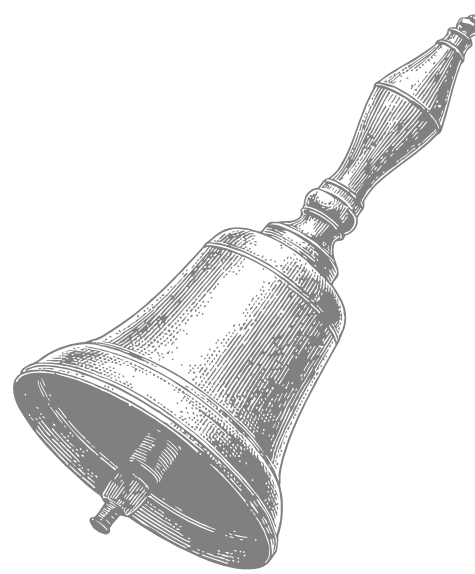


# 2025 CED SUMMIT



**Reshaping the Future:**  
The State of Education in a Changing World

Wednesday, April 30, 2025  
James Hall, Rowan University

# Welcome

On behalf of Rowan University's College of Education, we are thrilled to welcome you to this year's Summit—a gathering of educators, research scholars, students, and advocates dedicated to advancing equity and excellence in education.

As we continue building on more than a century of leadership in educator preparation, the College of Education remains steadfast in its mission to create inclusive, empowering learning environments that support the success of all learners. We recognize that today's educators face immense challenges—from growing teacher shortages and increasing demands in the classroom to the need for greater support and respect for the teaching profession. And yet, through it all, educators continue to lead with resilience and passion.

We are honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Tillman—a renowned scholar and thought leader in educational leadership and equity. Her impactful work continues to inspire educators and institutions across the country to reflect, transform, and lead with purpose. We are also proud to welcome Dr. Timothy Fair as our closing speaker. His dedication to educational equity and student success will provide a thoughtful and energizing conclusion to the day.

Throughout the Summit, you'll engage with innovative research and practice led by Rowan faculty, all focused on improving outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds and communities. These conversations are designed to challenge, uplift, and empower us all to continue our important work.

Thank you for joining us. Whether you're a veteran educator, a future teacher, or a champion for equity in your own space, your presence here affirms our shared vision: an educational system where every learner can thrive.

Gaëtane Jean-Marie, Ph.D.  
Dean, Rowan University College of Education

Tyrone W. McCombs, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

# Agenda

## **OPENING | 9 AM**

Dr. Tyrone McCombs  
*Executive Director*

## **WELCOME**

Dr. Ali A. Houshmand  
*President, Rowan University*

Dr. Gaëtane Jean-Marie  
*Dean, College of Education*

## **KEYNOTE REMARKS | 9:30 AM**

Dr. Linda C. Tillman  
*Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*

## **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS | 10 AM**

### **Faculty Frontlines: Research Perspectives on Reshaping the Future of Education**

Room 2098

Dr. Andrea Hawkman  
*Associate Professor, Department of Content Area Teacher Education*

Dr. Kate Seltzer  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Critical Literacy, Technology & Multilingual Education*

### **Shifting Mindsets: Designing Public School Systems that Develop Civic Participation, Counter Political Polarization, and Cultivate Democracy.**

Room 2093

Dr. Shelly Zion  
*Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Administration & Research*

### **Mind the Gap: Understanding the Digital Divide in Generative AI Use in Education**

Room 2095

Dr. Cecile Sam  
*Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Administration and Research*

Dr. Jill Perry  
*Associate Professor, Department of Content Area Teacher Education*

## **CLOSING REMARKS | 11 AM**

### **As the World Shifts, So Must We: Rethinking Education Through Partnership and Purpose**

Dr. Timothy Fair  
*Vice President, Burlington Stores Inc.*

# Workshops

## **FACULTY FRONTLINES: RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES ON RESHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Kate Seltzer and Dr. Andrea Hawkman will serve as panelists and discussion facilitators for this dynamic session. Designed as a collegial and engaging forum, the session invites you to briefly share insights from your current research and help lead a broader conversation with attendees on the evolving landscape of education and the innovative strategies shaping its future.



Dr. Andrea Hawkman



Dr. Kate Seltzer

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## **SHIFTING MINDSETS: DESIGNING PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT DEVELOP CIVIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTER POLITICAL POLARIZATION, AND CULTIVATE DEMOCRACY**

In an era of intense political polarization, this session explores the complex intersections of education, civic participation, identity, and belonging in our public schools. Together with Dr. Shelly Zion, we'll examine the values that drive differing perspectives, the fears and hopes of families and educators, and how we might foster inclusive, democratic school communities where all students are prepared to engage as active citizens.



