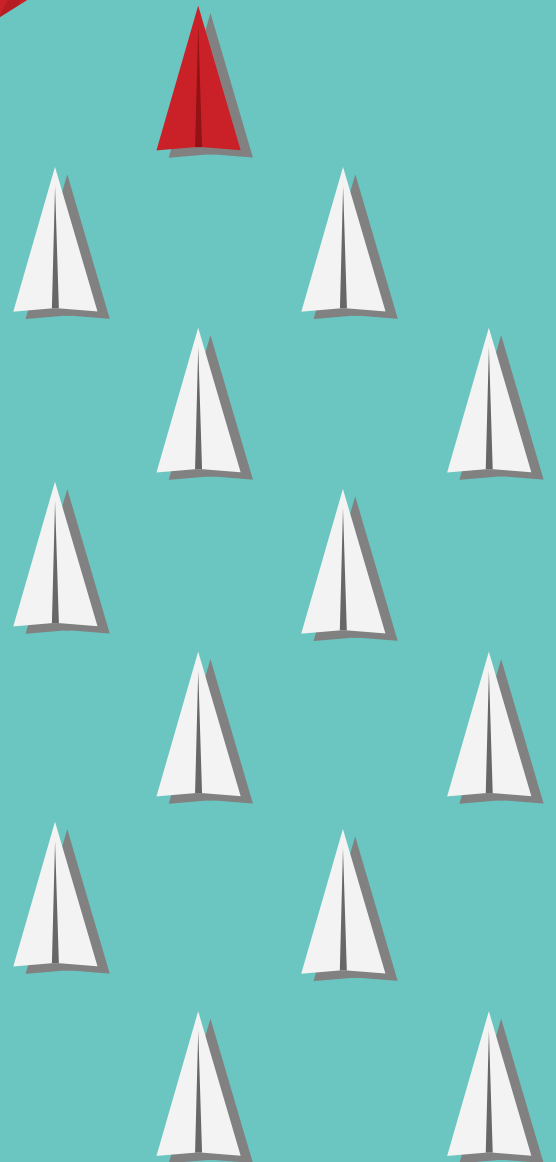


# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2020–2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

## Closing Seminar

— June 14–15, 2021 —



# Closing Seminar — Agenda —

## Monday, June 14, 2021

11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

### Lunch and Opening Session:

**Linda Bleicken**  
President, American Academic Leadership Institute

### Greetings from Our Presidents:

**Mildred Garcia**  
President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)

**Richard Ekman**  
President, Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)

Leaders of our two partner organizations will reflect upon how higher education continues to evolve to meet the multiple challenges that exist in today's environment. Their perspectives, based upon decades of experience will encourage us as we build pathways for the future.

11:50 – 12:00 p.m.

### Break

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

### Presentation: “Presidential Leadership: What the Past Year Has Taught Us”

**Nayef H. Samhat**  
President, Wofford College (SC)

What leadership characteristics have been essential as university presidents have navigated the challenges of the past year? What leadership characteristics will be required in the coming years?

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

### Break

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### Presentation: “Building the Team You Must Have to Be Successful”

**Karrie G. Dixon**  
Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University

**Mark Husbands**  
President and Vice Chancellor, Trinity Western University

As a new president, assembling an effective leadership team is one of your most important tasks. Hear tips about assessing your team and making the decision to make change when it is evident that it must occur.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

### Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

### Presentation: “Presidential Contracts”

**Tyrone P. Thomas**  
Attorney and Member, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

When the interviews have concluded and the position is offered, will you be ready to negotiate wisely? A veteran of contract and compensation negotiation provides insights about questions to ask—and when to ask them.

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

### Day One Wrap Up

Linda Bleicken

5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

### Informal Conversation and Cocktail Hour

“What Three Things Will You Do When ELA is Over to Advance Your Career?”

## Tuesday, June 15, 2021

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

### Morning Discussion: Feedback from Monday Evening Discussions

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

### Presentation: “Leadership and Values in Times of Crisis”

**Teresa Valerio Parrot**  
Principal, TVP Communications

The crises of the past year have been shared globally, and each college campus has dealt with many situations that are similar in nature. Future challenges remain unknown but will certainly occur. Building a crisis management framework—based upon shared values—will be vital in preparing for what is to come. Talk with a professional who has helped universities manage crises of all types. Explore interactive scenarios that demonstrate the role of shared values in preparing for, managing, and recovering from crisis.

