON PHOENIX
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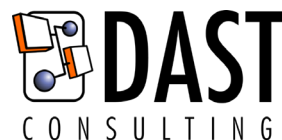
NCEATalk



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From the Desk of
NCEA PRESIDENT/CEO

DR. STEVEN F. CHEESEMAN

Dear Catholic School Leaders,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Catholic Leadership Summit (CLS) and New Superintendents Academy (NSA), October 19 – 22. As we gather in prayer, fellowship, and shared purpose, we do so under the theme, Be Still. This theme invites us to pause, step away from the noise, and reflect on our shared mission as Catholic school leaders.

In your roles as superintendents, system leaders, and administrators, you are often called to respond quickly, guide wisely, and act decisively. We are so often caught up in the day to day that we sometimes forget to be still—step back and breathe; breathe in the spirit that fuels our work in ministry. For it is in this stillness that we are reminded that leadership in Catholic education is first and foremost a spiritual call. A call that requires deep listening, humility, and trust in the work of the Holy Spirit. It is in that quiet space that God often speaks most clearly. It is in that quiet space that our “yes” begins its echo into the world.

CLS 2025 offers you the opportunity to step away from the urgent, enter into intentional conversation with peers, and further reflect on Catholic education through a lens of mission and renewal. Together, we will engage in professional learning sessions, empower one another with lessons learned, and be inspired through prayerful discernment.

I am grateful for your “yes” and for your courage, creativity, and steadfastness in guiding our Catholic schools. As we explore the challenges and opportunities before us, may this time remind you that your work matters deeply and that you are not alone in the mission.

On behalf of the NCEA staff and board, I offer my sincere gratitude to Bishop John P. Dolan, superintendent Domonic Salce, and the staff and volunteers of the Diocese of Phoenix for saying “yes” to graciously hosting this gathering.

May God bless each of you and may Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of our host diocese, shelter us under the mantle of Her protection and shower our Catholic school community with Her blessings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
President/CEO, National Catholic Educational Association



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and blessings to you, and welcome to the Diocese of Phoenix for the 2025 Catholic Leadership Summit!

We are honored to host this year's gathering of Catholic school leaders from across the country. Whether you are a superintendent, associate or assistant superintendent, executive director, or a leader in your diocese, Catholic network, conference, or organization, your presence here is a gift to our Church and a testament to your commitment to the sacred ministry of Catholic education.

This year's theme, "Be Still!", invites us to pause amid the demands of leadership and listen for the quiet voice of God. As Psalm 46:10 reminds us, "Be still and know that I am God." In this spirit, we hope this summit offers you not only professional enrichment but also spiritual renewal—a time to reflect, reconnect, and be refreshed in your vocation.

As Pope Leo XIV recently reflected, "In a world marked by restlessness, division, and deep spiritual hunger, the Church must become a sanctuary of stillness, where hearts rediscover the quiet joy of being loved by God." May this time together help us create that sanctuary—within ourselves and within our communities.

Your work forms the foundation of Catholic education in the United States. You guide communities, shape future generations, and witness daily to the Gospel through your leadership. We are deeply grateful for your dedication and pray that your time in Phoenix will be filled with grace, insight, and fellowship.

Know of our prayers for you and for the communities you serve. May the Holy Spirit guide our time together and renew our shared mission in Christ.

In Christ's peace,

+ John P. Dolan
Bishop of Phoenix

Domonic Salce
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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Unless noted, all Summit events will take place at Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort.

NEW SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

- 10 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST
- 11 AM – 12 PM
New Superintendents Academy
Welcome Remarks and Introductions
COURTROOM M
- 12 – 12:45 PM
Lunch
COURTROOM N
- 12:45 – 1:45 PM
Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM M
- 1:45 – 2 PM
Break
- 2 – 3 PM
Operational Vitality
COURTROOM M
- 3 – 3:15 PM
Break
- 3:15 – 4:15 PM
Academic Excellence
COURTROOM M
- 4:15 – 4:30 PM
Break
- 4:30 – 5:15 PM
NCEA Support and Resources
COURTROOM M
- 6 – 8 PM
New Superintendents Academy
Dinner
Sponsored by FACTS
POINTE IN TYME

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

- 8 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST
- 9 – 9:45 AM
Breakfast
COURTROOM N
- 9:45 – 10:30 AM
Public Policy Issues and the Catholic School Superintendent
COURTROOM M
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM
Break
- 10:45 – 11:30 AM
What Every New Superintendent Should Know
COURTROOM M
- 11:30 – 11:45 AM
Break
- 11:45 – 12:45 PM
Governance and Leadership
COURTROOM M
- 12:45 – 1 PM
New Superintendents Academy
Closing Remarks
COURTROOM M
- 2 – 4 PM
Complimentary Professional Headshots
Sponsored by Lifetouch
GRANDE BALLROOM D

Visit NCEA Central

Make NCEA Central your go-to stop during the Summit! Browse the latest publications, pick up exclusive merch, and explore the latest NCEA programs and resources. Learn more about your member benefits, NCEA Academy, what's changing with ACRE, and our upcoming National Catholic Schools of Distinction program. Whether you're looking to shop, learn, or connect, NCEA Central will be open throughout the Summit, matching the same hours as Registration and Badge Pick-up.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

- 5:30 – 6:30 PM
Catholic Leadership Summit
Welcome and Opening Mass
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BASILICA
- 7 – 8:30 PM
Welcome Dinner
Sponsored by FACTS
PALM TERRACE
- 8:30 – 10 PM
Dessert and Cocktail Reception
PALM TERRACE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

- 8 – 8:45 AM
Morning Liturgy
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 8 – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST
- 8:45 AM – 5 PM
Rest and Recharge Lounge
Sponsored by Catapult Learning
EAST COURTYARD
- 9 – 5 PM
Adoration
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 9 – 10 AM
Breakfast
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 10 – 10:20 AM
Welcome Address
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

- 10:20 – 11:20 AM
A Revolution of Stillness
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 11:20 – 11:35 AM
Break
- 11:35 AM – 12:35 PM
Accompaniment for Leadership: Findings from a National Study on the Formation and Wellbeing of Catholic School Leaders
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 12:35 – 1:35 PM
Lunch
Sponsored by William H. Sadlier
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 1:35 – 2:45 PM
Professional Learning Network (PLN) Discussion Sessions
- 2:45 – 3 PM
Break
- 3 – 4 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 1
- 5:30 – 5:45 PM
Departure for the Heard Museum
LOBBY, HILTON TAPATIO CLIFFS
- 6 – 9 PM
Evening at the Heard Museum
Sponsored by Catapult Learning, Blackbaud, FlynnO'Hara Uniforms, and William H. Sadlier
HEARD MUSEUM
- 9 – 11 PM
Bar Under the Stars
Sponsored by FACTS
HIGHLAND PLAZA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

- 8 – 8:45 AM
Morning Liturgy
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 8 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST

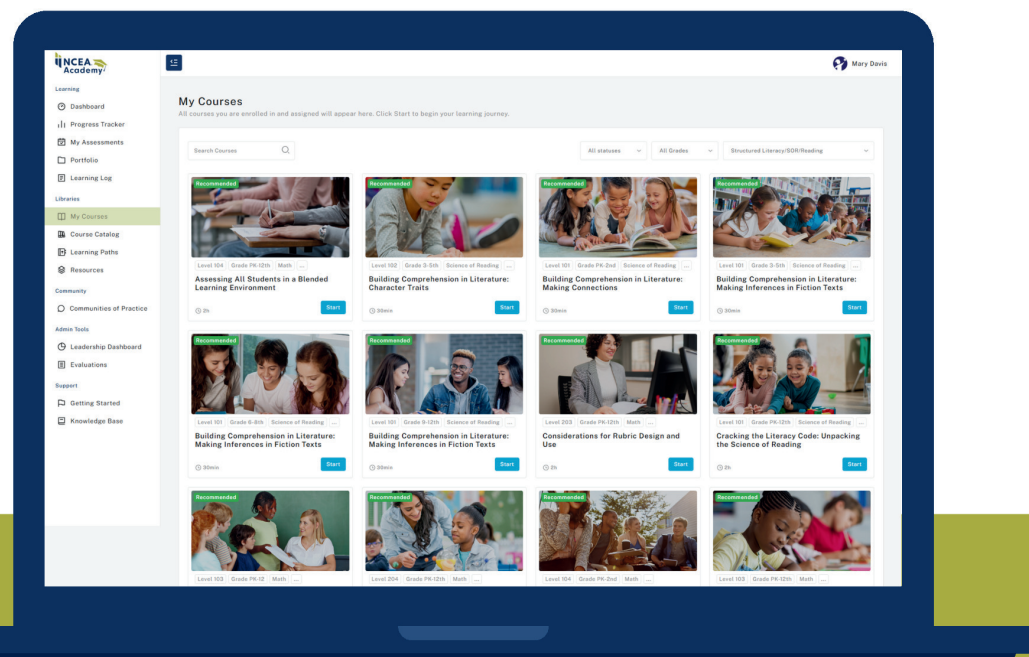
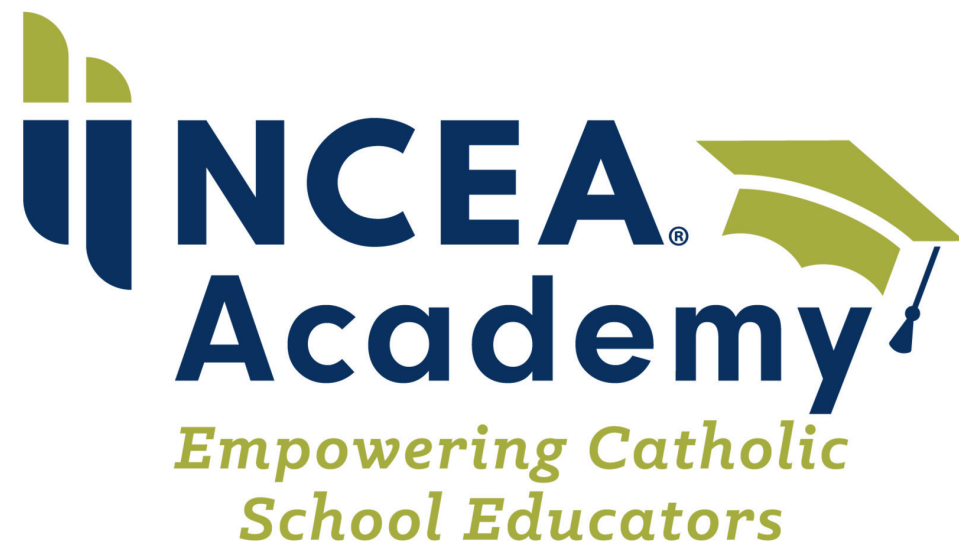
- 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Breakfast
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 9 AM – 5 PM
Adoration
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 9:45 – 10:45 AM
What's New: Changing Landscape of Federal Education Programs and Policies
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 10:45 – 11 AM
Break
- 11 – 11:30 AM
Implementing Evangelizing Catechesis in Catholic Schools
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
NCEA Panel Updates
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 12:15 – 1:15 PM
Lunch
Sponsored by Renaissance
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 1:15 – 2:15 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 2
- 2 – 4 PM
Specialty Coffee Bar
Sponsored by Clarity Tuition
VERANDA, LEVEL TWO
- 2:15 – 2:30 PM
Break
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 3
- 3:30 – 3:45 PM
Break
- 3:45 – 4:45 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 4
- 5:30 PM
Bus Departure to Scottsdale
Sponsored by VenturEd
LOBBY, HILTON TAPATIO CLIFFS

- 5:30 – 8:30 PM
Evening in Scottsdale (Self-Guided)
OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE
- 9 – 11 PM
Bar Under the Stars
Sponsored by VenturEd
HIGHLAND PLAZA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

- 7:30 – 8:15 AM
Morning Liturgy
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 8 AM – 12 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST
- 8:15 – 9 AM
Breakfast
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 9 – 10 AM
Professional Learning Sessions 5
- 9 – 5 PM
Adoration
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ
- 10 – 10:15 AM
Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 AM
Process Workshop: Reflections, Outcomes and Next Steps
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH
- 10:45 – 11 AM
Break
- 11 – 11:30 AM
Leading with a Rested Heart: Rediscovering Joy in Mission
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

- 11:30 AM – 12 PM
Catholic Leadership Summit
Closing Remarks
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH



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**CATHOLIC
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT**

JONATHAN DOYLE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
10:20 – 11:20 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jonathan Doyle is an international Catholic speaker, author, businessman, and executive coach who has spoken around the world to more than 500,000 people on topics related to Catholic education, Catholic charism and identity, leadership, teacher wellbeing, resilience, peak performance, and more.

He previously delivered the keynote address at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention & Expo in St. Louis, MO, and is a frequent keynote speaker in the U.S., Asia, and Europe.

He is the founder of an influential education and media business that delivers training content to hundreds of Catholic schools, organizations, dioceses, and thousands of individuals around the world weekly. This includes an extensive range of curriculum, formation, and personal development resources.

Jonathan holds an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Canberra, a master's in educational leadership and management from the University of Newcastle, and has undertaken post-graduate study in philosophical anthropology with the John Paul II Pontifical Institute. He has recently completed further post-graduate study at both the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (R.M.I.T), and the Oxford University School of Business.

His academic interests span Catholic philosophical anthropology, Aristotelian models of human excellence, and the Second Vatican Council's teaching on the universal call to holiness, complemented by a strong foundation in global finance and debt-based monetary systems.

He is the author of four books on relationships and peak performance, and each day he shares these same ideas with a large global audience via two influential podcasts.

He has been married to his wife Karen for almost 25 years and is a father to three teenagers, Olivia, Aidan, and Stephanie and a beloved Cavoodle named Benji.

When not speaking or writing, Jonathan can be found dividing his time between ultramarathons, cycling, and a lifelong obsession with golf.



SUMMIT INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

October 18–22, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

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City Information

There is so much to see and do in Phoenix.
Visit www.visitphoenix.com for more information.

Courtesy Request

Attendees are asked to remain seated until sessions conclude. If you must leave early, please sit at the back of the session room. Early departures disturb the speaker and other attendees. Please silence all mobile devices during all programs.

Endorsements

An appearance by a speaker and/or an exhibitor at this Summit does not imply an NCEA endorsement. Official endorsements are granted only by NCEA management.

Evaluation of Sessions and the Full Convention

Complete session evaluations and share valuable feedback through the Summit Evaluation, available in the mobile app. Your feedback is essential to our work.

Guest Services

If you require special assistance while attending the Summit, please notify an NCEA staff member by visiting the registration desk.

Lost and Found

Please see the staff office, Grande Ballroom B, for any lost and found items.

Mobile App

Download the free NCEA Events app from your device's app store. Search for "CLS 2025" to access this year's content. Login credentials have been sent to each attendee at the email address used to register for the Summit. Once logged in, use the "CLS 2025" app to view the most up to date session details, speakers, sponsors, and more. Make sure you're using the latest version to access new features and receive important notifications at login.

Name Badges

Badge pick-up and registration for attendees, speakers, and exhibitors is located at Registration Desk East. Attendees, speakers, and exhibitors must wear their Summit name badges for all activities.

Only people with official Summit badges will be admitted to general sessions, liturgies, and tabletop exhibits. To attend professional learning sessions, attendees must have a participant or speaker badge.

Photography

By participating in this Summit, attendees grant NCEA the right to use and reproduce photographs for NCEA educational, news, or promotional material, whether in print, electronic, or other media, including the NCEA website. Event photography is brought to you by Lifetouch, NCEA platinum partner.

Complimentary professional headshots will be offered by Lifetouch on a first-come, first-served basis on Sunday, October 19, from 2–4 PM in Grande Ballroom D.

Session Overcrowding

As seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, attendees are encouraged to arrive early and preselect alternative sessions. Safety and fire regulations must be followed. Once meeting rooms reach maximum capacity, attendees will be restricted. Standing in the aisle ways and blocking doors will not be permitted.

Social Media

Join us online! Use hashtag #NCEACLS and tag us in your posts: @NCEATalk on X and Instagram; National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Wireless Internet

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available for all guests in the meeting rooms and hallways at the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort.

Network (SSID): CLS2025
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NCEA Professional Learning Networks (PLNs)

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We're on a mission to strengthen Catholic school communities, offering professional development, data insights and resources for faith leadership and formation.

Explore NCEA's online Professional Learning Networks designed for aspiring leaders, principals, executive directors and superintendents!

