13TH ANNUAL | OCTOBER 21-23, 2026

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

HOSTED BY VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO MUSIC CITY!

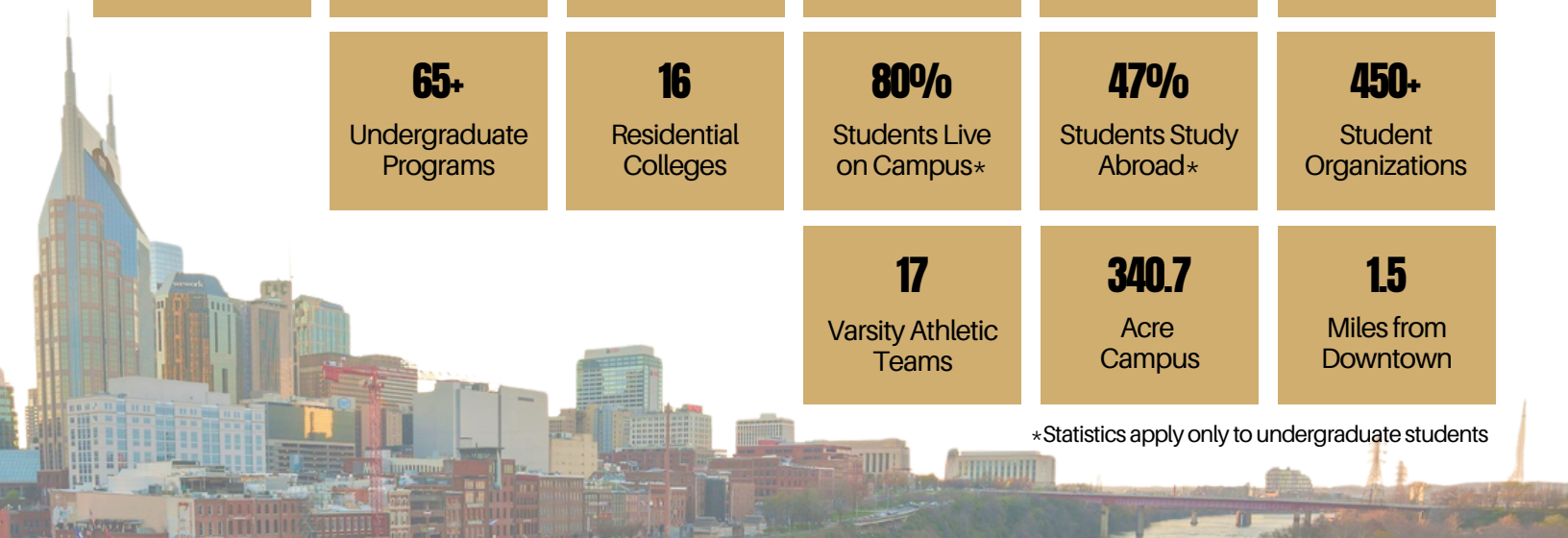
On behalf of the Residential College Society and Vanderbilt University, welcome to the 2026 Residential College Symposium! Faculty, academic and student affairs professionals, and student leaders have gathered to expand their learning, advance their practice and build meaningful connections within the residential college community.

This year's symposium explores ***Radical Collaboration: The Role of Residential Colleges in 21st Century Higher Education.*** As institutions face evolving student needs, shifting demographics and emerging challenges, residential colleges serve as powerful catalysts for transformative learning, belonging and academic engagement. Through collaborative partnerships among faculty, staff and students, residential colleges can lead the way in reimagining higher education for the next generation.

ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

Vanderbilt University's core purpose is to create, preserve and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research and the arts. In a culture of inquiry and debate, we create a community driven by radical collaboration and unwavering commitment to academic, professional and personal growth. *Crescere aude*. Dare to grow. Learn more at ***vanderbilt.edu***.

1873 University Founded	**7,300+** Undergraduate Students	**6,200+** Graduate Students	**1,841** Faculty Members	**12** Schools & Colleges	**8:1** Student to Faculty Ratio*
	65+ Undergraduate Programs	**16** Residential Colleges	**80%** Students Live on Campus*	**47%** Students Study Abroad*	**450+** Student Organizations
			17 Varsity Athletic Teams	**340.7** Acre Campus	**1.5** Miles from Downtown



*Statistics apply only to undergraduate students

MAXIMIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE

LOGISTICS
Information about logistics, including the wifi network, maps, schedules, and directory information is available in the Symposium App. Download the **ACUHO-I Events** app through the Apple Store or Google Play (see the back of your name badge for QR codes to both). Once downloaded, search "Residential College Symposium" to access the event-specific guide.

