



PROGRAM AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Kilimajaro 5 & 6

Registration

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Opening Plenary

Kilimajaro 6

Welcome Address

Dr. Kimberly Lowry
Texas Success Center

Strengthening Community College Pathways To Post-Completion Success: Taking the Next Step Toward Purpose and Value

As colleges across Texas continue to scale guided pathways reforms, a new frontier of work is emerging—one that connects students’ academic choices to purpose, value and post-completion success. In this plenary session, Hana Lahr and John Fink of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) will share insights from their new book, *More Essential Than Ever*, highlighting how colleges can strengthen transfer, workforce, and dual credit pathways that lead to credentials of value. They will explore how colleges are deepening implementation, measuring what matters, and creating experiences that help students discover and achieve their goals.

Hana Lahr
Community College
Research Center

John Fink
Community College
Research Center

Speaker Introduction:
Ashley Bliss Lima
Texas Success Center

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Team Strategy Time 1

Please refer to your
Team Strategy Time
Room Assignments.

Grounding the Work: Reviewing Our Goals and Strategy Map

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Reception & Book Signing

Pre-Function 7 AB

Join your peers at our signature networking reception featuring a special book signing of *More Essential Than Ever: Guided Pathways and the Next Frontier of Student Success* with authors and plenary speakers Hana Lahr and John Fink from the Community College Research Center. Enjoy light bites and a hosted bar as you connect with colleagues, meet the authors, and continue the conversation on how colleges can build pathways that promote purpose, value, and stronger outcomes for all students.

Hana Lahr

Community College
Research Center

John Fink

Community College
Research Center

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Kilimajaro 5

Breakfast

Individuals may network with peers, or College Leadership Teams may meet with their Pathways Coach.

9:00 AM – 10:10 AM

Concurrent Sessions 1

Kilimajaro 1

Regional Transfer Models: The Power in Partnerships

Dr. Becky Spurlock

University of Texas
Permian Basin

Kim McKay

Odessa College

Dr. Michael Dixon

Midland College

Kilimajaro 2

From Pathways to Paychecks: Applying the Aspen 3.0 Framework to Workforce Success

Dr. Eric A. Heiser

Coconino Community
College

Kilimajaro 3

One College, Multiple Entry Points: Designing Effective Laddered Pathways

Dr. Levy Brown

Halifax Community College

Tamara Williams

Forsyth Technical Community
College

Kilimajaro 4	From Pathways to Purpose: How Alvin College is Transforming Student Success Through Guided Pathways <div> <div>John Matula Alvin Community College</div> <div>Stacy Ebert Alvin Community College</div> </div>
Kilimajaro 7	Translating Opportunity Texas: Building Pathways for Multilingual Students <div> <div>Amy Getz WestEd</div> <div>Dr. Fred Hills Texas Success Center</div> <div>Anna Bartlett Brazosport College</div> </div>
Kilimajaro 8	The Power of Influence: Leadership Beyond Titles <div>Dr. Brenda Kays Texas Success Center</div>
Kilimajaro 9	CAO/ CSSO Roundtable <div>Dr. Kimberly Lowry Texas Success Center</div>
Kilimajaro 10	Unpacking the Transfer Playbook: Strengthening Community College Pathways to Bachelor’s Completion <div> <div>John Fink Community College Research Center</div> <div>Pascale Charlot Aspen Institute</div> <div>Dr. Amy Bosley Alamo College</div> </div>
10:10 AM –10:30 AM Pre-Function 7 AB	Coffee Break

10:30 AM – 11:40 AM
Concurrent Sessions 2

Kilimajaro 1	Leveraging FAST and HB 8 to Strengthen the Impact of Dual Credit <div> <div>John Fink Community College Research Center</div> <div>Marissa Moreno Lee College</div> </div>
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Kilimajaro 2

Stackable Credentials: Building Career Pathways for Working Adults

Dr. Stephanie Sutton
Higher Education
Consultant

Dr. Tina Hart
Higher Education
Consultant

Kilimajaro 3

Designing for Student Parents: Policy, Research, and Practices that Boost Success

Dr. Aisha Lowe
Los Rios Community
College District

Melba Castro
Mt. San Antonio College

Dr. Martha McDonald
Irvine Valley College

Kilimajaro 4

Beyond the Aggregate: Translating Data into Strategic Action Supporting Student Success

Elizabeth Chivers
Temple College

Kilimajaro 7

Ability to Benefit: Helping Students Access Federal Financial Support

Shirley Doan
World Education

Dr. Tamara Clunis
Central Texas College

Dr. Fred Hills
Texas Success Center

Kilimajaro 8

Fireside Chat: Leveraging Community Resources and Partnerships for Crisis Response in Colleges

Tegan Henke
Trinity Valley Community
College

Laura Slocum
Trinity Valley Community
College

Melinda Berry
Trinity Valley Community
College

Kim Miller Davis
San Jacinto College

Bamboo

Pathways Leads Meeting

Ashley Bliss Lima
Texas Success Center

Kilimajaro 9

Delivering More Value to More Students

Pascale Charlot
Aspen Institute

Kilimajaro 10

Purpose and a Plan: Implementing an Engaging Program Onboarding Experience for All Students

Hana Lahr
Community College
Research Center

Ed Bowling
Higher Education
Consultant

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Lunch

Kilimajaro 5

Networking Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:10 PM

Concurrent Sessions 3

Kilimajaro 1

From Optional to Inescapable: Building a Culture of Career Exploration at Tulsa Community College