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Vice President of Leadership Engagement, john@ncea.org

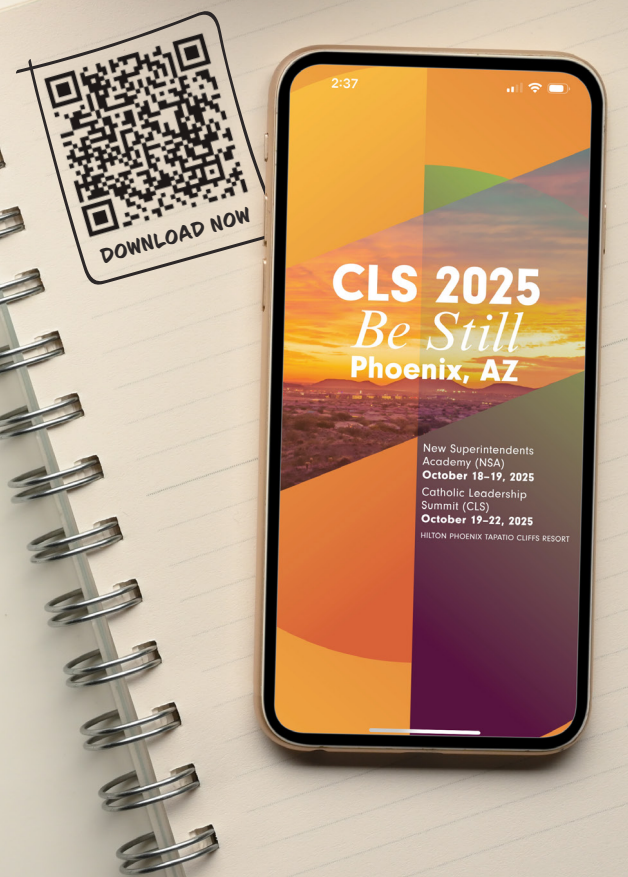
Principals, please contact Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ,
Director of School Engagement, frtom@ncea.org

For Hispanic and Latino Engagement, please contact Maria Del Amo,
Director of Hispanic and Latino Engagement, mdelamo@ncea.org

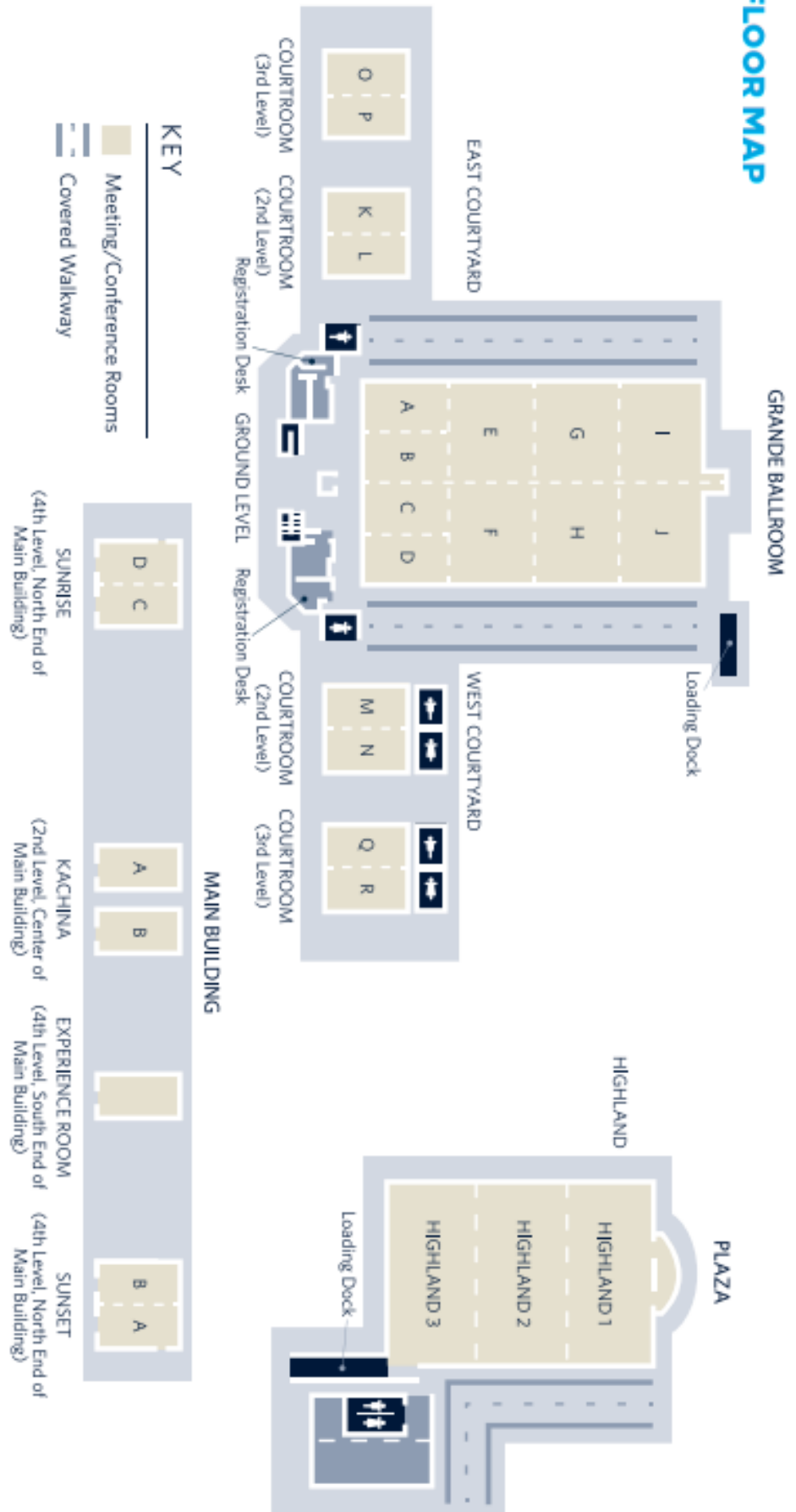
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- Enter your email address and access key to log in. These login credentials have been sent to each attendee at the email address used to register for the Summit.
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- Turn on notifications to receive push notifications from NCEA during the Summit!

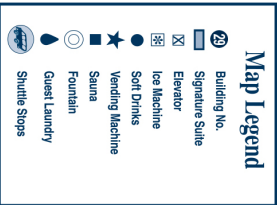


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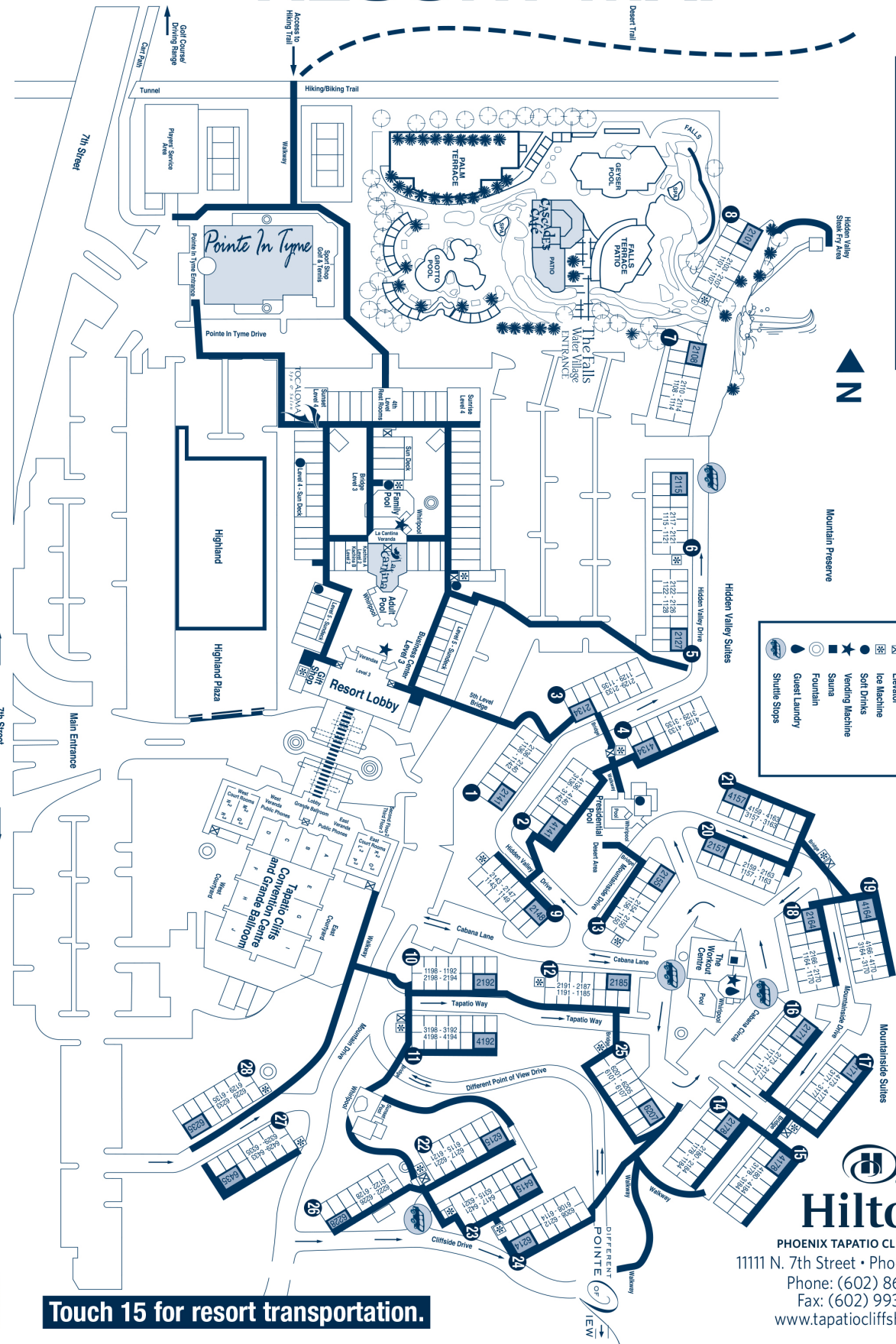
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Topics Include:

- Mission and Catholic Identity
- Academic Excellence
- Governance and Leadership
- Operational Vitality
- NSBECS
- Public Policy and Legal Issues
- Data Culture
- Hispanic/Latino Engagement
- Developing the Whole Child
- And More...