FOCUS AREAS
Concurrent sessions are slated into one of four focus areas. You can tailor those you see in the app using the filter function.

- **Academic Integration and Residential Pedagogy:** Showcasing how curricular and co-curricular elements intersect in residential colleges, including faculty-in-residence teaching and learning practices.
- **Assessment and Innovation:** Advancing evidence-informed improvements and creative programming, including responsible uses of technology and AI.
- **Faculty-Staff Partnerships:** Elevating collaborative models and operations that are fundamental to the way that residential colleges work, including roles, decision-making, communication and culture-building.
- **Student Leadership and Belonging:** Centering student voice and leadership pathways to cultivate inclusive, vibrant residential college communities.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Appalachian State University
Baylor University
Butler University
Colgate University
Dallas Baptist University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Elon University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Grinnell College
Hanbury Architects
James Madison University
Korea Institute of Energy Technology
Kyoto University, Japan
Lake Forest College
Macalester College
Murray State University
Princeton University
Reed College
Rollins College
Southern Methodist University
St. Olaf College
UC Santa Cruz
UNC Greensboro
University of Alabama
University of Chicago
University of Houston
University of Miami
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of South Carolina
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
VMDO Architects

PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
THE COMMONS CENTER

1:30 P.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 6 p.m. between The Commons Center and the symposium hotels.

2:30 P.M.

INFORMATION DESK/INSTITUTE REGISTRATION OPEN
Commons Center, Second Floor

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3 - 3:30 P.M.

OPENING ADDRESS | *Commons Center, Room 237*
Karen K. Inkelas
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Professor, School of Education & Human Development
University of Virginia

3:30 - 5 P.M.

FEATURED WORKSHOP | *Commons Center, Room 237*
Using Generative AI to Accelerate Learning Outside the Classroom
Jesse Spencer-Smith
Associate Dean, College of Connected Computing
Chief Data Scientist and Director, Data Science Institute
Faculty Head of Sutherland House
Vanderbilt University

New developments in AI allow us to not only extend our reach—of our ourselves, of our students—but to explore new kinds of scholarship and education as well. Used well, AI can mean deepening disciplinary engagement, strengthening intellectual rigor and supporting learning. We will begin the workshop with the concepts and grounding necessary to make informed critical examinations of the opportunities and pitfalls of AI, then get hands-on with real-world applications.

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5 - 6 P.M.

SPEED NETWORKING | *Commons Center Dining Balcony*
Emily Waddell
2026 RCS Planning Committee Co-Chair
Assistant Director, Residential Colleges
Vanderbilt University

*Open to all symposium attendees. Coffee drinks provided by **Proverbial Cup**, a custom coffee cart local to Nashville, beginning at 4:30 p.m.*

2026 SYMPOSIUM DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | THE COMMONS CENTER

1:30 P.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 6 p.m. between The Commons Center and the symposium hotels.

2:30 P.M.

INFORMATION DESK/REGISTRATION OPEN
Commons Center, Second Floor

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6 P.M.

WELCOME TO RCS 2026! | *Commons Center, Room 237*
Karen K. Inkelas
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Professor, School of Education & Human Development
University of Virginia

James Penven
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Director of Living-Learning Programs
Vanderbilt University

Tucker Biddlecombe
Senior Associate Provost for Residential Colleges
Vanderbilt University

6:30 P.M.

WELCOME RECEPTION | *Senior Associate Provost's Residence*
Complimentary appetizers, beer and wine provided.

6:30 P.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 8 p.m. between The Ingram Commons and the symposium hotels.

LOOKING FOR A MORE ROBUST DINNER OPTION?

JOIN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR DINNER
MEET IN THE LOBBY OF YOUR HOTEL AT 8 P.M.
Planning committee members will be on hand to guide interested participants to dinner locations across town. Groups will Lyft to and from locations. While transportation is provided, all food and beverages are the responsibility of each participant.

2026 SYMPOSIUM DAY 2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | THE COMMONS CENTER

7:30 A.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 9:30 a.m. between The Commons Center and the symposium hotels.