Dr. Shelly Zion

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## **MIND THE GAP: UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN GENERATIVE AI USE IN EDUCATION**

As generative AI becomes more prevalent in higher education, this session explores how its use can unintentionally reinforce existing educational inequities. Dr. Cecile H. Sam and Dr. Jill A. Perry introduce a framework for understanding the digital divide in GenAI, examining access, conceptualization, quality of use, and realized benefits. Attendees will gain practical strategies for fostering ethical, inclusive, and equitable GenAI integration in their classrooms and institutions.



Drs. Cecile Sam & Jill Perry

# About the Keynote Presenter



**Dr. Linda C. Tillman** is a nationally recognized scholar in diversity, equity, and inclusion in education. She currently serves as a Distinguished Visiting Faculty member in the Educational Leadership for Social Justice doctoral program at Loyola Marymount University and is professor emerita of educational leadership at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Her research focuses on educational leadership, African Americans in K–12 education, mentoring in higher education, and culturally sensitive research methodologies. Her culturally responsive research framework has influenced disciplines ranging from educational leadership to healthcare research at institutions like UCSF and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Tillman has published widely in leading journals such as *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Educational Researcher*, and *Teachers College Record*. She is editor-in-chief of the *SAGE Handbook of African American Education* and co-editor of the *Handbook of Research on Educational Leadership for Diversity and Equity*. Her 2019 article on mentoring faculty of color remains influential in higher education equity work.

She is a former Vice President of AERA and past Director of UCEA's Barbara Jackson Scholars Program, earning UCEA's Jay Scribner Mentoring Award. She has also consulted for school systems, universities, and government agencies.

A former high school teacher and administrator, Dr. Tillman previously held faculty positions at the University of New Orleans, Wayne State University, and Teachers College, Columbia University. She earned her B.S. and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and an M.S. from the University of Dayton.

# About the Closing Speaker



**Dr. Timothy Fair** is the Vice President of Culture and Community Impact at Burlington Stores, Inc., where he leads the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Community Relations teams. His leadership helps cultivate a more cohesive culture that enhances collaboration and fosters a sense of belonging and engagement across the company's stores, corporate offices, merchandising teams, and distribution centers. Additionally, he serves as the Vice President of the Burlington Stores Foundation.

With a robust track record as a transformative leader, Timothy has successfully implemented frameworks that leverage diversity to fulfill strategic objectives and drive measurable impact. Prior to joining Burlington, he served as the inaugural Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, where he established innovative strategies that advanced institutional goals and fostered a culture of inclusion.

Previously, he held the position of Chief of Staff and Deputy to the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at Auburn University. In this capacity, he led comprehensive recruitment and retention strategies that significantly increased demographic diversity, launched inclusive leadership training programs for faculty, and orchestrated a highly celebrated conference uniting private industry leaders to exchange best practices in DEI.

Earlier in his career, Timothy was the Assistant Dean of Students at Cornell University and the Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Mississippi State University. Recognized for his scholarly contributions to inclusive integrity, he has also served as a course facilitator and instructional designer for eCornell's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate Program, empowering professionals globally with the skills to lead impactful DEI initiatives.

A native of Wisconsin, Timothy earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, along with a master's and a Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration from Mississippi State University.

# About the Rowan University College of Education

## OUR MISSION

The Rowan University College of Education (CED) will be a leading force in preparing and supporting reflective practitioners who use education to transform our global society.

## OUR IMPACT

**Innovating** through teaching, research, and community engagement to address challenges and opportunities in the P-20 educational system.

**Engaging** with stakeholders to increase the number of College of Education graduates in schools throughout the State.

**Transforming lives** by preparing a debt-free, diverse educator workforce.

## A Legacy of Learning, A Future of Innovation

More than 100 years after Rowan was first founded to prepare educators, the College of Education remains true to its original mission—while continuing to evolve to meet the needs of today’s—and tomorrow’s—educational landscape.

Since its founding in 1923, Rowan has transformed from a teacher-training school into a nationally recognized research institution. Similarly, the College of Education has grown from a single department into a dynamic college with a wide range of programs that serve students from undergraduate through doctoral levels.

Originally established to address New Jersey’s critical shortage of trained elementary school teachers, the institution began as Glassboro Normal School. On September 24, 1923, the school welcomed 236 young women. Under the leadership of Dr. Jerohn Savitz, its first president, the curriculum expanded to four years, and in 1937, the institution was renamed the New Jersey State Teachers College at Glassboro.

Today, the College of Education builds on that foundation, preparing educators, researchers, and leaders who are committed to equity, inclusion, and social justice. The college’s work extends far beyond the classroom, shaping education policy, advancing research, and creating community partnerships that impact learners across the state and beyond. As it looks to the future, the College of Education remains a powerful force in transforming education and the lives it touches.



**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

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