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- NCEA Catholic Leadership Summit (CLS)
- NCEA New Superintendents Academy
- NCEA School Building Leader Summit
- NCEA New Building Leader Academy
- Annual Education Law Symposium



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NCEA collaborates with national associations to advance Catholic school interests with federal agencies regarding national education policy, equitable services and other current issues facing our schools.



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Serving Catholic school educators since 1904

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

10 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST

11 AM – 12 PM
New Superintendents Academy
Welcome Remarks and Introductions
COURTROOM M

12 – 12:45 PM
Lunch
COURTROOM N

12:45 – 1:45 PM
Mission and Catholic Identity
Janet Eaton, Diocese of Wichita
This session will explore the role of a new system leader in advancing mission and Catholic identity. Attendees will reflect on the unique responsibilities of leadership in shaping culture, fostering faith formation, and ensuring that Catholic values remain at the heart of school communities.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM M

1:45 – 2 PM
Break

2 – 3 PM
Operational Vitality
Rebecca Hammel, Diocese of Corpus Christi
This session will explore the role of a new system leader in advancing operational vitality across schools. Attendees will reflect on how leaders can provide guidance, resources, and support to strengthen sustainability, enrollment, and overall school health.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM M

3 – 3:15 PM
Break

3:15 – 4:15 PM
Academic Excellence
Greg Richmond, Archdiocese of Chicago
This session will explore the role of a new system leader in supporting academic excellence. Attendees will consider how leadership helps guide schools in maintaining high standards and strong educational outcomes.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
COURTROOM M

4:15 – 4:30 PM
Break

4:30 – 5:15 PM
NCEA Support and Resources
John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed., NCEA; **Laura MacDonald, M.A.**, NCEA; **Wade Marshall**, NCEA
Explore the wide range of content and resources available to support your role in Catholic education. From professional learning opportunities to timely publications and community connections, this session will introduce tools to help you stay informed, inspired, and engaged throughout the year.
COURTROOM M

6 – 8 PM
New Superintendents Academy Dinner
Join us for the New Superintendents Academy Dinner, a dedicated gathering for those stepping into the role of superintendent. This exclusive dinner is designed to foster connection and support for new leaders as they embark on their journey in Catholic education.
Sponsored by FACTS
POINTE IN TYME

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

8 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST

9 – 9:45 AM
Breakfast
COURTROOM N

9:45 – 10:30 AM
Public Policy Issues and the Catholic School Superintendent
Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA
This session will discuss current public policy issues challenging Catholic education leaders and provide an overview of federal education benefits available to Catholic school teachers and students.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
COURTROOM M

10:30 – 10:45 AM
Break

10:45 – 11:30 AM
What Every New Superintendent Should Know
Colleen Brewer, Diocese of Gary; **Shelly Wheeler**, Diocese of Portland, Maine; **Becky Walker**, Diocese of Green Bay
Hear three superintendents reflect on their successes, the most effective ways to serve schools, and how the NSBECS guide leadership. They'll share candid advice for new superintendents, how their approaches have evolved, and what they would do differently.
COURTROOM M



11:30 – 11:45 AM
Break

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM
Governance and Leadership
Nicholas Ford
This session will explore the role of a new system leader in supporting governance and leadership standards. Attendees will reflect on how leaders can build capacity, strengthen collaboration, and guide schools in fulfilling their mission.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
COURTROOM M

12:45 – 1 PM
New Superintendents Academy Closing Remarks
COURTROOM M

2 – 4 PM
Complimentary Professional Headshots
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GRANDE BALLROOM D

Don't forget!
Complete session evaluations and share valuable feedback in the NCEA Events mobile app.

Visit NCEA Central

Make NCEA Central your go-to stop during the Summit! Browse the latest publications, pick up exclusive merch, and explore the latest NCEA programs and resources. Learn more about your member benefits, NCEA Academy, what's changing with ACRE, and our upcoming National Catholic Schools of Distinction program. Whether you're looking to shop, learn, or connect, NCEA Central will be open throughout the Summit, matching the same hours as Registration and Badge Pick-up.



Save the Date!

CLS 2026

New Superintendents Academy (NSA)

October 17–18, 2026

Catholic Leadership Summit (CLS)

October 18–21, 2026

Grand Rapids, MI

Amway Grand Plaza



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Discover Catholic Schools Week

NOVEMBER 16 – 22, 2025

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

JANUARY 25 – 31, 2026

National Catholic Educational Association

www.NCEA.org/csw

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 PM
Catholic Leadership Summit
Welcome and Opening Mass
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BASILICA

7 – 8:30 PM
Welcome Dinner
Join us for a memorable evening at the Welcome Dinner, where the Catholic Leadership Summit kicks off with good food and great company. This gathering provides an opportunity to meet fellow leaders, and corporate partners in a relaxed, social setting. Enjoy a delicious, thoughtfully curated meal while engaging in meaningful conversations about the future of Catholic education. Following dinner kick up your heels as a DJ spins the night away.
Sponsored by FACTS

PALM TERRACE

8:30 – 10 PM
Dessert and Cocktail Reception
PALM TERRACE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

8 – 8:45 AM
Morning Liturgy
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

8 AM – 4 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST

8:45 AM – 5 PM
Rest and Recharge Lounge
Sponsored by Catapult Learning
EAST COURTYARD

9 AM – 5 PM
Adoration
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

9 – 10 AM
Breakfast
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

10 – 10:20 AM
Welcome Address
Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman, NCEA
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

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Complete
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JONATHAN DOYLE



International Catholic
Speaker and Author

10:20 – 11:20 AM
A Revolution of Stillness
Jonathan Doyle
The demands of leadership for the modern Catholic educational leader are significant, challenging, and complex. Each day brings new situations and experiences calling for wisdom, prudence, and action. Amidst this backdrop of busyness, how can leaders find time for their own personal, professional, and spiritual development? When there are so many needs, is it indulgent or even necessary to find time for reflection, prayer, and stillness?
In his keynote message, global Catholic speaker, author, and executive coach Jonathan Doyle will share encouragement, hope, and insights for practical strategic application that can make a powerful difference in the vocational life of every Catholic school leader. Jonathan passionately believes that in a world of increasing technological and professional overload, those who will not just survive but rather thrive will be those who have sought and found how to recover the stillness where God speaks.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

11:20 – 11:35 AM
Break

11:35 AM – 12:35 PM
Accompaniment for Leadership: Findings from a National Study on the Formation and Wellbeing of Catholic School Leaders
Panel Discussion
✦ **John Reyes, Ed.D.**, Roche Center for Catholic Education, Boston College; **William Sultmann, Ph.D.**, La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University; **David Hall, FMS**, La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University; **Paul Kidson**, Australian Catholic University
Formation of the whole person in Catholic schools extends to an attentiveness to the formation and well-being of the leaders of Catholic schools. Drawing upon the ideas of "cura personalis" and accompaniment, as well as research conducted through a partnership with Boston College's Roche Center for Catholic Education and Australian Catholic University, this session details findings from a national study on the well-being and formation of Catholic school leaders in the United States. Through collective insight and comparative analysis, participants will gather practical and actionable strategies to implement the foundations of accompaniment as a distinctly Catholic approach to formation for mission leadership.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

12:35 – 1:35 PM
Lunch
Sponsored by William H. Sadlier
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

1:35 – 2:45 PM
Professional Learning Network (PLN) Discussion Sessions
We invite you to participate in a professional learning network session (PLNs). Please select one of the eight. To ensure you get the most out of the experience, please select your top sessions of interest. If your first choice is full, simply move on to your next preferred session. After selecting, enjoy engaging in open discussions with your colleagues. These conversations are for you, therefore if the discussion does not suit your needs, please proceed to another networking session. We wish you a productive and enjoyable learning experience together!

2:45 – 3 PM
Break

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK (PLN)
DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Artificial Intelligence Policy and Procedures
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
GRANDE BALLROOM B

Exploring School Choice: Experiences and Opportunities
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM R

Leadership Succession Planning & Staff Retention
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
GRANDE BALLROOM C

Maintaining Catholicity in Schools
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM K

Religious Formation of Teachers & Staff
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM L

Serving Students with Diagnosed Disabilities
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
COURTROOM Q

Tackling School Budgets & Salary Schedules
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM N

Working with Pastors and the Chancery/Pastoral Center
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
COURTROOM M

Be Still

We invite you
to be still: reflect,
engage in meaningful
conversations, or take a
peaceful pause during breaks.



