

Final Program



SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT 25



November 8–9, 2025: New Building Leader Academy
November 9–11, 2025: School Building Leader Summit
Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, Austin, TX



Called to Be

WWW.NCEA.ORG/BUILDING



Thank You

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) is grateful to the following
Event Sponsors for their generous financial support of the
2025 SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT and NEW BUILDING LEADER ACADEMY

Catapult Learning



Renaissance

Curriculum Associates®



Featured Photographer **Lifetouch**

From the Desk of NCEA PRESIDENT/CEO DR. STEVEN F. CHEESEMAN

Dear Leaders in Catholic Education,

I am so excited to welcome you to the inaugural School Building Leader Summit in Austin, TX. This milestone gathering of Catholic elementary and high school principals and presidents from across the country begins with the New Building Leader Academy, November 8-9, and continues with the School Building Leader Summit, November 9-11.

The theme, *Called to Be*, is a reminder that you have been purposefully chosen by God to be a leader in Catholic education. To support you as you live out this calling, this Summit seeks to help you build a personal and professional peer network and focuses on the multifaceted responsibilities of this vocation. In creating the programming and content for this Summit, we recognize that:

You are ***Called to Be a Collaborative Leader***, cultivating strong relationships with your school community, governing bodies, parishes, and diocesan offices. These connections are the foundation of long-term sustainability and faithful innovation.

You are ***Called to Be a Strategic Leader***, stewarding the practical realities of enrollment, advancement, and sustainability. From crafting sound financial models to leveraging new tools for improved communication and decision-making, your leadership helps secure the future of Catholic education.

You are ***Called to Be an Instructional Leader***, ensuring that every student, including those with special needs, receives the support they need to thrive. You use data to shape instruction, guide professional development, and pursue academic excellence rooted in gospel values.

And most importantly, you are ***Called to Be a Spiritual Leader***, bringing the mission of Catholic education to life each day. Your witness helps foster a Catholic identity rooted in faith and charism, and you support faculty and staff in becoming true partners with parents in the faith formation of every child.

We are deeply grateful to the Diocese of Austin for welcoming us as hosts for this Summit, and we look forward to experiencing the vibrant spirit of Catholic education in Texas together. Throughout these days, I hope you will find time for thoughtful conversation, practical learning, and spiritual renewal. This Summit is designed to engage you in meaningful dialogue, empower you with tools for growth, and inspire you for the road ahead on this shared mission.

On behalf of the NCEA team, thank you for answering the call to lead. I hope this Summit will strengthen your vocation and serve as a reminder that you are never alone in this mission.

May God bless each of you, and may Our Lady shower our Catholic schools with Her maternal care.

Sincerely,

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



Diocese of Austin

Pastoral Center
6225 East US 290 Highway SVRD EB
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 949-2400
www.austindiocese.org

November 8, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome to the Diocese of Austin!

It is our great joy to welcome you to our beautiful city for the National Catholic Educational Association’s School Building Leader Summit. As Catholic school leaders from across the country, we pray this time together is one of fruitful dialogue and renewed inspiration.

This year’s theme, “Called to Be,” is a powerful reminder of the unique vocation entrusted to each of you as Catholic educators and leaders. You are called to be witnesses of Christ’s love and stewards of his truth by guiding students toward lives of holiness and purpose. Embracing this call with determination and joy can transform Catholic schools into beacons of light and hope in our world today. Our schools are vital communities of faith, formation, and academic excellence. Visionary leadership ensures young people are nurtured in faith and guided by Gospel values.

May the Holy Spirit guide your conversations and reflections during this summit, and may your time in Austin be blessed with hospitality and joy. With prayers for each of you and those you serve, we are

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Austin

Misty Poe
Superintendent

Thank You

NCEA extends a very special thank you to the following for contributing to the 2025 SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT and NEW BUILDING LEADER ACADEMY

NCEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta
Catholic Center for the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Ricky Austin
President
Aim Higher Foundation

Thomas M. Buckley, Esq.
General Counsel
Archdiocese of St. Louis

Lauren R. Casella, Ed.D.
Assistant Clinical Faculty and Program Director
Loyola Marymount University

David Devine
Chief Financial Officer
Academy of Holy Angels

John M. DeJak, J.D.
Executive Director and Secretariat
of Catholic Education

Tommy Espinoza
President/CEO
Espinoza Community Development

Lawrence M. Furey, CPA, CFRE
Founder and former CEO
Partners in Mission, LLC.

Edward P. Hardiman, Ph.D.
Head of School
St. John’s Preparatory School

RaeNell B. Houston, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools/
Executive Director
Catholic Education and Faith Formation
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Christina Lamas
Executive Director
National Federation of Catholic
Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

Anne O. McCrory, JD.
Former Chief Legal and Real Estate Officer
Former Chancellor
Diocese of Bridgeport

Father Ronald R. O’Dwyer, SJ, Ed.D.
President
DeSmet Jesuit High School

Hosffman Ospino, Ph.D.
Professor
Boston College
Clough School of Theology and Ministry

Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.
Secretary for Education and Faith Formation
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

Joe Womac
President
Specialty Family Foundation

Most Reverend Thomas R. Zinkula, J.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
President/CEO
National Catholic Educational
Association (Ex Officio)

NCEA STAFF

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
President/CEO

Quintina (Tina) Armstead
Member Sales Associate

Cedric Bernescut
Director of IT and
Member Sales Associate

Christie Blewett
Administrative Assistant

Jane Davis
Events Manager

Maria Del Amo
Director of Hispanic and
Latino Engagement

Amy Durkin, CEM, CMP, DES
Vice President of Events

Erica Franzzo
Coordinator of Marketing
and Digital Media

John Galvan
Vice President of
Leadership Engagement

Beth Gilliland
Member Sales Associate

Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D.
Director of Professional Learning

Francis Gorski
Executive Vice President of
Finance and Operations

Ana Hernandez
Accounting and
Human Resources Specialist

Sherri Jackson
Member Sales Associate

Margaret Kaplow
Communications Manager

Laura MacDonald
Vice President of Content and
Program Development

Wade Marshall
Vice President of Member Services

Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.
Vice President of Public Policy

Jessica Roberts
Senior Director of Business Development
and Philanthropy

Sarah Roberts
Data Analyst

Bea Ruiz
Graphic Design and
Production Manager

Lauretta Ruppert
Business Development Coordinator

Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D.
Director of School Engagement

BeeJae Visitacion
Senior Director of Marketing
and Communications

Schedule at a Glance

A full schedule for the event with additional information is available on pages 16–29.

