



Date: Monday, November 2, 2026

Location: Knicely Conference Center at WKU, Bowling Green

**All times listed in Central Standard Time (CST)*

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Registration, Continental Breakfast & Exhibit Hall Opening

Kick off the Summit by checking in, enjoying a complimentary continental breakfast, and networking with K–12 and postsecondary professionals from across the Commonwealth. During this time, explore interactive exhibits showcasing key Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) initiatives and practical resources designed to support student access and success.

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Opening Remarks & Morning Keynote

CPE President Aaron Thompson will open the 2nd Annual Student Access Summit, framing the event's vision and highlighting statewide initiatives centered on the ABCs of Student Access. Following his remarks, featured keynote speaker Dr. Taylor Odle will offer a national perspective on how proactive and direct admissions strategies remove structural friction, simplify application pathways, and expand postsecondary opportunities for all students.

Dr. Aaron Thompson — President, Council on Postsecondary Education

Dr. Taylor Odle — Assistant Professor of Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:45 – 10:45 AM

Breakout Sessions – Round #1

Sessions will be revealed after the Call for Proposals close and are evaluated.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Breakout Sessions – Round #2

Sessions will be revealed after the Call for Proposals close and are evaluated.

12:00 – 12:45 PM

Networking Lunch

Join colleagues and summit attendees for lunch, open conversation, and exhibit browsing. Use this time to refuel, visit exhibit tables highlighting key CPE access resources, and strengthen cross-sector connections committed to student success.

12:45 – 1:30 PM

Breaking Barriers Through Resilience, Purpose, and Leadership

During this dedicated lunch keynote, Jason Booher explores what it truly takes to break barriers in education and empower students to succeed against the odds. Drawing on his 30-year career as a teacher, state championship coach, and school superintendent, Booher delivers an uplifting address on reframing challenges, building a culture of high expectations, and creating clear pathways over the obstacles facing Kentucky's students.

Jason Booher — Educator, State Champion Coach, Author, and Superintendent of Mercer County Schools

1:45 – 2:45 PM

Breakout Sessions – Round #3

Sessions will be revealed after the Call for Proposals close and are evaluated.

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Closing Keynote / Panel (Creating Connections) & Wrap-Up

Session details in development.

Dr. Aaron Thompson — CPE President

Dr. Dawn Offutt — Executive Director of Student Access, CPE