3 – 4 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 1
Choose one.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Catholic Schools: Frameworks, Policies, and Ethical Implementation
Lewis Poché, University of Notre Dame;
Alan Barnicle, M.S., Diocese of Bridgeport
As Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) reshapes education, Catholic school systems must be equipped with policies that support innovation while protecting core values. This session presents research-based frameworks and policy templates for the ethical and effective implementation of GenAI in Catholic schools and dioceses. Participants will receive customizable policy templates from the University of Notre Dame, strategies for rollout and professional development, and practical guidance on implementation to ensure alignment with Catholic identity.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
GRANDE BALLROOM B

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY
Leveraging Diocesan Communication Outlets to Market Catholic Schools
Brad Snyder, Ed.D., Diocese of Orange;
Belinda Espinoza, Diocese of Orange;
Denise Valadez, Ed.D., Diocese of Orange
This session will equip Catholic school superintendents and associate superintendents with practical strategies to partner with their diocesan communication offices to amplify the mission and value of Catholic schools. Participants will explore typical diocesan media outlets (e.g., newspapers, blogs, newsletters, social media, parish bulletins) and learn how to align their messaging and content to reach broader audiences. Attendees will examine real-life examples, receive ready-to-use tools (submission checklists, content calendars, and story templates), and engage in peer discussion to identify immediate opportunities and next steps for more strategic communication partnerships.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM K

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY
Reengineer Your Enrollment Process for Growth Especially from Catholic Families
David Faber, M.Ed., Diocese of Grand Rapids
Managing the complex relationships between parishes and schools within your (arch)diocese can be surprisingly difficult, especially when you are just trying to help them grow and serve their Catholic community. Over the years I have often heard business leaders within the community ask the simple and obvious question, "Where is your list of all the parishioner families with school age children within the (arch)diocese or system of Catholic schools?" Their surprise when they hear there is no list is always an amazing revelation, and part of the reason they quickly say our model is broken. This session will share the strategic levers that were pulled in the Diocese of Grand Rapids to obtain and effectively manage nearly 70 percent of the parishes' baptism, first communion, and confirmation lists to supercharge enrollment outreach efforts leading to long-term enrollment growth (arch)diocese-wide.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM L

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY
Reflecting on Leadership Mindsets Needed to Support School Sustainability and Vitality
Debra Sullivan, Ed.D., Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education
As Catholic schools and dioceses grapple with shifting enrollment trends, five leadership mindsets are critical to support Catholic school sustainability. In this session, learn how leaders at both the school and diocesan levels can use these strategies to ensure Catholic school sustainability from microschools through megaschools. This session explores rethinking a school's program design to create better adaptability and stewardship of resources, while ensuring quality delivery on the mission. Special attention will be given to both the academic and operational practices that need attention and possible adjustment for the successful transition to a thriving, sustainable Catholic school, and ensure appropriate resources to deliver on the mission.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM M

LEADING WITH MISSION
Be Still and Begin: Launching the Year with Intentional Leadership Retreats
Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D., NCEA
Start your school year with purpose, peace, and prayer. This session explores how diocesan leaders can design and lead meaningful retreats for administrators, grounded in the theme Be Still. Learn how to create sacred space for reflection, connection, and renewal before the busy academic year begins. Through planning frameworks, spiritual practices, and real-life examples, you'll be equipped to craft experiences that anchor leadership in faith, foster community, and align with your Catholic mission. Diocesan leaders will gain tools to design retreats for their teams that build unity, spiritual renewal, and shared vision, supporting collaboration and faith-centered leadership across schools.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM N

LEADING WITH MISSION
First Things First
Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen, OP, M.A., Openlight Media
Scientific findings reveal that when the emotional and relational world of the child is attended to first and foundationally, all subsequent growth unfolds in a manner that leads to well-being with an openness to learning, to faith, and to finding one's purpose in adulthood. The explosion of the technological world has thrust us into a reactive mode of operation. Tending to the first things first will provide the space to honor the beauty of gradualness and provide a Catholic education which forms youth spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. This talk will offer 10 foundational steps to a road of success in Catholic schools.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
GRANDE BALLROOM C

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
Great Leaders Create Great Schools: Strengthening Systemwide Leadership
Donna Woodard, Archdiocese of Chicago;
Greg Richmond, Archdiocese of Chicago;
Robert Basset, Archdiocese of Chicago
Rooted in the belief that great leaders create great schools, this session explores the Archdiocese of Chicago's systemwide approach to leadership formation. Participants will learn how a shared Leadership Framework—centered on faith, instruction, culture, and executive leadership—guides all formation efforts. The session highlights how coaching, workshops, and data-informed supports build leadership capacity, strengthen the pipeline, and sustain growth over time. Attendees will walk away with strategies to recruit, support, and retain school leaders through intentional mission-aligned formation.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
COURTROOM R

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY
Navigating School Choice Funding: Strategies for Catholic School Leaders
Charlie Lytle, Blackbaud
School choice may be altering the educational system across the U.S. With over thirty states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia offering various funding options and the growing potential for a national voucher program, Catholic schools have some critical considerations:
• Should you accept public funding? Can you afford not to?
• Would doing so impact your mission, curricula, or pedagogy?
• How would it factor in tuition and financial aid?
• Could it free up unrestricted donations for other programs or projects?
• How do you effectively receive, allocate, and track those funds?
While each state has unique processes and requirements, there are some answers that hold true across programs. We'll delve into how you can track state and federal policies, what that funding could mean to your school, and how to set your business office up for success.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM Q

Don't forget!
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6 – 9 PM

Evening at the Heard Museum

Dress Attire: Business Casual

Heard Museum: 2301 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ

Meet in the lobby of the CLS host hotel at 5:30 PM.

Buses depart at 5:45 PM and return at 8:30 PM and

9 PM. Enjoy a memorable evening of dinner and

cultural discovery at the renowned Heard Museum

in Phoenix. Celebrated for its world-class collections

of American Indian art and culture, the Heard

Museum was recently honored with a Travelers’

Choice Award, placing it among the top 10% of

attractions worldwide. Guests will savor a private

dinner experience while exploring the museum’s

inspiring galleries and exhibitions.

Please Note: This invitation is exclusively for attendees of the Catholic Leadership Summit as a way to honor and celebrate the dedicated leadership guiding our Catholic schools. Due to limited capacity, invitations are non-transferable and requests to include additional guests cannot be accommodated.

Sponsored by Catapult Learning, Blackbaud, FlynnO'Hara Uniforms, and William H. Sadlier

HEARD MUSEUM

9 – 11 PM

Bar Under the Stars

After a day filled with insightful sessions and networking, join us at the Evening Bar to unwind, relax, and continue your Summit experience in a social setting. Enjoy cocktails and refreshing beverages as you mingle with fellow attendees, play some outdoor games, share ideas, and build connections in a laid-back atmosphere.

Sponsored by FACTS

HIGHLAND PLAZA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

8 – 8:45 AM

Morning Liturgy

GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

8 AM – 4 PM

Registration/Badge Pick-up

REGISTRATION DESK EAST

8:45 – 9:45 AM

Breakfast

GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

9 AM – 5 PM

Adoration

GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

9:45 – 10:45 AM

What’s New: Changing Landscape of Federal Education Programs and Policies
Panel Discussion

Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA; Maureen

Dowling, Ed.D., U.S. Department of Education;

John M. DeJak, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Join us for a timely and essential conversation on the federal policies shaping Catholic schools today. This session will unpack the latest legislative updates, explore key federal programs, and highlight the policy issues that matter most to Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

10:45 – 11 AM

Break

11 – 11:30 AM

Implementing Evangelizing Catechesis in Catholic Schools

Most Reverend Erik T. Pohlmeier, Bishop of St. Augustine

Evangelizing Catechesis seeks to deepen a personal encounter

with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is

accomplished by the proclamation of the core message of the

gospel (the kerygma), accompanying people to a response of

faith and conversion to Christ, the systematic exposition of

God’s revelation within the communion of the Catholic Church,

and by sending out missionary disciples to witness to the good

news of salvation. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier draws upon his rich

experience as a pastor of several parishes with schools, as a

diocesan director of faith formation, and now as bishop of the

Diocese of St. Augustine, a diocese that is committed to

inspiring discipleship in all students in its parish schools.

Bishop Pohlmeier will speak to the powerful influence that

superintendents can exercise in helping school principals move

every level of our Catholic schools toward discipleship in Christ.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

Saint Louis University School of Education

INSPIRING INNOVATION IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION SINCE 1925

At Saint Louis University’s School of Education, we inspire and empower educators to care for the whole person: spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. For more than 100 years, we’ve provided the knowledge and guidance to help educators meet the needs of today’s students.