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8 A.M.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
Commons Center, Second Floor

8:30 A.M.

INFORMATION DESK/REGISTRATION OPEN
Commons Center, Second Floor

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9 A.M.

PLENARY SESSION I | *Commons Center, Room 235/237*
Relationships, Trust, and Transformation: Why Students (and We) Urgently Need Connection and Collaboration
Peter Felten
Assistant Provost for Teaching and Learning
Executive Director of the Center for Engaged Learning
Professor of History
Elon University

The intersecting crises facing higher education—and our world—raise fundamental questions about the purposes and practices of higher education. The "poly-crisis" of technological, economic, political, cultural, and climate change leave many feeling isolated and powerless. What can we do, alone and together, to make meaning and take action? There are no simple answers, but I invite us to consider trusting human relationships as the foundation of our work with students and each other. Drawing on more than 700 interviews with students, staff, and faculty across U.S. higher education, this interactive session will explore how cultivating relationships can ensure that every student experiences welcome and care, learns and grows in college, and engages with the questions that matter for their lives and our shared future—and how human connections also are essential to our own professional well-being.

10:10 A.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK I

Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Case Study | Assessment & Innovation | Commons Center, Room 233

A Scoping Review of Self-Determination Theory in Living-Learning Communities: Toward an Integrated Framework for Self-Regulated Learning

Reoma Miura, Master's Program Student
Kyoto University

Case Study | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 320

Radical Foundations: Building Collaborative Residential College Ecosystems for First-Year Success

Joy Beverly, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics
Brittany Goins, Assistant Director, Residential Life
Andrew Roberts, Residential Life Coordinator
University of Miami

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Commons Center, Room 335

Social Media Strategy: Strategic Content Creation for Residential College Engagement

Chad Novak, Assistant Director, Residential Colleges
Vanderbilt University

Panel Discussion | Student Leadership & Belonging | Cohen Hall 323

Building Belonging in Real Time: How Residential Communities Create Connection

Emily Pendergrass, Professor of Literacy Education, Executive Director of the Patterson Institute for Early Adolescent Literacy, Faculty Head of Oliver C. Carmichael College
Zachary Schwarzkopf, Program Coordinator, Residential Colleges
Katelyn Herrera, Oliver C. Carmichael College President
Vanderbilt University

Roundtable Discussion | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Cohen Hall 324

Beyond Silos: Faculty & Staff Partnerships in Residential Colleges

Aliana Harrison, Senior Associate Dean of Residence Life and Faculty Engagement
Jillian Solomon, Associate Dean for Residence Life
Duke University

11:10 A.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK II

Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Case Study | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 233

Food for Thought: Bridging the Gap Between the Lecture Hall and the Dining Hall

Shonna Smith, Senior Program Coordinator, Residential Colleges
Vanderbilt University

Case Study | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Commons Center, Room 320

Critical Pedagogy and Global Citizenship in Residential College Education

Gia Born, Program Manager, South Spencer Residential College
Matthew Reese, Program Manager, Ashby Residential College
University of North Carolina Greensboro

Panel Discussion | Assessment & Innovation | Commons Center, Room 335

A Holistic Review of Residential Communities at Dartmouth College

Kiara Ortiz, Chief of Staff to the SVP for Community and Campus Life
Mark DeVilbiss, Assistant Dean of Residential Life, Director of Residential Education
Adria Brown, Director of the Native American Program
Hunter Carlheim, Director of Greek Life and Student Societies
Dartmouth College

Case Study | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Cohen Hall 323

Bridging the Gap: Integrating Study Abroad into Residential Colleges and Living Learning Communities Through Partnerships

Armen Shaomian, Faculty Director in Residence of Preston Residential College for Leadership
Lara Lomicka Anderson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
University of South Carolina

12:00 P.M.

LUNCH & LEARN | *Commons Center, Second Floor*
Lunch is served on the second floor of The Commons Center. Consider participating in one of the below lunch and learn sessions or networking with colleagues in Commons Center, Room 235/237.

At the conclusion of lunch, all attendees are asked to return to Commons Center, Room 235/237 for important announcements and the annual awards ceremony.