# Presenter Biographies

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Presentation: “Meeting the Administrative Challenges of the Year Ahead”**

**Soraya Coley**  
President, California Polytechnic University-Pomona,  
Member of American Academic Leadership Board of Directors

What are the major challenges that a new president is likely to encounter during his or her first six months? A president who has successfully led her university through the upheavals of the past year will engage you in a conversation about what she sees as the areas that are likely to confront new leaders in the year ahead and suggest some approaches to make in those critical first months in the position.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

**Presentation: “Doing the Presidency, Not Just Being the President”**

**L. Jay Lemons**  
President, Academic Search, President Emeritus,  
Susquehanna University (PA)

While the title of president may seem desirable and prestigious, be certain that you ask the question: “Why?” Why do I want to be a president, and am I prepared to do the work that will make my institution successful?

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**Closing Session: “Closing the Year: Questions, Comments, Advice, Counsel, and the Future”**

**Linda Bleicken**



**LINDA M. BLEICKEN**

**President  
American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI)**

With more than 27 years of university leadership experience, Bleicken has served as president of the American Academic Leadership Institute since 2017. Bleicken joined AALI after serving as president at Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia from July 2009 until her retirement in June 2017.

During her tenure at Armstrong, Bleicken reaffirmed the university’s commitment to student success and launched the Armstrong Commitment Fund, which provided need-based gap funding to assist degree completion. She also launched initiatives that increased retention and graduation rates, with the highest gains among under-represented minority students.

At Armstrong, Bleicken oversaw \$100 million for new construction and renovation of existing buildings. She also secured state funding for the \$22 million Waters College of Health Professions and secured the largest private gift in the institution’s history.

Bleicken previously served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Georgia Southern University. At Georgia Southern, she also served as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Associate Provost, Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration and Acting Chair of the Department of Management.

Over the years, she has served on numerous local and national boards, including the board of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the NCAA Division II President’s Council. Bleicken holds degrees in marketing and management from Georgia State University.



## **MILDRED GARCÍA**

### **President**

### **American Association of State Colleges and Universities**

Dr. Mildred García assumed the presidency of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) on January 22, 2018.

As AASCU's president, Dr. García is an advocate for public higher education at the national level, working to influence federal policy and regulations on behalf of member colleges and universities; serving as a resource to presidents and chancellors as they address state policy and emerging campus issues; developing collaborative partnerships and initiatives that advance public higher education; directing a strategic agenda that focuses on public college and university leadership for the 21st century; and providing professional development opportunities for presidents, chancellors, and their spouses. She is the first Latina to lead one of the six presidentially based higher education associations in Washington, D.C.

As a university president, Dr. García was an active member of AASCU. Her volunteer involvement with AASCU included chairing the AASCU Council of State Representatives; serving on the AASCU Board of Directors; chairing the Committee on International Education; serving as a Millennium Leadership Initiative Institute mentor; and delivering the Marie McDemmond Lecture and the President-to-Presidents lecture, a tradition at the AASCU Annual Meeting for more than 30 years and a signal honor given by the AASCU Board of Directors to one of their colleagues.

Prior to joining AASCU, Dr. García served as the president of California State University, Fullerton—the largest university in the CSU and the third largest university in the state, serving over 40,000 students and having an operating budget of almost half a billion dollars. Under her leadership, the university saw a 30 percent improvement in six-year graduation rates and a 65 percent improvement in four-year graduation rates for first-time freshmen—both university records; the achievement gap was eliminated for transfer students and cut in half for first-time freshmen; and annual gift commitments nearly tripled (from \$8.5 million to \$22 million). In 2016, for the first time in history, U.S. News & World Report heralded the institution as a top “national university,” rather than “top regional university,” the far narrower category in which it had previously been ranked. The institution is now number one in California and second in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics, as well as sixth in the nation in graduating students of color.