NCEA NEW BUILDING LEADER ACADEMY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 5 PM

Badge Pick-up

[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

10 – 10:45 AM

Welcome Remarks and Introductions

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:45 – 11:30 AM

Called to Be a Spiritual Leader

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Lunch

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

12:30 – 1 PM

Called to Be a Spiritual Leader Continued

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

1 – 1:15 PM

Break

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Administrator's Survival Guide

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

2:30 – 2:45 PM

Break

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

2:45 – 3:45 PM

Called to Be a Collaborative Leader

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

3:45 – 4 PM

Break

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

4 – 5 PM

Called to Be an Instructional Leader

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

5 – 6 PM

Break / Relax and Refresh

6 – 7:30 PM

Welcome Dinner

Sponsored by Renaissance

[IRON CACTUS: DOWNTOWN AUSTIN](#)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 5 PM

Badge Pick-up

[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

8 – 9 AM

Breakfast

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

9 – 9:50 AM

Navigating Federal Education Programs in Uncertain Times

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

9:50 – 10:05 AM

Break

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:05 – 11 AM

What I'd Tell My 27-Year-Old Self About Being an Effective Catholic School Leader

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

11 – 11:15 AM

Break

[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Called to Be a Strategic Leader

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

12:15 – 12:45 PM

New Building Leader Academy

Closing Remarks

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

2 – 4 PM

Complimentary Professional Headshots

Sponsored by Lifetouch

[UNIVERSITY](#)



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 Badge Pick-up.

Saturday–Sunday: Lobby, Level One

Monday–Tuesday: Bridge Ballroom Foyer

NCEA SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 PM

School Building Leader Summit

Opening Mass

[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

6:30 – 8 PM

School Building Leader Summit

Welcome Dinner

Sponsored by FACTS

[ATRIUM, LEVEL ONE](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Today's events will take place at different locations. Please refer to the schedule for specific times and locations.

8 AM – 12 PM

Badge Pick-up

[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

8 – 9 AM

Morning Liturgy

[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

9 – 9:45 AM

Breakfast

[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)



Omni Austin Hotel Downtown
700 San Jacinto at 8th St.
Austin, TX 78701

9:45 – 10:15 AM

Departure for Google

[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:30 – 11 AM

Welcome Remarks

[GOOGLE](#)

11 AM – 12 PM

Keynote: The Power of Being Chosen

[GOOGLE](#)

12 – 12:15 PM

Break

[GOOGLE](#)

12:15 – 1:15 PM

You've Been "CRashed": Cultivating Trust in Collaborative Leadership

[GOOGLE](#)

1:15 – 2 PM

Lunch

[GOOGLE](#)

2 – 2:45 PM

Updates in Public Policy Issues: Navigating Uncertainties

[GOOGLE](#)

2:45 – 3:15 PM

Your NCEA Support and Resources

[GOOGLE](#)

3:15 – 3:30 PM

Break

[GOOGLE](#)

3:30 – 5 PM

Leverage AI to Enhance Your Leadership

[GOOGLE](#)

6 – 9 PM

Optional Evening Activities

[TBA](#)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 1:30 PM

Badge Pick-up

[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO, LEVEL TWO](#)

8 – 9 AM

Morning Liturgy

[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

9 – 9:45 AM

Breakfast

[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)

10 – 11 AM

Professional Learning Sessions 1

11 – 11:15 AM

Break

[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Professional Learning Sessions 2

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch

Sponsored by VenturEd

[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Professional Learning Sessions 3

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Break

[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Professional Learning Sessions 4

3:30 – 3:45 PM

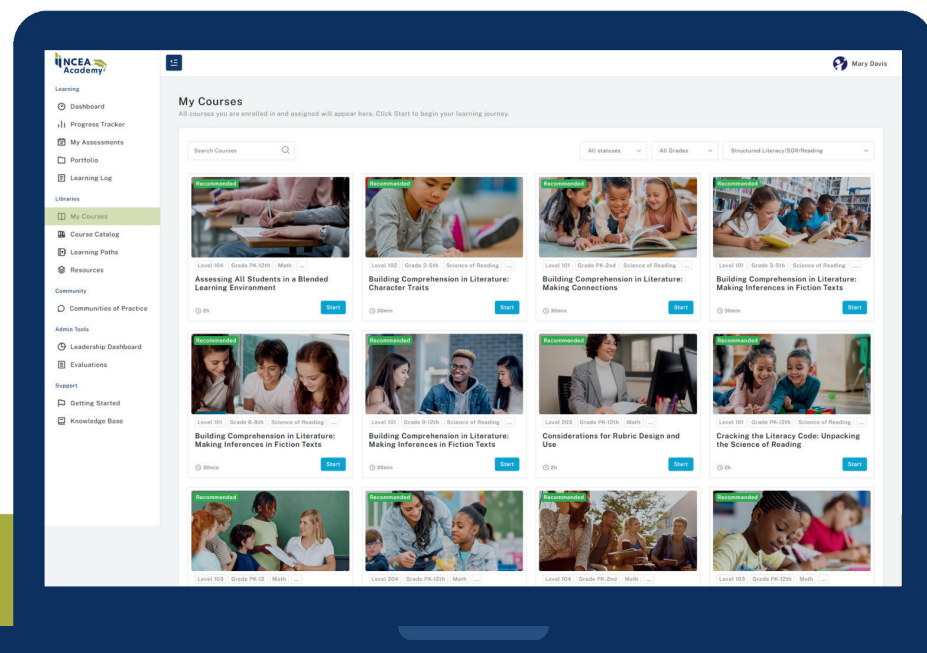
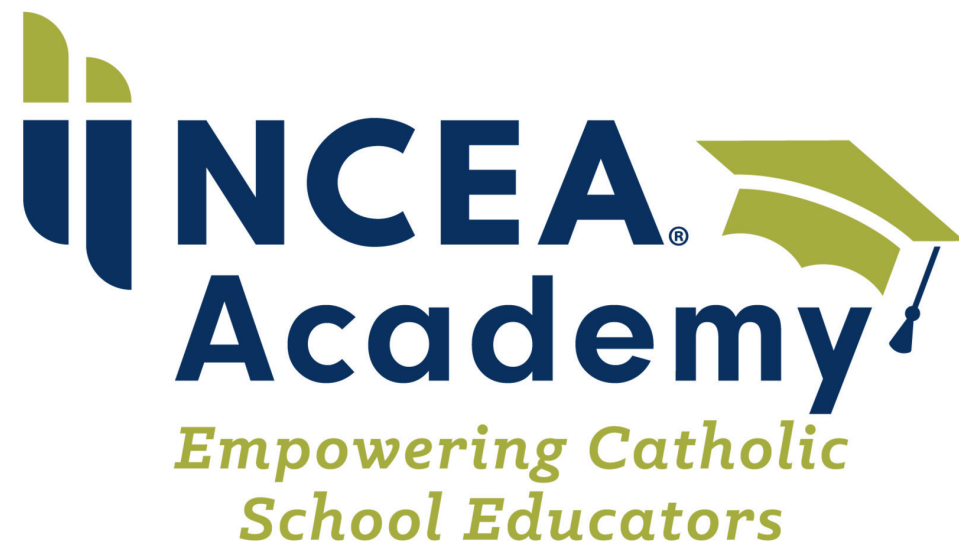
Break

[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

3:45 – 4:15 PM

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)



- High-quality, accessible learning environment to continuously develop skills and better serve students.
- Learner analytics, AI-driven learning tools, and an on-demand leadership dashboard to monitor learner progress.
- 300+ courses with topics including: Classroom Management, Data-Driven Instruction, Science of Reading, STREAM, AI, SEL, and much more.
- Exclusive rates for NCEA members.



Learn more at
www.NCEAAcademy.org

Keynote Speaker

SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT

JONATHAN DOYLE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025
11 AM – 12 PM

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.