Roundtable Discussion | Recommended Audience: Faculty/Administrators | Commons Center, Room 233
Cultivating Strong Partnerships with Staff
Joy Beverly, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics
Brittany Goins, Assistant Director, Residential Life
University of Miami

Roundtable Discussion | Recommended Audience: Staff/Students | Commons Center, Second Floor
Leading Where You Live
Chancé Moody, Area Coordinator, Housing & Residential Experience
Vanderbilt University

1:15 P.M.

AWARDS PRESENTATION & ANNOUNCEMENT OF RCS 2027 |
Commons Center, Room 235/237
Nick Tippenhauer, Matt McCabe, and Jennifer Stephens
Residential College Society Executive Team

Awards Recognize:

- Institutional Excellence in Residential Education
- Outstanding Collaboration
- Outstanding Program
- Outstanding Residential College
- Outstanding Faculty Member
- Outstanding Staff Member

2 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK III
Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Case Study | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 233
Bridging Divides: Faculty-Staff Collaboration Strategies for Thriving Residential Colleges
Jennifer Stephens, Director of Academic-Residential Partnerships
Sarah Ann Chapman, Associate Director for Residential Education
Eleanor Finger, Assistant Vice President for Student Life
Elon University

Case Study | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 320
Designing Engaging Field Trips to Meet Learning Outcomes
Leia Duncan, Program Director
Lauren Ross, Program Director
Alyssa Harrington, Program Director
Baylor University

Case Study | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Commons Center, Room 335
Changing Your HR Tactics for Residential College Faculty
James Penven, Director of Living-Learning Programs
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Virginia Tech

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Cohen Hall 323
The Commons Cup: Building Community Through Friendly Competition
Elissa Moody, Residential Community Director
Southern Methodist University

Case Study | Assessment & Innovation | Cohen Hall 324
Are Residential Colleges Landing? Understanding and Shaping Student Expectations
Brittany Goins, Assistant Director, Residential Life
Matt McCabe, Associate Director of Residential Education
Karoline Mortensen, Professor, Associate Chair of Residential Faculty
University of Miami

2:30 P.M.

REFRESHMENT BREAK | *Commons Center, Second Floor*
Take a break and enjoy a refreshing beverage prepared by **Eat Bubbles**, a milk tea and boba company founded by a Vanderbilt alum.

3 P.M.

PLENARY SESSION II | *Commons Center, Room 235/237*

Designing Community: What Residential Colleges Teach Us About Belonging, Learning, and Agency

Lara Lomicka Anderson
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School
Professor of French and Applied Linguistics
University of South Carolina

Community is built in ordinary moments—a conversation over dinner, a faculty member who takes time to connect, or students taking responsibility for something that matters to one another. Drawing on my experience as a RC faculty associate, RC faculty director, and vice provost, this presentation considers how these moments become relationships and how relationships shape belonging, learning, and agency. It also considers the institutional challenge: students experience the university as a whole, while our structures often separate academic life, housing, advising, wellbeing, and other forms of support. Residential colleges can help reconnect those experiences, but only when relationships are intentionally designed, supported, and sustained.

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4 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK IV

Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Commons Center, Room 233

Facilitating Ideation in Group Settings

Zachary Schwarzkopf, Program Coordinator, Residential Colleges
Krishna Patel, Warren College Council President
Vanderbilt University

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Commons Center, Room 320

Peer-Mentorship in a First-Year Residential College? Reviewing NYU Residential College's Pilot Mentoring Program

Gerard O'Donoghue, Clinical Professor, Expository Writing Program and Faculty Fellow in Residence, NYU Residential College
New York University

4 P.M. **CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK IV (CONT.)**

Roundtable Discussion | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 335
Less is More? Reimagining Faculty and Staff Engagement in Lean Financial Times
Fang Du, Assistant Dean for Studies
Princeton University

Panel Discussion | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Cohen Hall 323
The College and The Multiversity: History and Possible Future at UC Santa Cruz
Laura Arroyo, Associate Vice Chancellor
Mayanthi Fernando, Provost, Oakes & Rachel Carson Colleges
Aims McGuinness, Provost, Crown & Merrill Colleges
University of California Santa Cruz

Case Study | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Cohen Hall 324
Radical Partnerships: Leveraging Faculty Expertise to Reimagine Equitable RA Recruitment
Joy Beverly, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics
Brittany Goins, Assistant Director, Residential Life
University of Miami

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5 P.M. **RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES EXHIBITION HALL**
Commons Center, Second Floor
Explore the programs, models and resources of other participating institutions while networking with colleagues.