President García previously served as president of CSU Dominguez Hills where, as the first Latina president in the largest system of public higher education in the country, she eliminated a structural deficit of \$2.8 million; increased media placement by 192 percent; received the highest reaccreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges; exceeded enrollment targets not met for eight years; increased donor giving by 140 percent; and increased retention rates for first-time full-time freshmen by 10 percent.

Before to her arrival in the CSU, President García served as the CEO of Berkeley College where she was the first system-wide president for all six campuses. In her six-year tenure, she increased enrollment by 25 percent; established professional advisory boards for academic programs; implemented the institution's first system-wide strategic planning process; and purchased property and opened a new campus in Newark, N.J., as well as a residence hall in White Plains, N.Y.

She has held both academic and senior-level positions at Arizona State University; Montclair State University; Pennsylvania State University; Teachers College, Columbia University; and the Hostos, LaGuardia, and City Colleges of the City University of New York. She is also a much sought-after speaker at national and international conferences and an academic researcher that has published numerous academic journal articles and books.

A first-generation college student, Dr. García earned a Doctor of Education degree and a M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University; a M.A. in Business Education/Higher Education from New York University; a B.S. in Business Education from Baruch College, City University of New York; and an A.A.S. from New York City Community College.



## **RICHARD EKMAN**

### **President Council of Independent Colleges**

Richard Ekman has served as president of the Council of Independent Colleges since 2000. During this time, Ekman has led the 50 percent growth in CIC's membership and participation in CIC's major programs. He has initiated many new programs and services to colleges and universities on major issues in independent higher education. During his tenure, CIC has formed partnerships with the American Academic Leadership Institute to offer the Executive and Senior Leadership Academies, and with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to manage the Visiting Fellows program. Also, Ekman facilitated the merger into CIC of the Foundation for Independent Higher Education—with 29 state-based affiliates and the distribution of approximately 550 scholarships each year funded by the CIC/UPS Educational Endowment. CIC also created and manages the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, which now has more than 200 college and university members. Under Ekman's leadership especially generous financial support has been obtained for CIC's programs from foundations including Lilly Endowment Inc., Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, UPS Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Walmart Foundation, and Strada Education Network.

Previously, Ekman served as vice president for programs of Atlantic Philanthropies and as secretary and senior program officer of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In his early professional life, he was at the National Endowment for the Humanities, successively as director of the Division of Education Programs and the Division of Research Programs; at Hiram College as vice president and dean, where he also was a tenured member of the history faculty; and at the University of Massachusetts at Boston as assistant to the provost. He currently serves as a member of many boards, including those that provide guidance to the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, American Academic Leadership Institute, Emeriti Retirement Health, and Project Pericles. He has been awarded honorary degrees by Alvernia, Otterbein, St. Edward's, and Marywood Universities, and Alderson-Broaddus, Bethany, Davis & Elkins, Georgetown, Hastings, and Ursinus Colleges, and is a recipient of the W.E.B. DuBois Medal of Harvard University. He is co-author, with Richard E. Quandt, of *Technology and Scholarly Communication* (University of California Press, 1999). His essays have appeared in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *University Business*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Carnegie Reporter*, and *Washington Post*. Ekman earned his AB in history and PhD in the history of American civilization from Harvard University.



## **NAYEF H. SAMHAT**

### **President Wofford College (SC)**

Nayef H. Samhat, the 11th president of Wofford College, is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He holds a B.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University's School of International and Public Affairs, a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University.

Samhat came to Wofford in July 2013 after serving as provost and professor of political science and international studies at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Prior to his time at Kenyon, he was the Frank B. and Virginia B. Hower Associate Professor of Government and International Studies and an associate dean at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

Since taking office at Wofford, Samhat has led the college through a strategic visioning process, five major construction projects, the re-evaluation of the general education curriculum, an assessment of and recommitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives on campus, SACSCOC reaccreditation, new marketing and branding initiatives, the start of a comprehensive capital campaign, and many other plans, programs and grants designed to build community, boost sustainability, champion the liberal arts and enhance the educational experience for students.

He serves on the executive committee of the Annapolis Group of Liberal Arts Colleges. Past national service includes the boards of the Council of Independent Colleges national board of directors, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and the NCAA Division I board of directors and board of governors, which also included service on the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum and as a mentor for the NCAA Pathway Program.