“ARE YOU READY TO
UNCOVER THE POTENTIAL
HIDING BENEATH THE SURFACE
AND FEEL EMPOWERED
LIKE NEVER BEFORE?”





NCEA Career Center

NCEA MEMBERS ARE IN YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

JOB SEEKERS: FREE RESUME POSTING

- **Access to industry-specific jobs and employers** confidentially, 24/7 by using an advance search engine with multiple job criteria
- **Flag Multiple job listings** allowing you to "view all saved jobs" when ready
- **Create search alerts** specific to your professional search and receive automatic emails when new postings match your preferred job profile
- **Post resumes** at no charge to catch the attention of potential employers
- **Track your visibility** to employers

EMPLOYERS: PRICES START AT \$55 PER POST

- **Easy online Job Management** to post positions, view statistics and renew or discontinue postings
- **Increase visibility** to Catholic educators with over 60,000 views per year
- **Job activity tracking** to get access to reports and analytics on postings
- **Auto Notifications** of alerts and reminders related to account and job postings
- **Optimized for social media** to connect your job posting to all of our audiences even those on the go

Advance your career by visiting the NCEA Career Center at www.NCEA.org/careers today.



CELEBRATE OUR NEW SAINTS

Commemorate the canonizations of St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati with new designs that let you carry their witness into daily life.



SHOW YOUR NCEA SPIRIT

Show your faith and pride with Catholic-themed and NCEA-branded items in the classroom, office, or at events.



USE CODE "SBL52025" TO ENJOY 10% OFF

WWW.NCEA.ORG/MERCH

Explore more Catholic-inspired designs, apparel, and goods online.

SHOP NOW



Summit Information & Assistance

NOVEMBER 8-11, 2025 | AUSTIN, TX

Attending an Event at Google

What to Bring on Monday, November 10:

- A state-issued photo ID (required for entry)
- A laptop (and charger) with the Chrome browser installed

Additional Reminders:

- Please follow all instructions provided by NCEA and Google personnel throughout the event.
- Allow extra time for check-in and security procedures upon arrival.
- Photography is restricted in certain areas of the Google campus. Photos are permitted only in the lobby and in the "Breakfast Taco" meeting room.

City Information

There is so much to see and do in Austin. Visit www.austintexas.org 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 visit Badge Pick-Up in the lobby, level one, for any lost and found items.

Mobile App

Download the free NCEA Events app from your device's app store. Search for "SBLS 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 "SBLS 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 on the Bridge Foyer, Lobby Level One. 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, November 9, from 2-4 PM in University.

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.

Stay connected with the FREE NCEA Events app!

- Download the free **NCEA Events** app from your device's app store.
- Search for "SBLS 2025" to access this year's content.
- 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.
- Once logged in, use the **SBLS 2025** app to view the most up-to-date session details, speakers, sponsors, and more.
- Turn on notifications to receive push notifications from NCEA during the Summit!

Social Media

Join us online! Use hashtag #NCEAbuilding 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 Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