Dr. Eunice Tarver
Tulsa Community College

Kilimajaro 2

Beyond Access: Strengthening Pathways for Transfer Success

Dr. Karen Stills
Dallas College

Dr. Greg Morris
Dallas College

Dr. Catherine Olivarez
Dallas College

Kilimajaro 3

Workforce Pell: Program Overview and Considerations for Implementation

Bryan Ashton
Trellis Strategies

Kilimajaro 4

The Rural Roadmap: A National Project for Strengthening College Pathways

Dr. Stephanie Sutton
Higher Education
Consultant

Dr. Tina Hart
Higher Education
Consultant

Dr. Brenda Kays
Texas Success Center

Ed Bowling
Higher Education
Consultant

Kilimajaro 7

Using Data to Guide Strategic Planning: Examples from the Tennessee Board of Regents System

Dr. Heidi Leming
Higher Education
Consultant

Kilimajaro 8

Translating Opportunity Texas: Building Pathways for Multilingual Students

Amy Getz
WestEd

Dr. Fred Hills
Texas Success Center

Anna Bartlett
Brazosport College

Kilimajaro 9

Minding College Minds: Framework Overview and Field Highlights from the First Cohort

Jenna Parro
Meadows Mental Health
Policy Institute

Kilimajaro 10

Everyone Must Be A Communicator: Sharing Your Student Success Story

Gary Susswein
BandOne

2:10 PM – 2:30 PM

Snack Break

Pre-Function 7 AB

2:30 PM – 3:40 PM

Concurrent Sessions 4

Kilimajaro 1

29x29: Expanding Access, Empowering Futures through Dual Credit

Dr. George Railey
Alamo Colleges

Dr. Amy Bosley
Alamo Colleges

Sara Mann
Alamo Colleges

Kilimajaro 2

Transfer Journey: California’s Insights for College Leaders

Dr. Martha McDonald
Irvine Valley College

Dr. Melba Castro
Mt. San Antonio College

Kilimajaro 3

Workforce Pell: Program Overview and Considerations for Implementation

Bryan Ashton
Trellis Strategies

Kilimajaro 4

From Insight to Action: Using Data and Research to Drive Guided Pathways and Student Success

Dr. Aisha N. Lowe
Los Rios Community College
District

Kilimajaro 7

Ability to Benefit: Helping Students access Federal Financial Support

Shirley Doan
World Education

Dr. Tamara Clunis
Central Texas College

Dr. Fred Hills
Texas Success Center

Kilimajaro 8

Rural Colleges and Minding College Minds: Insights from Cohort 1

Dr. Lisa Elliott
Paris Junior College

Dr. Logan Maxwell
Grayson College

(Moderator)
Leilani Lamb
Meadows Mental Health
Policy Institute

Kilimajaro 9

Beyond the Pivot: How Leaders Sustain Momentum Through Change

Dr. Mary Rittling
Aspen Institute College
Excellence Program

**Dr. Maria Harper-
Marinick**
Aspen Institute College
Excellence Program

Dr. Sue Borrego
University of Michigan–
Flint

(Moderator)
Dr. Brenda Kays
Texas Success Center

Bamboo

Resilience and Transformation: Research on the Pandemic's Effects on Texas Community Colleges

Kathy Hughes
EdWordian

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

Team Strategy Time 2

Please refer to your
Team Strategy Time
Room Assignments.

Learning in Action: Applying Insights to Strengthen Our Plan

5:15 PM

Adjourn - Dinner on Your Own

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Kilimajaro 5

Breakfast

Individuals may network with peers, or College Leadership Teams may meet with their Pathways Coach.

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM

Closing Session

Imperial Ballroom

Dr. Kimberly Lowry
Texas Success Center

9:25 AM – 10:40 AM

Problem of Practice

Please refer to the
Team Strategy Time
page for your college
room assignments.

The Problem of Practice provides an opportunity for college teams to present their institutional goals, challenges, and proposed strategies for peer feedback. Each team will have ten minutes to share their focus area and the actions they plan to take, followed by ten minutes of constructive discussion and recommendations from colleagues and coaches. This session is designed to help teams refine their strategy maps by identifying new ideas, uncovering potential gaps, and strengthening their plans before final submission.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Team Strategy Time 3

Please refer to your
Team Strategy Time
Room Assignments.

Refining the Path: Final Review and Strategy Submission

12:00 PM

Adjourn

TEAM STRATEGY ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

ROOM	COACH	COLLEGES
Kilimajaro 1	Maria Harper-Marinick	Dallas, Austin, San Jacinto
Kilimajaro 2	Stephanie Sutton	Galveston, Clarendon, Cisco
Kilimajaro 3	Ed Bowling	Tyler, El Paso, North Central Texas
Kilimajaro 4	Mary Rittling	Odessa, Midland, Del Mar
Kilimajaro 7	Tina Hart	Wharton, McLennan, Western Texas
Kilimajaro 8	Brenda Kays	Central Texas, Howard, Lee
Kilimajaro 9	Sue Borrego	College of the Mainland, Texarkana, Lamar State Orange
Kilimajaro 10	Eric Heiser	Grayson, Northeast Texas, Navarro
Bamboo	Monique Perry-Graves	Brazosport, Vernon
Portia	Levy Brown	Ranger, Paris
Cypress	Tiffany Hernandez	Temple, Victoria
Acacia	Eunice Tarver	Frank Phillips, Trinity Valley
Banyan	Martha McDonald	Kilgore, Texas Southmost
Salon G	Tamarra Williams	Panola, Hill, Alvin
Salon H	Melba Castro	South Texas, Southwest Texas
Salon F	Heidi Leming	Tarrant, Houston
Salon I	Becky Spurlock	Laredo, Amarillo
Crown Palm	Aisha Lowe	Coastal Bend, Alamo