The Herrmann Center for Innovative Catholic Education

SLU’s Herrmann Center for Innovative Catholic Education is accomplishing this mission by delivering academic and professional development for Catholic school educators, advancing research on Catholic educational institutions and addressing critical issues facing Catholic schools.

Through the Herrmann Center, experienced Catholic school leaders mentor and support educators in strengthening their professional skills to better serve all learners.

Mission-driven Graduate Programs for Catholic Educators

The Catholic education graduate courses available through the School of Education integrate research-based best practices with Catholic faith and spirituality, fostering professional excellence and a deep sense of mission. Classes are offered in-person and online to accommodate the schedules of working Catholic school educators.

Available Programs

+ Certificate: Catholic Education

+ Certificate: Catholic School Principalship Bridge

+ Certificate: Inclusive Catholic School Leadership

+ Master of Arts in Catholic Educational Leadership

+ Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

+ Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community

+ Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis

+ Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Catholic Educational Leadership

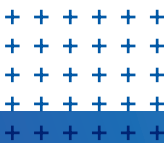
The School of Education is a longtime supporter of NCEA and a proud 2025 Catholic Leadership Summit participant.

HERRMANN CENTER FOR
INNOVATIVE CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



To learn more about the Herrmann Center for Education, scan this code.

To explore the programs available through the Saint Louis University School of Education, visit [SLU.edu/education](https://slu.edu/education).





11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

NCEA Panel Updates

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman, NCEA; **Juile Vogel, Ph.D.**, Renaissance Learning; **John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.**, NCEA; **Jennifer Buss, Ph.D.**, Lewis University; **Debra Sullivan, Ed.D.**, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education; **Andrew Kremer, Ph.D.**, The Catholic University of America
Stay up to date on the latest from NCEA. This session will provide a broad overview of current initiatives, upcoming programs, and areas of focus as we continue to serve Catholic school leaders, educators, and communities. Participants will hear what NCEA has been working on recently, learn about new opportunities, and gain insight into where we are headed next.

GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch

Sponsored by Renaissance

GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Professional Learning Sessions 2
Choose one.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

How Not to Build an Inclusive Catholic School: Hard-Learned Lessons from the Field

Michael Boyle, Ph.D., Herrmann Center for Innovative Catholic Education, School of Education, Saint Louis University
Drawing on decades of experience in both public and Catholic education, this session challenges conventional approaches to creating inclusive practices in Catholic schools. This presentation critically examines common pitfalls and offers a fresh perspective on how to authentically build inclusive environments, moving beyond a sole focus on access and equity to embrace the intrinsic value of every human person.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

GRANDE BALLROOM B

ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Salt and Light: Using Data Dashboards to Foster Academic Excellence

Jim Rigg, Ed.D., Archdiocese of Miami; **Hedi Belkaoui**, Consulting; **Hal Schwartz**, Consulting
Catholic schools are called to provide the best possible education, not hiding the “light” of excellence under a bushel-basket. This session will explore how the Archdiocese of Miami is utilizing a comprehensive system-wide data dashboard to support academic excellence in Catholic schools. This approach includes the formulation of specific, data-based targets along with focused coaching and other interventions for schools struggling with achievement or growth. Ultimately, this approach has led to substantial improvement on both school and system levels, helping all schools as they strive to reach their greatest academic potential.

This session is meant to be interactive, providing opportunities for participants to share their ideas, ask questions, and engage in professional dialogue.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

COURTROOM Q

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY

Creating System, School, University Partnerships That Foster Continual School Improvement

Charlie Cownie, J.D., Ph.D., Boston College; **Eileen McLaughlin**, Catholic Schools Office, Archdiocese of Boston; **Myra Reynoso, Ph.D.**, Boston College; **Andrew Miller, Ph.D.**, Boston College
This session will engage system leaders by describing a current partnership among a diocesan Catholic school office (CSO), multiple parish schools, and a university that focuses on developing and implementing systematic school-based continuous improvement practices and fostering a culture of ongoing improvement. The project we will present aims to offer a new lens on how to pursue continuous improvement in parish schools and how one diocesan CSO decided to pilot this methodology. In this presentation, we will highlight some of the core aspects of the continuous improvement approach taken in this project, for example, how to secure school and diocesan stakeholder trust. After reviewing the project, the team will engage systems leaders in a discussion, reflection, and a plan on how they can participate in similar work to support the future of their schools in their diocese.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

COURTROOM K

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY

Funding the Future: Three Revenue Strategies to Sustain and Strengthen Catholic Education
David Sexauer, DAST

As diocesan and system leaders, you are entrusted with advancing Catholic education—ensuring schools remain faithful, academically excellent, and financially sustainable. Rising costs and operational complexity add pressure, especially for principals. This session equips you with practical, mission-aligned strategies to unlock three underutilized revenue streams that can expand capacity, enhance programming, and improve student outcomes—without compromising faith or excellence. You’ll learn how to maximize state and federal funding, launch work-based learning partnerships, and tap into corporate sponsorships and giveback programs. These approaches strengthen financial foundations across your network while freeing principals to focus on the ministry of education and formation. Ultimately, this session is about more than funding—it’s about sustaining faith, formation, and the future of Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

COURTROOM L

INVESTING IN YOU

The Journey of You: Marking Miles and Roadblocks to Real Renewal

Sr. Carol Cimino, Ed.D., Diocese of Buffalo
The leader’s journey can either be a road trip or a pilgrimage. This presentation will make the distinction between the two, as it presents a map for transformation of leaders through their journey to growth. Taking into account the detours and hazards that current diocesan leaders face, the presentation will offer some alternate routes and strategies that leaders can use to reach their destination.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

COURTROOM M

LEADING WITH MISSION

Protecting the Flock: A Case Study in Student Safety Innovation in the Diocese of Greensburg
Ryan Maher, Diocese of Greensburg; **Nancy Rottler, D. Ed.**, Diocese of Greensburg Office of Catholic Schools
This session will explore how a Western Pennsylvania diocese responded in an innovative way to the concerns of parents of its Catholic school students. With careful consideration and thoughtful guidance, diocesan leaders formed a private police department. Attendees will discover what the thought process was behind the decision, how the formation was accomplished, and how the department has exceeded expectations in a

short period of time. Attendees will also learn how to mitigate liability and how funding took place.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

COURTROOM N

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Igniting Transformation: Mission, Culture, and Executive Leadership in Catholic Schools

Kevin Baxter, Ed.D., University of Notre Dame
This session will explore how transformational leaders build intentional, coherent Catholic school culture through their spiritual leadership. It will address how that culture influences the mission of the school and leads to effective executive management and governance, specifically including strategic planning, human capital management, and finance. It will emphasize entrepreneurial approaches, data-driven decisions, and continuous improvement to achieve the school’s mission.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

GRANDE BALLROOM C

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Seven Steps to Transforming Diocesan Administrator Meetings

Daryl Hagan, Ed.D., ITCE, The Catholic University of America

In the spirit of Be Still, this session invites superintendents and system leaders to reimagine diocesan administrator meetings as more than operational check-ins. Rooted in Catholic identity and community, these gatherings can become spiritual and professional renewal points for principals and presidents. Adapted from the well-received “Effective Practices for a Successful Meeting,” this session outlines seven concrete practices—ranging from prayerful ambiance to fostering laughter—that transform meetings into opportunities for mission alignment, leadership formation, and system-wide engagement. Participants will reflect on their current practice and leave with a blueprint for hosting purposeful, uplifting, and effective diocesan meetings.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

COURTROOM R

2 – 4 PM

Specialty Coffee Bar

Fuel your summit experience at our Espresso Bar. Whether you’re in need of a bold shot of espresso or a smooth cappuccino, we’ve got the perfect pick-me-up to keep you energized and engaged. Sip, chat, and connect—because great ideas start with great coffee!