Network (SSID): Omni Meeting

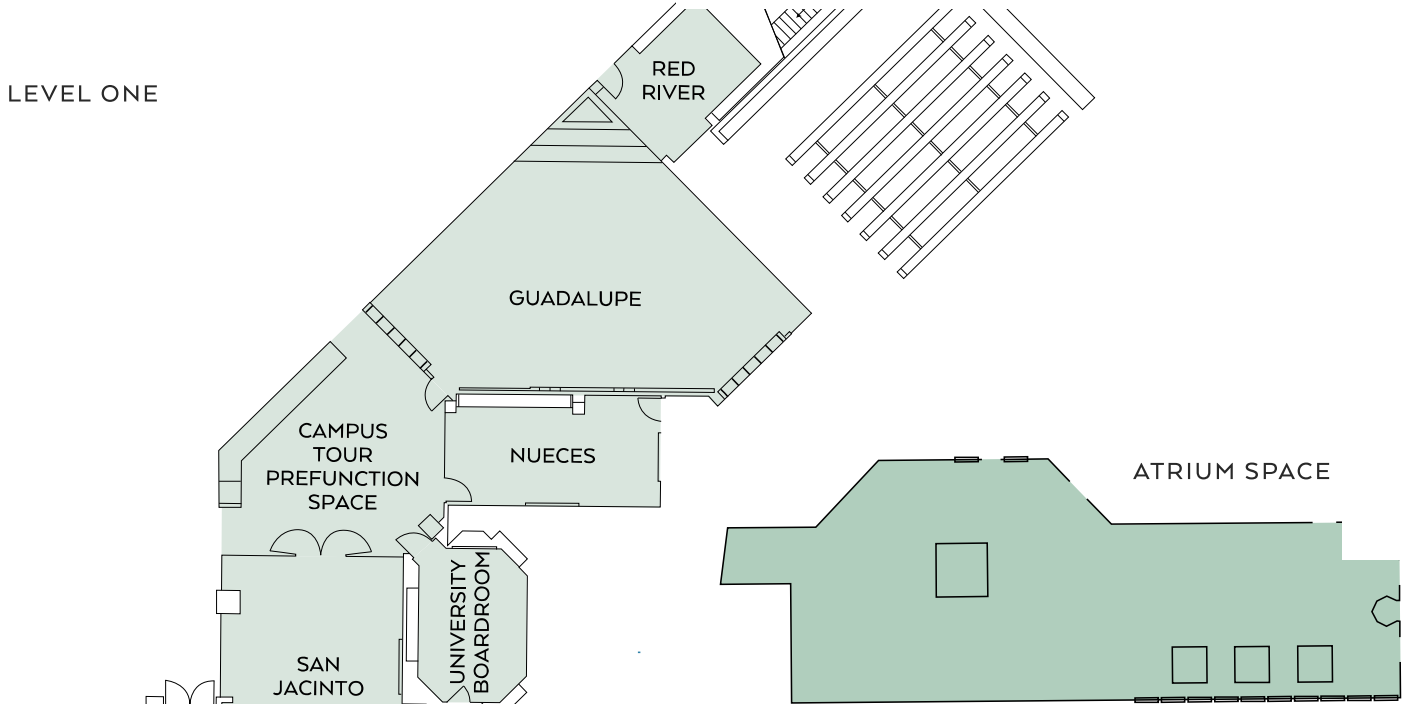
Password: Called2B

Say Goodnight to Hunger

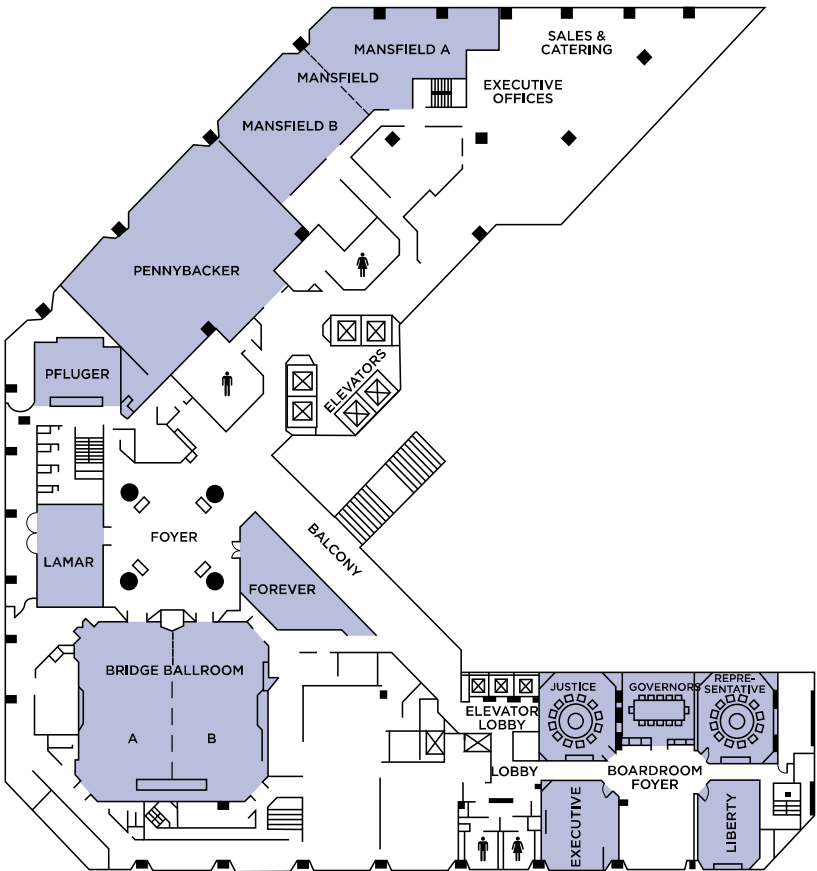
NCEA joins Omni Hotels & Resorts in their partnership to end the plight of hunger. Over 48 million Americans struggle with putting food on the table. For all group guestrooms booked in conjunction with the Summit, The Omni Hotel contributes one meal per actualized reservation. Visit Omnihotels.com/SGTHGROUP to learn more.



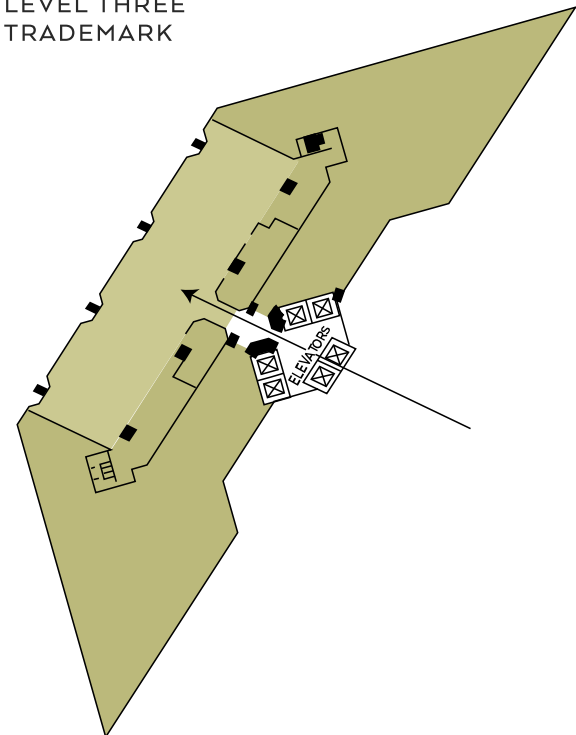
LEVEL ONE



LEVEL TWO



LEVEL THREE
TRADEMARK



Join us for the second annual Summit for
Catholic school principals and presidents!



Summer 2027

June 26-30, 2027 | Hilton Columbus Downtown
Stay ahead. Sign up for first alerts!





Live and On-Demand Webinars

NCEA webinars cover trending and need-to-know topics relevant to your career in Catholic education. Certificates of Attendance are available and all participants receive the recorded webinar. Missed a live webinar? Watch NCEA's most popular webinars on-demand, any time at your convenience!

For a list of upcoming and on-demand webinars, visit WWW.NCEA.ORG/WEBINARS

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...



WWW.NCEA.ORG/CORPORATEPARTNERS



Visit us online



NCEA AT WORK FOR YOU

Be part of the largest professional learning community of private school educators in the world.

NCEA is a trusted partner that empowers all Catholic schools and their communities to flourish spiritually, academically and operationally.



Member Resources

Your membership brings you award-winning publications and keeps you informed.

- Momentum Magazine (Print and Digital)
- NCEA Talk Blog
- NCEA Weekly
- Catholic Schools Week and Year Round Marketing Kit
- National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools



Professional Development and Faith Formation

Your membership includes professional development tailored to your needs.

- Live and On-Demand Webinars
- NCEA Bookstore Member Pricing and Free Downloadable Select Publications
- Access to Current NCEA Research and Data
- Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) to Support Educators/Leaders
- Engagement Directors
- NCEA Superintendent Collective and Partner Collective



Strengthen Communities

Your membership connects you to our community.

- NCEA Awards for Educators
- Member School Locator
- NCEA Career Center Member Pricing
- Discounts on Insurance, Travel, Products, and Other Services ***Thousands in Savings***
- Exclusive Offers and Resources from Over 30 Corporate Partners
- NCEA Academy



Leadership Annual Events

Your membership affords you advance registration and member pricing on in-person and virtual events.

- NCEA Convention & Expo (NCEA 2026, Minneapolis)
- NCEA Catholic Leadership Summit (CLS)
- NCEA New Superintendents Academy
- NCEA School Building Leader Summit
- NCEA New Building Leader Academy
- Annual Education Law Symposium



Public Policy and Advocacy

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.



Your Membership. Our Commitment.

Visit www.NCEA.org/membership to renew today!

Serving Catholic school educators since 1904

Full Schedule

During Breaks, feel free to network, catch up on messages, or unwind before the next session begins.

NCEA NEW BUILDING LEADER ACADEMY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 5 PM
Badge Pick-up
[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

10 – 10:45 AM
Welcome Remarks and Introductions
Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman, NCEA
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:45 – 11:30 AM
Called to Be a Spiritual Leader
Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D., NCEA
Explore how mission and charism shape a school's daily practices. This session will guide new leaders in nurturing faith formation for faculty and staff, fostering authentic witness, and partnering with families to form students as faith-filled individuals.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Lunch
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

12:30 – 1 PM
Called to Be a Spiritual Leader Continued
John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed., NCEA
Continue to explore mission, nurturing faith formation for faculty and staff, fostering authentic witness, and partnering with families to form students as faith-filled individuals.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