Ice cream provided by **Ben & Jerry's** available while supplies last.

5:30 P.M. **TOUR VANDERBILT'S RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES**
Depart from The Commons Center Lobby
Tours include a first-year house and student room, faculty head of house apartment, travel to the upper-division colleges, an upper-division college and student room, faculty head of college apartment, and an area coordinator apartment. The tour will take approximately one hour and requires walking up to one mile.

5:30 P.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 7:30 p.m. between The Ingram Commons, the upper-division colleges and the symposium hotels.

LOOKING FOR A DINNER PARTY?

JOIN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR DINNER
MEET IN THE LOBBY OF YOUR HOTEL AT 7:30 P.M.
Planning committee members will be on hand to guide interested participants to dinner locations across town. Groups will Lyft to and from locations. While transportation is provided, all food and beverages are the responsibility of each participant.

2026 SYMPOSIUM DAY 3

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | THE COMMONS CENTER

7:30 A.M.

SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE
Shuttles run continuously until 9:30 a.m. between The Commons Center and the symposium hotels.

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8 A.M.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
Commons Center, Second Floor

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8 A.M.

CONSTRUCTING RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES
Commons Center, Room 235/237
Join Vanderbilt Project Manager for Campus Planning & Construction Bob Grummon to explore the design process of the most recent addition to Vanderbilt's residential colleges—the eleventh house on The Ingram Commons. Construction began in December 2025, and the building is slated to open in fall 2027.

8:30 A.M. **INFORMATION DESK/REGISTRATION OPEN**
Commons Center, Second Floor

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9 A.M. **CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK V**
Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Panel Discussion | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Commons Center, Room 335
Multidisciplinary Expertise, Shared Purpose: Faculty Engagement Models in Residential Learning
Rosalie Barrera, Faculty Director, Baylor & Beyond LLC, Baylor University
Leia Duncan, Program Director, Baylor University
Armen Shaomian, Faculty Director in Residence of Preston Residential College for Leadership, University of South Carolina

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Cohen Hall 323
From Silos to Synergy: Cross-Campus Partnerships through Peer Leadership Programs
Melina Padron, Assistant Director of Signature Academic Experiences
Kallie Terrana, Associate Director for High-Impact Practices
Southern Methodist University

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10 A.M. **CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK VI**
Session abstracts are available in the Symposium App. Instructions to download are available on page 2.

Case Study | Academic Integration & Residential Pedagogy | Commons Center, Room 320
Creating a Role for Alumni in Your Residential College
Deborah Keene, Assistant Director, Blount Scholars Program
University of Alabama

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Commons Center, Room 335
From Orientation to Ownership: Student-Led CQI in KENTECH's Residential College
Eunjeong Kim, Faculty, Director of Residential College Education
Korea Institute of Energy Technology

10 A.M. **CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCK VI (CONT.)**

Case Study | Student Leadership & Belonging | Cohen Hall 323
Promoting Residential Identity to Promote Belonging and Community
Aliana Harrison, Senior Associate Dean of Residence Life
Jillian Solomon, Associate Dean, Residence Life
Duke University

Panel Discussion | Faculty-Staff Partnerships | Cohen Hall 324
The Defining Difference - Program Directors for Residential Colleges
Terri Garrett, Associate Director for Academic Initiatives
Leia Duncan, Program Director
Lauren Ross, Program Director
Alyssa Harrington, Program Director
Baylor University

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11 A.M. **PLENARY SESSION III** | *Commons Center, Room 235/237*
The Role of Residential Colleges in 21st Century Higher Education
Rishi Sriram
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Higher Education & Student Affairs
Residential College Faculty Steward of Brooks Residential College
Baylor University

Are residential colleges an artifact of the past or the hope of the future? This session will discuss why residential colleges are needed more than ever before in society today.

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11 A.M. **SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE**
Shuttles run continuously until 2 p.m. between The Ingram Commons and the symposium hotels.

NOON **CLOSING LUNCHEON** | *Commons Center, Room 235/237*
Karen K. Inkelas
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Professor, School of Education & Human Development
University of Virginia

James Penven
Residential College Society Executive Team Co-Chair
Director of Living-Learning Programs
Virginia Tech

Following closing remarks, lunch is available seated or as grab and go.