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VERANDA, LEVEL TWO

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session evaluations
and share valuable
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2:15 – 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Professional Learning Sessions 3
Choose one.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Advancing Education with AI

Austin Swift, Google for Education

In an era of rapid technological transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to revolutionize the landscape of private education and workforce readiness. This presentation will explore the profound implications and tangible opportunities AI presents for private school leaders, focusing on how a responsible approach to AI can enhance personalized learning experiences, streamline administrative efficiencies, and equip students with essential skills for a future AI-driven workforce. This session will also address strategic considerations for private school leaders in integrating AI ethically and equitably, ensuring their institutions remain at the forefront of educational innovation and proactively prepare students to thrive in an evolving global economy.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

COURTROOM K

ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY

Establishing the Proper Organization and Infrastructure for Successful Catholic School Development/Advancement

 **Frank Donaldson**, NCEA Author

This session will outline the correct steps that Catholic schools need to take in order to establish a successful Development/Advancement system. This should be valuable information for superintendents and system-level leaders as they consider providing the proper resources for their Catholic school administrators. The session will show the foundational principles that can be shared with each of the schools in their (arch)diocese and how these "pillars" are so necessary for success.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

COURTROOM L

Don't forget!
Complete
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and share valuable
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ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY

From Compliance to Culture: A System-Wide Continuous Improvement Process for Catholic School Sustainability

Michael Riley, Ed.D., Diocese of Richmond; **Jim Gillo**, Diocese of Richmond

This session outlines a replicable, system-wide Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) that helps Catholic schools move from compliance-driven metrics to mission-centered growth. Built upon NSBECS and accreditation alignment, the CIP incorporates a strategic dashboard, goal-setting templates, and an evaluation rubric that supports leadership development, instructional excellence, and operational vitality. Participants will learn how one diocese is shifting culture, not just compliance, while building leadership capacity and advancing long-term school sustainability.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

COURTROOM M

LEADING WITH MISSION

From Page to Practice: Forming Catholic School Principals Through the Lens of Vatican Documents

Andrew Kremer, Ph.D., The Catholic University of America

Catholic school principals serve not only as academic leaders but also as spiritual and mission-centered stewards of their communities. Yet, many leaders do not rely on the foundational church teachings that define Catholic education. This presentation is designed as a practical, actionable guide to using Vatican documents as a core resource for forming current and aspiring Catholic school leaders.

Participants will explore key magisterial texts—including Gravissimum Educationis, The Catholic School, Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, and The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue—and learn how to translate these teachings into leadership competencies, professional development plans, and institutional culture.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

COURTROOM Q

LEADING WITH MISSION

Me? Why Call Me? Are You Sure?

George Valadie, Diocese of Knoxville

The day-to-day of school life—especially for those of us whose offices are no longer "just down the hall" or "right around the corner" from classrooms and lockers, gymnasiums, and lunchrooms—that distance can often cause us to forget the root of our work. Instead, much of what we do is strategic, aimed at solutions to issues with finances, human relations, accreditation, and the like. Adult stuff with adult people, while others take a turn doing what many of us used to do. And while we must tackle these big picture issues, and while we know we ultimately do so for the kids, they can get lost in that mix. In this gathering, we take a few moments to recall why the Master Teacher called us to this role.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

COURTROOM N

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Beyond Band-Aids: Using Improvement Science to Lead System-Wide and School-Level Change

Kevin Calkins, Cathedral Catholic High School;

 **Sandria Morten, Ed.D.**, Institute for Educational Initiatives, University of Notre Dame

Diocesan leaders who are driven by a deep commitment to ensuring that Catholic schools are strengthened and sustained can also face urgent and complex challenges. This session will explore how leaders can leverage the improvement science process to navigate these challenges with clarity, collaboration, and measurable impact. Participants will learn a systematic approach to thoroughly understanding a problem and designing a targeted action plan. This session will address system-level and school-level improvement science, demonstrating how diocesan leaders can collaborate to address systemic challenges and empower principals to address specific school needs. Using real-world examples from the facilitators' experience coaching Catholic school leaders in the improvement science process, we will model the use of tools and strategies that participants can take back to their dioceses and schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

COURTROOM R

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

From Data to Decisions: How Data Literacy and Diocesan Leadership Brought Change to Instructional Practices

Alan Barnicle, M.S., Diocese of Bridgeport Schools;

Patrice Kopas, M.A., Diocese of Bridgeport Schools;

Anthony Cook, Ed.D., Curriculum Associates

This session equips you with the practical skills to create a data-driven culture in your school and provides a framework for data-driven instructional decision-making that works across tools and contexts to drive academic growth and target areas of need from the student to curricular levels. We will explore the significance of data literacy in Catholic education, focusing on how data leadership in the Diocese of Bridgeport has enhanced decision-making, improved student outcomes, and aligned with the mission of Catholic schools. Participants will examine a case from the Diocese of Bridgeport, where data-driven initiatives have led to personalized learning environments and innovative teaching practices.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

GRANDE BALLROOM B

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

How to Handle Tough Conversations and Challenging Situations with Grace: A Communications Tool Kit for Catholic School Superintendents

 **Jodee Blanco**, NCEA Author

How a superintendent communicates sets the tone for their schools. I'll give participants simple, powerful tools inspired by core Catholic values that make being a compassionate, effective communicator second nature even in the most stressful moments. This session includes how to: disarm defensiveness and diffuse anger through stillness; reinforce trust by the words you choose and the way in which you present them; and The 3 Tenets of Emotional Credibility in Communication and how to engage each to make someone feel valued, heard, and understood. I'll talk about the typical mistakes many leaders make under pressure and how to avoid them, among other strategies for turning any conflict or challenge into a catalyst for growth. This session also includes advice on creative initiatives for reinforcing to principals their value and their superintendent's belief in them.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

GRANDE BALLROOM C

3:30 – 3:45 PM

Break



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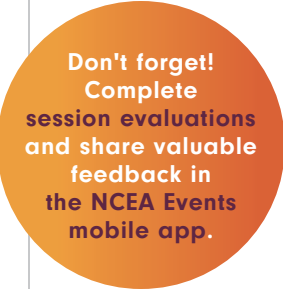
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<p>3:45 – 4:45 PM Professional Learning Sessions 4 Choose one.</p> <p>ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE</p> <p>All Children Are Our Children: The Failure of Child Find for Private School Students and the Efforts to Effect Change Henry Fortier, Consultant; Jackie Flanigan, Consultant Despite IDEA’s (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) guarantees, many private school students remain overlooked in the Child Find process, leaving them without crucial evaluations and services. This session explores national complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Education, updated data from the 2019 white paper on The Failure of Child Find for Private School Students, and efforts to revise the February 2022 federal Q&A guidance to address ongoing inequities. It highlights systemic issues affecting Catholic schools and the advocacy underway to secure fair treatment and proper identification for private school students—because all children are our children. NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence <u>COURTROOM K</u></p> <p>ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY</p> <p>Enhancing Mission and Viability Through Joint Ministry Planning, Centralized Security, and Shared Services: Leveraging Economies of Scale in Schools in Charlotte and Orlando Greg Monroe, Ph.D., Diocese of Charlotte; Patty Dailey, Diocese of Orlando Explore how diocesan schools can foster communion, strengthen Catholic identity, and ensure long-term viability by centralizing key services and shared expectations rooted in mission. Drawing on experiences from Charlotte and Orlando, we will present strategies for developing joint ministry plans that align academics with the liturgical year and parish life, implement shared services that streamline operations, improve stewardship of resources, enhance staff formation, and standardize high-quality programs; and advance safety through consistent security standards across all campuses, including armed officers, as part of an elevated minimum standard of care. Participants will leave with insights and actionable steps to close the gap between parishes and schools, build stronger community bonds, and continue to enhance environments where students can flourish academically and spiritually. NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality <u>COURTROOM L</u></p>	<p>ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY</p> <p>Leading with Purpose: Strengthening Governance and Operational Vitality in Catholic Schools Vickie Kauffold, M.Ed., Archdiocese of Omaha; Jeff Ohnoutka, Columbus Catholic Schools This session will provide participants an example of how four Catholic schools in Columbus, NE, shifted from a governance model based on parish advisory boards of three elementary schools and a centralized Catholic high school to a board of limited jurisdiction to encompass the three Catholic elementary schools (St. Anthony, St. Bonaventure, and St. Isidore) and Scotus Central Catholic High School. The superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Omaha and the president of Columbus Catholic Schools will share their experiences in this governance shift. The journey to put this governance model in place had its challenges along the way; we will discuss lessons learned from those challenges and also discuss the benefits that are already being realized. The journey continues as there are more challenges on the horizon to be navigated to ensure long-term financial sustainability. NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality <u>COURTROOM M</u></p> <p>ENSURING SCHOOL VIABILITY</p> <p>Maximize Central Office Resources with Agentic AI Alex Urrea, Eduscapes; Vincent De Paul Schmidt, Diocese of Trenton; Bonnie Milecki, Eduscapes In an era of increasing demands and limited resources, central school offices face unique operational challenges. This session will introduce ""Agentic AI""—as a transformative solution for central office operations. Discover how an understaffed diocesan school office achieved dramatic results from implementing AI agents that maximized staff time, eliminated repetitive tasks, and enhanced school reporting requirements. Participants will gain a clear understanding of what Agentic AI is, how it differs from traditional automation, and tangible examples of how it can enhance efficiency, improve decision-making, and ultimately support the mission of Catholic education. The session will also touch upon the ethical considerations and a foundational roadmap for exploring these advanced technologies within their own contexts. NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality <u>COURTROOM N</u></p>	<p>INVESTING IN YOU</p> <p>Fruitful Leadership: Forming Faithful Leaders from the Inside Out Julie Emory-Johnson, Ed.D., Friendly; Julie Widman, Ed.D., Friendly In John 15, Jesus calls us to remain in Him—to be branches connected to the true vine so we may bear lasting fruit. In this session, leaders will engage in personal and professional formation through reflection, discovery, and celebration. Together, we will explore the call to lead with faith, humility, and purpose. The session is divided into three segments: a guided Scripture reflection on John 15, a self-awareness and leadership exercise using the Johari Window, and a time of communal celebration to recognize the fruit being borne across the diocese. Each component is designed to be replicable, empowering leaders and educators to bring this experience back to their school communities and lead others through a process of spiritual growth and connection. Join us to grow deeper in Christ and stronger as leaders—rooted, nourished, and ready to flourish. NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity <u>GRANDE BALLROOM B</u></p> <p>LEADING WITH MISSION</p> <p>Be Still, Then Go: Mission-Focused Evangelization for Catholic School Systems Steve Botsford, MRE, William H. Sadlier Catholic school superintendents are spiritual and strategic leaders charged with advancing the Church’s mission through the heart of Catholic education. In this session, participants will explore how the spiritual practice of being still—rooted in scripture and the life of Christ—can serve as a foundation for visionary, mission-focused evangelization across entire school systems. Through prayerful reflection and practical planning, leaders will learn how to cultivate a system-wide culture of encounter, testimony, and discipleship that engages principals, teachers, students, and families. Participants will walk away with a renewed sense of purpose and concrete tools to lead evangelization from the center outward. NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity <u>COURTROOM Q</u></p>	<p>STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Formation for Mission: Renewing Leadership Development in a Distinctly Catholic Frame David Hall, La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University; Paul Kidson, Australian Catholic University; William Sultmann, La Salle Academy at Australian Catholic University; Melodie Wyttenbach, Ph.D., Roche Center for Catholic Education, Boston College How can accompaniment as a distinctly Catholic frame of leadership development help school and system leaders navigate the turbulent waters of moral, ethical, religious, economic, and political conflict? This session guides participants through the elements of accompaniment as an approach to leadership formation for mission, encompassing the whole of a journey that is sacred, whole, relational, and integral to the development of the whole person; identifies key characteristics for both leaders and companions in this practice; and equips leaders with steps to implement accompaniment-based practices through shared experiences of existing leadership formation efforts in this space. NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership <u>GRANDE BALLROOM C</u></p> <p>STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Getting to Know The NSBECS for New Users of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools Michelle Lia, Ed.D., Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Loyola University Chicago Are you a new leader, new to Catholic schools, or have never heard of the NSBECS? This interactive session will share what the <i>National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools</i> (NSBECS) are and how you might use them at your school or in your (arch)diocese. Participants will review the NSBECS tools and hear three ways you might use these tools. NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership <u>COURTROOM R</u></p>
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5:30 PM
Bus Departure to Scottsdale
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5:30 – 8:30 PM
Evening in Scottsdale (Self-Guided)
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Buses will leave the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs at approximately **5:30 PM**. The last bus will leave from Old Town Scottsdale at **8:30 PM** and will return just in time for Bar Under the Stars.
OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE

9 – 11 PM
Bar Under the Stars
After a day filled with insightful sessions and networking, join us at the Evening Bar to unwind, relax, and continue your Summit experience in a social setting. Enjoy cocktails and refreshing beverages as you mingle with fellow attendees, play some outdoor games, share ideas, and build connections in a laid-back atmosphere.
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

7:30 – 8:15 AM
Morning Liturgy
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

8 AM – 12 PM
Registration/Badge Pick-up
REGISTRATION DESK EAST

8:15 – 9 AM
Breakfast
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

9 – 10 AM
Professional Learning Sessions 5
Choose one.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Rooted & Ready: Catholic Formation for Students in the Age of Artificial Intelligence
Meaghan Crowley-Sullivan, M.Ed., M.A., Loyola Marymount University; **Shannon Tabaldo, Ed.D.**, Loyola Marymount University
Artificial intelligence is transforming the way we teach and learn. Catholic schools have an opportunity to respond with something more profound than mere caution or curiosity. We can respond with conviction. In this session, members of the iDEAL Institute at Loyola Marymount University will share their Catholic Companion Framework for AI and Innovation, a tool to help Catholic schools and communities approach emerging technologies through the lens of faith. Designed for leaders in Catholic education, this session offers clear direction for supporting students in a world shaped by artificial intelligence. Through concrete examples and a faith-rooted framework, you’ll explore how to guide technology use in ways that uphold Catholic identity and foster whole-person formation across every grade level.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
GRANDE BALLROOM B

INVESTING IN YOU
Faithful Stewardship: Implementing Financial Practices that Sustain Catholic Schools
Sam Rosenfeld, VenturEd Solutions
Sustaining Catholic schools requires more than sound budgeting—it demands a strategic alignment of mission and margin. This session equips system leaders with actionable strategies to strengthen financial stewardship while honoring gospel values. From tuition modeling to forecasting, we’ll explore how data-informed policies can drive both equity and sustainability. Learn how to lead with transparency, support family access, and build financial frameworks that uphold your commitment to Catholic education for the long term. Three Key Takeaways: Design with Equity: Learn how to build tuition and financial aid models using income bands, historical awards, and payment trends to support access and affordability; Monitor for Retention: Discover how financial reporting and tuition collection data can reveal early indicators of attrition and re-enrollment risk; Lead with Vision: Gain best practices for board reporting, forecasting, and scenario planning that reinforce your mission while ensuring long-term viability.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
COURTROOM Q

LEADING WITH MISSION
What’s in a Name? Discerning Mission and Identity in the Stillness: Pope Leo XIV and the Refounding of Catholic Education in a Noisy World
Gerald Cattaro, Ph.D., Fordham University
In choosing the name “Leo,” Pope Leo XIV invoked the courage of Leo the Great and the visionary leadership of Leo XIII, whose encyclical Rerum Novarum reshaped the Church’s response to justice and human dignity. His name signals a bold continuity—and perhaps a refounding—for Catholic institutions facing new challenges, from artificial intelligence to identity fragmentation.
This session invites Catholic school leaders to be still and reflect on the deeper meaning of the names they carry—teacher, leader, Catholic. What does it mean to lead a mission-driven institution in a noisy, fast-paced world? Drawing from Catholic social teaching and the theological power of naming, participants will explore how identity, vocation, and mission can be renewed through intentional, reflective leadership.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
COURTROOM R

STRENGTHENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
From Silos to Strategy: Building a Diocese-Wide Data Framework
Jeremy Penner, FACTS Management; **Ted Havelka**, Diocese of Brooklyn
Catholic dioceses are rich in data but often lack a cohesive strategy to harness it. This session explores how diocesan leaders can develop and implement a data strategy that unifies disparate systems, aligns with mission-driven goals, and supports informed decision-making. Attendees will hear both the technical roadmap and a real-world case study from the Diocese of Brooklyn. This session will guide Catholic school leaders through the process of building a data strategy at the diocesan level. Jeremy Penner will outline the foundational steps: identifying key problems, integrating fragmented systems, and aligning data use with strategic goals. Ted Havelka will share practical insights from the Diocese of Brooklyn’s journey—highlighting challenges, breakthroughs, and lessons learned. Together, they’ll offer a blueprint for dioceses seeking to move from data chaos to data clarity.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
GRANDE BALLROOM C

9 AM – 5 PM
Adoration
GRANDE BALLROOM IJ

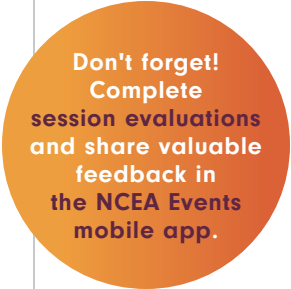
10 – 10:15 AM
Break

10:15 – 10:45 AM
Process Workshop: Reflections, Outcomes, and Next Steps
John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed., NCEA; **Laura MacDonald, M.A.**, NCEA
This workshop provides space for table talk, guided reflection, and collaboration with peers. Through prompts and discussion, participants will share insights, identify key takeaways, and consider practical next steps. The session also invites commitment to spiritual renewal and balance, encouraging participants to draft a plan that integrates both professional outcomes and personal well-being.
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

10:45 – 11 AM
Break

11 – 11:30 AM
Leading with a Rested Heart: Rediscovering Joy in Mission
Nathan Crankfield, Hallow
As leaders, we face a natural temptation to pour ourselves out completely into our work, our employees, and our families. This often leaves us burnt out and exhausted. In this closing session, participants will be guided in a prayerful reflection on ways to rediscover joy in our mission through rest that restores mind, body, and soul—leading with a rested heart.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH

11:30 AM – 12 PM
Catholic Leadership Summit
Closing Remarks
GRANDE BALLROOM EFGH



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- School Discipline
- 504/IDEA in Catholic Schools
- Faculty/Student/Parent Handbooks
- Immigration Laws



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