1 – 1:15 PM
Break
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

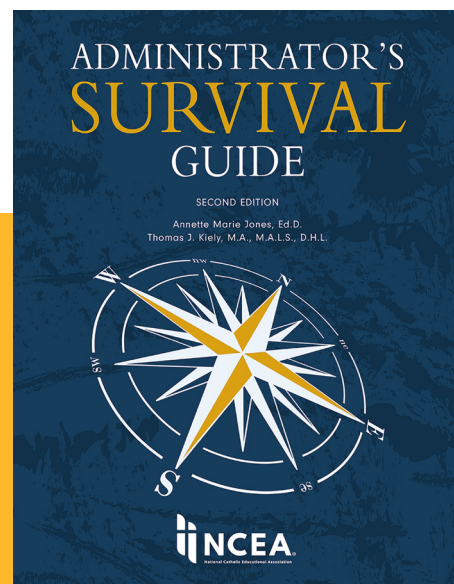
1:15 – 2:30 PM
CALLED TO BE A COLLABORATIVE LEADER
Administrator's Survival Guide
Annette Jones, Ed.D., Archdiocese of Baltimore; Thomas Kiely, M.A., M.A.L.S., D.H.L., Institute for Catholic Leadership at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI
The speakers will share an overview of the essential components of the publication, Administrator's Survival Guide, including the application of the National Standards and Benchmarks, Orientation Questions, Monthly Tasks, and Resources for Growth.
Following the foundational concepts, the speaker will highlight strategies to strengthen collaborative relationships among various stakeholders. Whether the school leader is onboarding or celebrating years of leadership experience, the attendee will participate in an interactive session focused on using the NSBECS to build long-term sustainability in the school community.
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

In Catholic school leadership, each school has a series of practices and procedures that make up the daily lives of faculty and staff, students and families. As a newcomer to this environment, new leaders are suddenly placed into the middle of a world where they are supposed to instantly understand how to lead effectively. This publication is intended to ease this transition for new leaders in their new schools and suggest ways that new leaders can develop relationships that will build capacity efficiently.

2:30 – 2:45 PM
Break
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

2:45 – 3:45 PM
Called to Be a Collaborative Leader
Laura MacDonald, M.A., NCEA
Discover ways to strengthen collaboration with governing bodies, school communities, parishes, and diocesan leaders. This session will provide practical strategies to foster unity and build a positive school culture.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

3:45 – 4 PM
Break
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)



4 – 5 PM
Called to Be an Instructional Leader
John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed., NCEA;
Laura MacDonald, M.A., NCEA;
Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D., NCEA
Learn how to support all students, while fostering a culture of academic excellence. Explore how data-driven instruction and professional learning can drive continuous improvement and student success.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

5 – 6 PM
Break / Relax and Refresh

6 – 7:30 PM
Welcome Dinner
Sponsored by Renaissance
[IRON CACTUS: DOWNTOWN AUSTIN](#)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 5 PM
Badge Pick-up
[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

8 – 9 AM
Breakfast
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

9 – 9:50 AM
CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER
Navigating Federal Education Programs in Uncertain Times
Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA
This presentation will focus on the current and changing realities facing Catholic schools as they try to obtain the equitable share of federal education benefits for their students and teachers allowable in programs authorized in the laws pertaining to special education (IDEA) and Title programs. The speaker will present available information, tips for maximizing participation and encourage participant questions.
NSBECS Domains: Operational Vitality, Governance and Leadership
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

9:50 – 10:05 AM
Break
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:05 – 11 AM
CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER
What I'd Tell My 27-Year-Old Self About Being an Effective Catholic School Leader
Faustin Weber, Prince of Peace Catholic School, Plano, TX
"(We) were so much older then," Dylan sings. "(We're) younger than that now."
I was just 27 years old when I first became a high school principal--cocky, brash, ""not knowing that I didn't know."" But there is nothing more humbling than being a Catholic school leader, and as a principal or president of four Catholic schools, I've now had 35 years of humility training!

So, what would I say to my 27-year-old self about running a good Catholic high school? Plenty! Walk down this path with me as I poke fun at my younger self, the mistakes I made, the foolish things I once believed and what I've learned along the way. It should be an amusing reflection that I hope will help participants reflect on their own careers and development.
NSBECS Domains: Governance and Leadership

[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

11 – 11:15 AM
Break
[CAMPUS TOUR, LEVEL ONE](#)

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Called to Be a Strategic Leader
Steven Virgadamo, All Saints Catholic School, New York, NY
Step into your leadership role with a strategic mindset. This session will explore how mission-driven planning, data-informed decision-making, and effective resource management come together to support long-term vitality.
NSBECS Domains: Operational Vitality, Governance and Leadership
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

12:15 – 12:45 PM
New Building Leader Academy Closing Remarks
[SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE](#)

2 – 4 PM
Complimentary Professional Headshots
Sponsored by Lifetouch
Headshots will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
[UNIVERSITY](#)

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

The School Building Leader Summit Opening Mass will take place today at 5 PM, immediately followed by the Welcome Dinner.

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 Badge Pick-up.

Saturday–Sunday:
Lobby, Level One
Monday–Tuesday:
Bridge Ballroom Foyer



NCEA Purchasing Powered by the Cedar offers NCEA members exclusive discounts on goods and services from trusted vendors. We've done the negotiating, so you can enjoy bargain prices with no upfront fees.

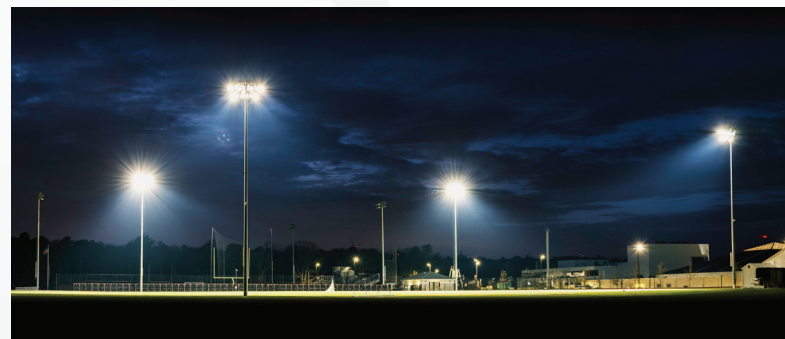
Our Vendors

- **ODP Business Solutions:** Best prices on office/school supplies, technology and facilities services.
- **Toshiba:** Save up to 70% on printers and copiers, whether buying or leasing.
- **American Commercial Furniture:** Quality furniture and design services for all school spaces, from classrooms to cafeterias.
- **Revolution Office:** "Like new" copier and printer technology with a 98% uptime rate and equipment replacement guarantee.
- **Twin Supplies:** Affordable, energy-efficient lighting for schools and churches, with guidance on available energy incentives.
- **Ecolab:** Cleaning and sanitation products to protect students and staff, supporting sustainability and operational efficiency.
- **B West Marketing:** Promotional products and business gifts with your logo.
- **BearCom:** Communication, safety and security solutions to create a safe and efficient learning environment.

Boost your purchasing power with ease and access top-quality products for your school.

Get Started

- www.NCEA.org/Purchasing
- purchasing@ncea.org
- (916) 957-8336



SKILLS FOR GOOD. SKILLS FOR LIFE.
CHARACTER EDUCATION FOR FAITH



BUILD CHRIST-CENTERED CLASSROOMS:

- **Faith-aligned:** Rooted in Scripture and Catholic teachings, equip students with virtues and life skills in and out of the classroom.
- **Stronger School Community:** Builds Christ-centered friendships that foster belonging among students, teachers, and families.
- **Whole-Child Development:** Supports social, emotional, and spiritual growth, helping students live out their faith in daily life.

WHY FRIENDZY:

We're an effective, Catholic curriculum that teaches a new generation of students character development skills. Rooted in scripture, the Friendly program helps students build healthy relationships, manage emotions, and improve academic focus using practical, engaging lessons for PreK-12.

SEE FRIENDZY IN ACTION!



