

Pre-conference

HACU 15th Annual Deans' Forum

Friday, October 30, 2026

Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center • Chula Vista, California



From Access to Completion: The Dean's Playbook for Student Success

The 15th Annual Deans' Forum is an outstanding, half-day experience for faculty and staff currently serving as a dean or aspire to serve in this role. The Deans' Forum, "From Access to Completion: The Dean's Playbook for Student Success," focuses on bringing diverse perspectives from renowned speakers who have hands on experience in implementing innovative and creative practices in higher education. Participants will engage in dialogue with a panel of experts and network and learn from each other.

8:15– 9:00 a.m.	Presentation 1--The Modern Academic Leaders: Leading Through Change, Building Trust, and Delivering Results Today's deans and academic leaders face unprecedented expectations from improving student success and enrollment to managing budgets, supporting faculty, embracing emerging technologies, and strengthening workforce partnerships. This interactive session provides practical leadership strategies for building trust, fostering collaboration, making data-informed decisions, leading through change, and creating a culture of accountability and innovation. Participants will leave with actionable tools they can immediately apply to strengthen their teams and increase institutional impact.
9:10 – 10:00 a.m.	Presentation 2-- From Dean to College President in Five Years: Leadership, Relationships, and an Aspen Prize Journey In this engaging session, attendees will hear the personal and professional journey of advancing from dean to college president in just five years while helping lead a college to national recognition, including the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The presentation explores how authentic relationships, an unwavering focus on student success, and strong political awareness became essential leadership tools for driving institutional transformation, building trust, navigating complexity, and achieving measurable results for students and communities.