**MARK HUSBANDS**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Trinity Western University (Langley, Canada)

Mark Husbands, PhD, is the fifth President and Vice-Chancellor of Trinity Western University. A graduate of York University and the University of Toronto, Dr. Husbands has his doctorate in Christian Theology. He has taught at Tyndale Seminary, Wheaton College, Hope College, and most recently was the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Northwestern College in Iowa. Since becoming President of Trinity Western on July 1, 2019, Dr. Husbands has diversified the University's senior leadership, opened a fifth branch campus in Richmond, Canada, and has embarked on a course to develop Trinity Western as a global Christian university. Dr. Husbands' vision is to guide a generation of global leaders to bring hope, healing and renewal to their communities and to the world.



**KARRIE G. DIXON**  
Chancellor  
Elizabeth City State University (NC)

Dr. Karrie G. Dixon was named 12th Chief Executive Officer and 7th Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) on Dec. 14, 2018. Prior to this appointment, she served as interim chancellor since April 9, 2018.

Dr. Dixon is a transformational leader in the University of North Carolina (UNC) System, a public, multi-campus university encompassing 16 constituent higher education institutions. For more than 20 years, she has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others through higher education.

That commitment continues as Chancellor of ECSU. Her focus on increasing enrollment, leveraging resources, enhancing all aspects of the ECSU campus, and strengthening stakeholder engagement has produced results.

ECSU has experienced positive growth since Dr. Dixon's arrival. Enrollment climbed nearly 40% in just 18 months. Her administration has expanded the academic degree program offerings which include launching an Unmanned Aircraft Systems degree program, an online master's degree in education, and an online bachelor's degree in homeland security. Under her leadership, the university has increased its fleet from two to 12 aircraft for ECSU's signature aviation program.

In addition to building renovations and campus beautification, Dr. Dixon has committed to enhancing all aspects of the campus including the overall culture and student experience. Under her leadership, a new university strategic plan was developed in 2019 and will be used to guide the institution's successful efforts through 2025. With Viking Pride, Dr. Dixon is transforming ECSU to an institution focused on accountability, commitment and excellence.

Prior to her appointment at ECSU, Dr. Dixon served as a senior administrator at the UNC System Office since 2008. She was promoted to serve as Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs as well as Chief Student Affairs Officer, where she was tasked with overseeing and shaping system-wide policy to ensure overall success for the 220,000+ students enrolled across the state.

For nearly 10 years, she provided the UNC System Office with her expertise in academic policy, while leading various student success initiatives and managing processes to increase student access, enrollment, retention and graduation rates. She fostered innovative collaborations among the UNC System, the NC Community College System, the state's independent colleges and universities, and the NC Department of Public Instruction. She was instrumental in leading multiple projects and policy changes that have greatly impacted students in the UNC System and statewide.

Prior to joining the UNC System, Dixon served a total of 10 years combined at two other UNC System campuses. Most recently, she was an assistant vice provost at North Carolina State University (NCSU). In this role, she enjoyed leading discussions with graduate students interested in careers in higher education leadership and serving on dissertation committees.

In 2020, Chancellor Dixon was named to the newly formed national Women in Aviation Advisory (WIAAB) board by U.S. Dept. of Transportation Secretary, Elaine L. Chao. In 2019, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper awarded Dr. Dixon The Old North State Award, one of the highest honors granted by the State of North Carolina, which is awarded to “individuals who have shown dedication and service beyond expectation and excellence to the Great State of North Carolina.” She also was named by the HBCU Campaign Fund, as one of “The Ten Most Dominant HBCU Leaders of 2020.” Before arriving at ECSU, Dr. Dixon was named a 2016-17 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. Her host campus for the academic year was Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

Dixon received the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education and the Black Alumni Legacy Award in 2014 at NCSU. Dr. Dixon is a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ (AASCU) Millennium Leadership Initiative, class of 2013. She also received the Triangle Business Journal’s “40 Under Forty” leadership award in 2014. And, she was recognized as a recipient of the 2015 Alumni Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Dixon holds a bachelor’s degree in Communications and Public Relations from NC State University, a master’s degree in Speech Communications and Rhetoric from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a doctorate of education from NC State. She and her husband have two daughters.