National Catholic Educational Association

Momentum

Since 1970, *Momentum* magazine has offered relevant, timely and important articles and best practices in the realm of Catholic education.

The digital edition of *Momentum* is an exclusive benefit for NCEA members. It adapts to any device, including computers, tablets and smart phones.



Log in now to explore the digital edition:

www.NCEA.org/Momentum



NCEA SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER SUMMIT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 PM
School Building Leader Summit
Opening Mass
Located directly behind the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, Saint Mary's Cathedral is the mother church of the Catholic Diocese of Austin. For over 170 years, the church has welcomed in Catholics from Austin, TX, and the world. Now, situated in the center of one of America's fastest growing cities the door remains open to all who wish to join in celebrating our Faith, living in the Church, and worshipping our Lord.

Meet in the lobby at 4:45 PM to walk to St. Mary's Cathedral.
[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

6:30 – 8 PM
School Building Leader Summit
Welcome Dinner
Sponsored by FACTS
[ATRIUM, LEVEL ONE](#)

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Today's events will take place at different locations. Please refer to the schedule for specific times and locations.

8 AM – 12 PM
Badge Pick-up
[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

8 – 9 AM
Morning Liturgy
NCEA staff will be available in the lobby of the hotel to direct you to the church, located directly behind the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.
[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

9 – 9:45 AM
Breakfast
[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)



9:45 – 10:15 AM
Departure for Google
Buses will begin to depart from the Omni at 9:45 AM and will run on a loop until approximately 10:15 AM. Please bring your photo ID and a laptop with the Chrome browser installed.
[LOBBY, LEVEL ONE](#)

10:30 – 11 AM
Welcome Remarks
Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman, NCEA
[GOOGLE](#)



11 AM – 12 PM
The Power of Being Chosen
Jonathan Doyle
Leadership in Catholic education is a profound partnership with God, where every leader plays a central role in serving young people, their families, and the wider school community. Amidst all the administrative and professional demands, however, God is telling a much bigger story. It's a story in which each leader is called to a deep and rich vocational life designed to give them the insight, energy, and passion to not only go the distance but also to help build the Kingdom of God in powerful and very real ways.
In his keynote message, global Catholic speaker, author, and executive coach Jonathan Doyle will share how each leader's vocational call is unique, personal, and profound. The God who called you is faithful and will empower you to be the leader you were created to become.
[GOOGLE](#)

12 – 12:15 PM
Break
[GOOGLE](#)

12:15 – 1:15 PM
CALLED TO BE A COLLABORATIVE LEADER
You've Been "CRashed": Cultivating Trust in Collaborative Leadership
Chris Rebusk, Bishop Lynch High School, Dallas, TX; **Chad Riley, Ph.D.**, Bishop Lynch High School, Dallas, TX
Collaborative leadership is more than working together toward a shared goal. Trust is an essential ingredient. This trust must be intentionally and explicitly cultivated, not left to chance or wishful thinking. This session makes the case for a trust-informed practice of leadership within the context of a distributed leadership model. The co-presenters will also show that injecting humor into their collaborative leadership amplifies trust. While the co-presenters employ the lens of a president-principal model of school leadership, the ideas discussed are applicable to any setting where collaborative leadership is essential.
[GOOGLE](#)

1:15 – 2 PM
Lunch
[GOOGLE](#)

2 – 2:45 PM
Updates in Public Policy Issues: Navigating Uncertainties
Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA
This session will provide an overview of available federal education benefits for Catholic school students and teachers. Much is changing in this current school year, and the speaker will discuss current and anticipated policies that are challenging Catholic school leaders. There will be time for questions and sharing of participants' experiences.
[GOOGLE](#)

2:45 – 3:15 PM
Your NCEA Support and Resources
Laura MacDonald, M.A., NCEA; **Wade Marshall**, NCEA; **Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D.**, 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.
[GOOGLE](#)

3:15 – 3:30 PM
Break
[GOOGLE](#)

3:30 – 5 PM
CALLED TO BE AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER
Leverage AI to Enhance Your Leadership
Austin Swift, Google for Education
Unlock the Power of AI for School Leaders! Discover how Google's Gemini AI can enhance your leadership and support your educators. This session will introduce practical ways to integrate AI into school workflows—helping streamline administrative tasks, support your teachers with personalized learning experiences and promote innovation. Learn how leveraging these intelligent tools can save time, reduce staff burnout, and create more effective and dynamic learning environments across your school community.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
[GOOGLE](#)

6 – 9 PM
Optional Evening Activities
[TBA](#)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

All of today's events will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

8 AM – 1:30 PM
Badge Pick-up
[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO, LEVEL TWO](#)

8 – 9 AM
Morning Liturgy
NCEA staff will be available in the lobby of the hotel to direct you to the church, located directly behind the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.
[SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL](#)

9 – 9:45 AM
Breakfast
[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)

10 – 11 AM
Professional Learning Sessions 1

11 – 11:15 AM
Break
[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 2

12:15 – 1:15 PM
Lunch
Sponsored by VenturEd
[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)

1:15 – 2:15 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 3

2:15 – 2:30 PM
Break
[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

2:30 – 3:30 PM
Professional Learning Sessions 4

3:30 – 3:45 PM
Break
[BRIDGE FOYER, LEVEL TWO](#)

3:45 – 4:15 PM
Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
[BRIDGE BALLROOM, LEVEL TWO](#)

Descriptions of all Professional Learning Session options are provided on the following pages. →

CALLED TO BE A COLLABORATIVE LEADER

In This Together

Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen, OP, M.A., Openlight Media; **Tammy Conway, M.Ed.**, O' Hara Catholic School, Eugene, OR; **William Waech**, St. Francis Cabrini School, West Bend, WI

The daily grind of a school leader is filled with joys and challenges. The pressures from the culture, diocese, families, teachers and students pull them in many directions and it can often feel as if nothing ever really gets done. Not to mention the expectations of making sure the identity is central to the mission which rests in the people hired and how they manage the daily grind of the classroom and their respective positions. This session will focus on leading the people entrusted to your care, so they feel accompanied and are ready to support the school's mission. It will include implementing foundational pillars in virtue education, which impacts the school culture, the social and emotional well-being of the students, as well as preventive discipline rooted in faith and reason. All these elements enrich your school culture in a manner that is not perceived as "one more thing."

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

FOREVER, LEVEL TWO



CALLED TO BE AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

Diving Into Data – Unlocking Academic Excellence in Catholic Schools

Joe Cuprak, M.Ed., Curriculum Associates

Let's dive into data-driven instruction!

As demonstrated in recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, Catholic schools have continued to experience growth and achievement. Students, especially in today's Catholic school classrooms, have varied needs and interests. The challenge for Catholic school educators is first to identify those areas of need and strength, but then to have the resources and tools to address those areas in a way that honors each student's background and interests. In this collaborative session, we will look at assessment strategies, as well as reports and resources that incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. We will also discuss the practical aspects of finding time within the learning environment to reach and engage every learner. We will focus on strategies that transcend platforms and programs.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

PFLUGER, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER

Creating a Written Strategic Plan for Development/Advancement

Frank Donaldson, NCEA Author

Building on content from the new NCEA book (June 2025), "The Cadence of Catholic School Development," this presentation will show attendees how to create their own written plan for development/advancement. This plan will be built around the six major components of development: 1. Constituent Records; 2. Communications; 3. Enrollment Management; 4. Fund Development; 5. Alum Involvement; 6. Fund/Friend-Raising Events. A prototype will be provided where school leaders will be able to identify their challenges, create strategic solutions, understand best practices and establish the metrics to make sure the plan stays on track.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LAMAR, LEVEL TWO



Every child longs to feel safe, seen, understood and supported.