**TYRONE P. THOMAS**  
**Attorney and Member**  
**Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and**  
**Popeo, P.C.**

Tyrone advises boards, presidents, and other senior executives on employment, consulting and separation agreements. In providing compliance assessments on governance issues, he advises on conflict of interests and IRS regulations governing intermediate sanctions and Form 990 reporting. He has counseled on the development and implementation of affirmative action plans and related matters with OFCCP. Tyrone is a frequent speaker for various associations in higher education on presidential compensation and executive searches, including the American Council on Education, the National Association of College and University Attorneys, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the Council of Independent Colleges.

Tyrone represents clients on complex legal issues in athletics. In intercollegiate athletic matters, his experience includes enforcement investigations, the infractions process, and appeals. He advises colleges on Title IX, employment contracts, and policies for athletics personnel. In professional sports matters, he has advised teams on league compliance issues and other legal matters. He is nationally recognized for his experience in sports matters and has served as a legal analyst for the New York Times, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sports Business Journal, University Business, and the Sports Litigation Alert.

In addition to his legal practice, Tyrone is chair of the Mintz Diversity Committee. In this role, he leads the firm’s initiatives promoting diversity in the legal profession. Tyrone is also the Co-chair of the firm’s Sports & Entertainment Practice.



## **TERESA VALERIO PARROT**

### **Principal TVP Communications**

Teresa often says that while her husband is her true love, her alma mater was her first love. She reenergizes when she steps onto a college campus and TVP Communications' clients can verify that she lights up when she visits. Higher education is her love and her home.

She is known for her honesty juxtaposed with optimism, and the two combine to provide communications counsel that is focused on transparency and relationship building. Teresa describes her job as truthfully sharing excellence and genuinely owning mistakes, because she knows that honesty is present in all sound proactive and crisis outreach. She serves as TVP Communications' resident "president whisperer" for her ability to get senior administrators to share their thought leadership expertise.

With over two decades of work in higher education, Teresa has only known a career focused on making higher education relatable, presidents' and boards' decisions understandable, and student and faculty successes known. She served as senior vice president for Widmeyer Communications' higher education practice and vice president of media relations and crisis communications for SimpsonScarborough.

Her first job out of college was as special assistant to the president of the University of Colorado, a job she landed by convincing the system president that she would make it her own and make him proud. She served the Boulder campus chancellor as director of donor relations during the University's successful \$1 billion fundraising campaign and held an officer-level appointment as assistant secretary of the university system, in which capacity she assisted the board on policy and media/PR issues over two years filled with athletic and academic controversy that drew national and international headlines.

If her first home is a campus, then her second home is on an airplane and her third is on stage as a keynote and conference presenter. Teresa has spoken on behalf of nearly every acronym in higher education's alphabet soup, including the American Council on Education, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Governing Boards, the American Marketing Association, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, NASPA, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, United Educators, and a range of other organizations nationally and internationally. In 2014, she was awarded the Crystal Apple Award for Teaching Excellence by CASE for earning an average combined score of 4.5 (out of five) or above on their session evaluations at 10 different CASE educational programs.

She serves as founding co-editor and contributor to the Inside Higher Ed blog, Call to Action, which is focused on marketing and communications topics in higher education. She has by-lined pieces for The Hechinger Report, *Trusteeship*, *The Presidency*, *College & University Journal*, *University Business*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and *PR Week*; and contributed a chapter to the book, *Managing the Unthinkable: Crisis Preparation and Response for Campus Leaders*. Her expertise has been featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *Huffington Post*, *CURRENTS*, *The Missoulian*, *The News Telegram* and Montana Public Radio.

Teresa earned a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in environmental biology, and a master's degree in public administration with emphases in state and local government and non-profit management, both from the University of Colorado. She is pursuing a doctorate degree in higher education from the Simmons School of Education at Southern Methodist University. She lives just outside of Boulder with her husband and dog. Each year she threatens to become a runner and instead spends her time traveling with her family. Don't get her started on how amazing her college-aged daughter is unless you have a spare hour or two. Or three. In her free time, she serves as the board chair of KUNC public radio and the Colorado Sound and is a member of the Denver Ballet Guild.





## **SORAYA M. COLEY**

### **President**

#### **California State Polytechnic University**

Dr. Soraya M. Coley is the sixth president of the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona). An accomplished educator and administrator with four decades experience in higher education, Dr. Coley is the first woman to be named president of Cal Poly Pomona. She has ushered in a new era of strategic leadership for the campus, establishing a vision for Cal Poly Pomona as a model for an inclusive polytechnic university that inspires creativity, discovery and innovation, embraces local and global challenges, and transforms lives.

As president, Dr. Coley leads an institution with nearly 30,000 students and 2,700 faculty and staff. Under her leadership, Cal Poly Pomona has continued to grow its legacy as the most diverse polytechnic university in the country and as a national leader in promoting social and economic mobility. Dr. Coley formally took office in January 2015, and during her tenure enrollment has grown by 6,000 students and graduation rates have reached historic levels.

A student-centered, faculty- and staff-focused and community-minded administrator, Dr. Coley has led a campus-wide effort charting a new course for Cal Poly Pomona that will define the university for decades to come. To guide this effort, Dr. Coley led the creation of a new strategic plan and launched planning processes to re-envision both the academic enterprise and the campus' physical presence. As part of Dr. Coley's student-centered focus, Cal Poly Pomona has made a historic transition from quarters to semesters — a move that will improve the academic experience for students and increase career opportunities both during their time at Cal Poly Pomona and after they graduate.

Coley came to Cal Poly Pomona from California State University, Bakersfield, where she was the provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2005 to 2014. She served as interim vice president for university advancement from 2011 to 2012. She has also held positions at California State University, Fullerton, the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, and Alliant International University.

In 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Pres. Coley to the California Future of Work Commission, which is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the kinds of jobs Californians could have in the decades to come, the impact of technology, methods of promoting better job quality, modernizing worker safety net protections, and ready the state's workforce for the jobs of the future through lifelong learning.

Dr. Coley is also a member of the American Council on Education Women's Network, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative, and the Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy and Jobs. She is a former member of the board of directors for Children and Family Futures as well as the Kern County Schools' "Ready to Start" program. In 2000, she was recognized as "One of Ten Women Making a Difference" by Orange County Metro Magazine.

Coley earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lincoln University, and master's and doctoral degrees in social planning and social research from Bryn Mawr College.

She is married to Ron Coley, who served two decades of active duty as a pilot in the Marine Corps, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his military service, Mr. Coley enjoyed a distinguished career in public service and higher education administration, including six years as Senior County Administrator in Orange County, California, and multiple senior positions at the University of California.

# 2020-2021 COHORT ROSTER

## Executive Leadership Academy



### L. JAY LEMONS

**President, Academic Search and  
President Emeritus, Susquehanna University (PA)**

Dr. Lemons became president of Academic Search in 2017, after serving for 25 years as a college president in both public and private higher education. A recognized leader in the academy, Dr. Lemons has been particularly devoted to supporting leadership and talent development by working with new college presidents on the faculty of the new presidents' programs of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), and through the professional development programs for aspiring leaders of the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI). This passion for working with new and emerging leaders and the opportunity to help them build teams and their institutions was what led him to accept the call to the presidency of Academic Search.

Dr. Lemons was president of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa., from 2001 through June 30, 2017, and prior to that served as chancellor of the University of Virginia's (UVA) College at Wise, UVA's public liberal arts college in southwestern Virginia. Both institutions experienced highly generative periods of growth and development under his leadership. He understands colleges and universities and the leadership needed to propel institutions into the future.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Lemons served in a variety of roles at Texas A&M University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the University of Virginia – thus deepening his knowledge of the complex array of positions and leadership talent needed for institutions to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

Dr. Lemons is a leader whom others in higher education have recognized for his ability to work across institutions and systems having served in key leadership positions in many national, state, and local organizations. He is the immediate past vice chair and acting chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Board of Governors. Dr. Lemons also chaired the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, the Council of Presidents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pennsylvania Campus Compact and the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he served on boards or committees of the Council of Independent Colleges, the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Lemons completed his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Virginia, an M.Ed. in Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska, and undergraduate work at Nebraska Wesleyan.