It's Time to be Intentional

As school leaders, you set the standard for formation in your communities. Secular SEL programs can only go so far. With ***Raised in Grace***, you can lead with faith - by integrating virtue and neuroscience, and guiding students to understand their minds and bodies. Together, let's equip children to navigate emotions, build character, form relationships, and grow in faith.



Explore the first authentic Catholic social-emotional learning program for all ages.



CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER

Not Just Another Check in the Box: Leveraging the School Accreditation Process to Support Strategic Planning and Continuous School Improvement

Ashley Altizer, Ed.D., Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

For many school leaders, accreditation is viewed as a necessary but burdensome task, often disconnected from broader strategic goals—a box to check rather than a meaningful process. However, when embraced as an opportunity for reflection and growth, accreditation becomes a powerful tool to shape a school's future. This presentation will help leaders rethink accreditation as more than a compliance exercise, positioning it as a key part of their strategic leadership. The session will show how the process reveals strengths and areas for improvement and can guide planning to meet evolving community needs. Strategic leaders must move beyond reporting to engage deeply with accreditation data. When integrated into the planning cycle, accreditation drives sustainability, enhances student outcomes and builds ownership among faculty, staff, students and parents.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE

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 Badge Pick-up.

Saturday–Sunday:

Lobby, Level One

Monday–Tuesday:

Bridge Ballroom Foyer



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
[#CSW2026](https://twitter.com/NCEATalk)



11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSIONS 2

CALLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Charism is the Cure: Reclaiming Catholic Identity to Renew and Revitalize Our Schools

Deirdre Peterson, M.A., St. John Notre Dame, Folsom, CA;
Keith Martin, M.A., St. John Notre Dame, Folsom, CA

As Catholic schools face identity loss and the threat of closure, spiritual leadership rooted in charism offers a transformative path forward. This session presents a bold yet proven solution: return to your roots. Many schools have drifted from the charism of their founding orders or lost sight of their Catholic identity. Through a real-life case study—St. John Notre Dame School’s five-year journey toward reaffiliation with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur—participants will explore how to rediscover their founding story, engage staff and families in formation and bring Catholic identity to life in daily culture. Grounded in Dr. Timothy Cook’s research on charism and culture and informed by guest lectures at LMU’s Catholic School Leadership Academy, this session offers practical tools for restoring identity, faith and vitality.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LAMAR, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER

**Leading Evangelizing Communities:
How Principals Can Use the New USCCB
Religious Education Goals to Partner with
Parents and Faculty in Forming Student Faith**

Joseph White, Ph.D., Our Sunday Visitor

Last year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Subcommittee on the Catechism formally approved the new Handbook on the Catechetical Accompaniment Process. This document, which replaces the former USCCB Conformity Protocol for religious education curricula, outlines goals for religious education programs in both Catholic schools and parishes. In this session, Dr. Joseph White, who served on the working group that developed the Handbook, will describe the movement from purely content-oriented objectives to goals that span three domains: Cognitive (concepts to be learned), Interior Life (attitudes and dispositions to be fostered) and Behavioral (action steps to living and sharing the faith—at home, at school, and in the larger community). Come and learn about this new blueprint for building and growing a cohesive and robust Catholic identity in your school.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PFLUGER, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A COLLABORATIVE LEADER

Mastering the Art of Difficult Conversations

Joy Roberts, Friendlyzy

In the dynamic environment of education, challenging conversations are inevitable—whether with coworkers, parents or even students. This professional development session equips teachers and school leaders with practical, research-backed strategies to approach these tough discussions with intention and confidence. By integrating faith-based principles, participants will learn practical techniques to foster transparent communication, resolve conflicts and strengthen relationships within their school communities. Join us to build the communication skills necessary for turning difficult conversations into opportunities for growth and collaboration. Seats are limited—join us and turn every difficult conversation into a powerful opportunity for growth, trust and transformation.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

WHITIS, LEVEL ONE

CALLED TO BE AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

**Supercharging Tier 1 Instruction: Strategies
to Get More Growth from All Students,
in All Subjects, at All Levels**

Gene Kerns, Ed.D., Renaissance;

Julie Vogel, Ph.D., Renaissance

You’ve probably heard the saying, “You can’t intervene your way out of a Tier 1 problem.” This is certainly true given that strong core instruction is the foundation of any effective MTSS implementation. Yet, few schools meet the age-old rule-of-thumb of 80 percent of students progressing appropriately solely with Tier 1 services. There’s a proven way to radically improve both student performance and motivation that goes overlooked by too many schools. It has been proven effective with students of all ages and across all subjects repeatedly worldwide and it’s even highly cost-effective. This session will focus on research-based strategies to supercharge daily instruction that can be implemented at any grade level and in any content area.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE

CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER

**Mission-Driven Growth: Aligning Enrollment
Strategy with Financial Stewardship**

Susan Abelein, Ph.D., FACTS

Sustainable Catholic school leadership requires a unified approach to enrollment and budgeting. In this session, participants will learn how to develop strategic enrollment plans that are directly aligned with financial forecasting and resource allocation. Explore tools to track key data, anticipate demographic trends, and engage stakeholders in mission-driven decision-making that ensures long-term viability and faith-filled growth.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

FOREVER, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Called to Lead: Empowering Spiritual Leadership in Hispanic/Latino Catholic Education

Gerardo Salazar, D.Min., William H. Sadlier

Hispanic/Latino communities are a vibrant and growing presence in Catholic schools across the United States. This workshop explores the unique vocation of spiritual leadership within the context of teacher, administrator, or pastoral minister. Participants will reflect on their personal call to lead with faith, examine cultural and pastoral strategies to engage Hispanic/Latino families and explore models of spiritual leadership rooted in scripture, Catholic social teaching and the witness of Latino saints. Practical tools and strategies will be shared to help foster inclusive, faith-filled school environments that nurture both academic excellence and cultural belonging.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LAMAR, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Supporting Teachers for Faith Integration

Brett Salkeld, Ph.D., Our Sunday Visitor

One key element of a robust Catholic identity for our schools is having the faith well integrated across the curriculum. Very few of our teachers, however, have received any formal training for this task. When we ask them to teach everything from a Catholic point of view, they can feel overwhelmed, unqualified and even skeptical. Their questions deserve real answers. The good news is that their good questions have good answers. And when their questions are taken seriously, sometimes even your biggest skeptic can become a leader.

Join Dr. Brett Salkeld to consider the questions your teachers have about faith integration so that you can support their efforts to teach every subject through the lens of our Catholic faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

WHITIS, LEVEL ONE



CALLED TO BE AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

The Heart of the Matter: Inclusionary Approaches in Catholic Schools

Michael Boyle, Ph.D., Saint Louis University, Wheaton, IL

So much of the work on educating students with disabilities is focused on resources (or the lack thereof). Yes, resources are critical, but this focus may be missing the mark. The education of the student with a disability is not only about that student, but it is about the other students in the class and the ability to help them grow in understanding the life and dignity of the human person. This session will focus on the process of mapping the journey to build capacity to educate students with disabilities. A critical element of this presentation will be on building the knowledge and skills and the foundational spiritual elements that are requisite for the entire school community.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

FOREVER, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER

Using the NSBECS Rubrics and Scoring Templates as School Leaders

Michelle Lia, Ed.D., Loyola University Chicago

In this interactive session for principals and presidents, explore how the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS) can become your roadmap for excellence. Learn how to use updated rubrics and scoring templates to reflect on instructional quality, evaluate overall school effectiveness, and lead with confidence. Walk away with practical tools to support continuous improvement and inspire lasting impact.

PFLUGER, LEVEL TWO

CALLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER

Utilizing School Choice Scholarship Programs in Admissions Strategies to Maximize Enrollment

Bruce Hermie, M.Ed., American Federation for Children; **Lauren May,** StepUp for Students

This session will focus on how building-level school leaders can assess, plan and adjust admissions and enrollment strategies to raise interest among families and spur enrollment in their schools using school choice scholarships. Best practices will be discussed, samples and strategies will be shared, and data will be presented to give school leaders perspective on what has had the greatest impact on enrollment around the country.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE



The revised
ACRE
covers more
ground than
ever before.



The **ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education)** provides schools and parishes with a tool to evaluate how well students are learning and living the Catholic faith. More than an assessment, **ACRE** helps you walk with your students and understand both their knowledge and their lived experiences.

GROW
WHAT YOU
MEASURE.

Contact John Galvan,
NCEA Vice President of
Leadership Engagement:
john@ncea.org

➤ **COMING IN 2026–2027**

- ✚ Improved assessments available for all grades 2–12
- ✚ Individualized student reporting that empowers growth
- ✚ More robust and reliable reporting tailored to different users—from classroom teachers to bishops
- ✚ Access to Spanish versions for the diverse communities we serve

➤ **NEW PLATFORM POWERED BY Renaissance**

CALLLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER
Hiring for Mission: Building Teams that Evangelize, Educate and Endure
Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D., NCEA; **Thomas McKrill, M.Ed.,** Lake Catholic High School, Mentor, OH
Hiring for mission is critical to building schools that evangelize, educate and endure. This session will equip principals and presidents with current, practical and innovative strategies to recruit, interview and retain staff who are committed to the mission. Participants will explore essential competencies for mission-fit candidates, collaborate on creating mission-centered interview practices and develop an actionable hiring plan. Learn how hiring intentionally strengthens both spiritual and strategic leadership and secures the future of Catholic education.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
PFLUGER, LEVEL TWO

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



CALLLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER
How to Handle Parents that Bully the School
Jodee Blanco, NCEA Author
This session gives principals a fresh, new toolbox for handling a difficult or challenging parent with compassion, confidence and grace. Takeaways include: the five types of challenging parents; why some parents bully the school and how to turn their frustration into trust; tips for documentation and follow-up that makes everyone feel heard and respected; how to avoid the typical mistakes many administrators make when dealing with an angry parent; how to handle “not my child” denial; what to do when a parent blindsides a teacher; expectation management-what it is and why it's vital; navigating parent cliques and social media drama; scripted verbiage, email templates and other time savers.
This session will show participants how to transform a tense situation with a parent into an opportunity to build a productive, rewarding partnership that enriches the school, the student and the parish.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
WHITIS, LEVEL ONE

CALLLED TO BE AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER
Empowering Every Learner: Building a Sustainable MTSS Framework in Catholic Schools
Tara Cevallos, M.Ed., St. Austin Catholic School, Austin, TX; **Gabi Aragon, M.Ed.,** St. Austin Catholic School, Austin, TX
How can school leaders ensure that every student—regardless of academic, behavioral or social-emotional needs—receives the support necessary to thrive? At St. Austin Catholic School in Austin, TX, a strong Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) has been cultivated over 15 years to do just that. Rooted in the mission of forming the whole child, the model integrates data-driven practices, differentiated instruction and strategic scheduling within a faith-filled environment. Through early identification using universal screeners, educators provide timely, targeted support. Teachers use Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to ensure access for all learners. A collaborative faculty culture, supported by professional development and outside specialists, strengthens the system. This session provides leaders with practical strategies to build sustainable, mission-driven MTSS frameworks.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
SAN JACINTO, LEVEL ONE



CALLLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER
"Show Me the Money!" Understanding the Consultation Process and the Rights of Private Schools Under the Federal ESSA Legislation
Henry Fortier, Ed.D., Catapult Learning
Navigating the federal grant programs can be difficult and confusing. Are you getting all the services and resources allowable by law? Trying to understand the hundreds of pages of federal guidance, completing endless paperwork required for participation, being told this is all you get without understanding why, and asking yourself is it worth all the headache can make the title program experience overwhelming.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
FOREVER, LEVEL TWO

CALLLED TO BE A STRATEGIC LEADER
Start a Better Board: Building the Catholic School Board Your Mission Deserves
Chris Martin, M.A., Roche Center for Catholic Education, Boston College
Building and sustaining an effective board is critical to the strategic success of any school. Yet many leaders are uncertain about how to assess their board's structure or where to begin building and strengthening it. This session offers a roadmap, equipping leaders to identify their type of board, understand the critical role of bylaws, and apply practical tools like board matrices, committee charters, meeting agendas, and cycle-of-meetings templates to launch and sustain a high-functioning board. Participants will engage with interactive polling, video insights, and discussion opportunities to allow participants to apply learning to their own settings. Leaders will leave with concrete resources and actionable next steps for starting, or restarting, a better board grounded in mission and best practices.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
LAMAR, LEVEL TWO






Catholic Scouting complements what you teach in the classroom

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is proud to partner with the National Catholic Educational Association. The partnership between these two leading Catholic organizations supports both of their efforts to help young people grow as faithful Catholics and good citizens.



Talk with your pastor or school administrator about starting a Catholic Scouting unit at your school.



NCEA Professional Learning Networks (PLNs)

READY TO ELEVATE YOUR LEADERSHIP?
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!

CONNECT WITH US:
Superintendents, please contact John Galvan,
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

Transform Your Leadership Path with NCEA

Follow NCEA

Join the conversation.



 www.ncea.org

 www.nceatalk.org

 nceatalk@ncea.org

 [@nceaorg](https://www.facebook.com/nceaorg)

    [@nceatalk](https://www.youtube.com/@nceatalk)



CERTIFIES THAT

has attended the

2025 NCEA School Building Leader Summit

Austin, TX • November 2025



Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
NCEA President/CEO

Thank You

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) is grateful to the following generous Corporate Partners.

Ambassador Partners



Platinum Partners



Gold Partners



Bronze Partners



Supporting Partner





Register now!

National Catholic Educational Association
2026 Convention & Expo | April 7-9 | Minneapolis, MN
Minneapolis Convention Center

www.NCEA.org/NCEA2026 #NCEA2026



REGISTER NOW



NCEATalk



NCEAorg