### BRENDA MARIE AMENSON-HILL

Vice President for Enrollment  
Management and Student Affairs  
Minnesota State University Moorhead



### ERIK ANKERBERG

Provost  
Concordia University Chicago (IL)



### MATTHEW C. BAKER

Vice President of Student Affairs  
Northwest Missouri State University



### BETTE SYLVESTER BERGERON

Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs  
State University of New York  
at Potsdam



### JEFFREY BREESE

Provost  
University of Mount Union (OH)



### TY BUCKMAN

Fellow  
Institute for Advanced Studies  
in Culture



### JENNIFER COWLEY

Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
University of North Texas



### FERNANDO PEDRO DELGADO

President  
The City University of New York  
*Effective July 1, 2021*



### DEBORAH GARRISON

Interim Dean of Nursing  
D'Youville College (NY)



**CHANCE MICHAEL GLENN**  
Provost and Vice President  
Academic Affairs  
University of Houston - Victoria (TX)



**ANDREW THOMAS HANSON**  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Lewis-Clark State College (ID)



**LORNA HERNANDEZ JARVIS**  
Vice President for Institutional Equity  
and Inclusion  
University of Puget Sound (WA)



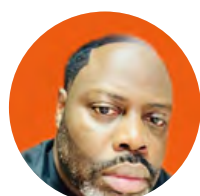
**C. MARK MCCORMICK**  
Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Stillman College (AL)



**SUSAN MEESKE**  
Chief Development Officer  
Mary Lanning Healthcare Foundation



**RICK MELSON**  
Vice President for Advancement  
Cedarville University (OH)



**EDWARD HILL**  
Associate Provost  
Harris Stowe State University (MO)



**RONNIE HOPKINS**  
Interim President and CEO  
Voorhees College (SC)



**WILLIAM KENNEDY**  
Vice President of Admissions and  
Athletics  
Midway University (KY)



**EMILY W. MESSER**  
Vice President for Enrollment  
Management  
Jacksonville State University (AL)



**ERIC MICHAEL NORMAN**  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Austin Peay State University (TN)



**PETER O. NWOSU**  
Provost and Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs & Student Success  
The City University of New York  
Lehman College



**AME LAMBERT**  
Vice President, Global Diversity  
and Inclusion  
Portland State University (OR)



**ALLYSON LOWE**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Trocaire College (NY)



**MELISSA MAYBURY LUBIN**  
Dean, Professional & Continuing  
Education  
James Madison University (VA)



**DANIEL PACK**  
Dean of College of Engineering  
and Computer Science  
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga



**STEVE PEREZ**  
Provost and Vice President,  
Academic Affairs  
California State University Sacramento



**TANJULA PETTY**  
Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs  
Alabama State University



**DIANA ROGERS-ADKINSON**

Provost and Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Bloomsburg University of  
Pennsylvania



**FRANKIE ROSE**

Vice President for Academic  
Administration  
Union College (NE)



**JOHN SHANNON**

Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Trine University (IN)



**VICKIE RUTLEDGE SHIELDS**

Provost and Executive Vice President  
Nevada State College



**HOWARD SMITH**

Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Pittsburg State University (KS)



**MICHAEL EDWARD VAN  
VALKENBURG**

Brigadier General (retired)  
United States Air Force Academy



**MATTHEW VANDENBERG**

President  
Presbyterian College



**DAVID VIGNERON**

Vice President for Institutional  
Advancement  
Endicott College (MA)



**JOSEPH ZIMMER**

Acting President  
St. Bonaventure University (NY)

## ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (ELA)

The Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) is a year-long program for individuals from member institutions of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). Nominated by the presidents of their institutions, ELA participants hold college and university vice presidencies and other cabinet-level positions and aspire to presidencies and similar senior-level positions.

The academy year is comprised of two national seminars, readings, group projects, a Professional Experience Plan and mentorship experiences.

For more information, contact Linda Bleicken at (202) 263-7488 or via [Linda@americanali.org](mailto:Linda@americanali.org).

*ELA is generously supported by Academic Search.*



[www.academicsearch.org](http://www.academicsearch.org)