



**NCIA Rising Star Instructional Institute  
Hyatt Place, Downtown Lincoln Haymarket  
June 5 - 7, 2025**

**Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Rising Star Reception**

**3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

3:00 Registration Opens at the Hyatt Place Lobby

5:00 Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks, Networking

5:15 – 6:00 Welcome NCIA President, Dr. Mitchell Holder

Introduction of NCIA board members

6:00 – 7:00 Small Group Breakouts ~ Ice Breakers

**Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Breakfast available at the Hyatt**

**Hyatt Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**8:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

8:30 – 10:30 Building Skills in Leading Change

*Facilitated by Stephanie Delaney, NCIA Board Member  
Renton Technical College*

All leaders engage in change and being able to do it skillfully is the key to advancing your career. In this hands-on session, you'll engage in individually tailored activities to build your skills in seven essential areas, and you'll leave with customized plans supported by a workbook with even more activities for your ongoing development.

10:30 – 10:45

**Snacks provided**

10:45 – 11:45 Developing Leaders for Tomorrow

*Facilitated by Matthew Smith, NCIA Board Member, Walters State  
Community College*

Presenters:

Dr. Amy Ross, Department Head Management, Walters State Community College

Dr. Kim Bolton, Executive Director, Workforce Training & Dean, Claiborne County  
Campus, Walters State Community College

This session will highlight Walters State's initiative to provide leadership and process training for employees who are interested in advancing in a leadership role at a college. Participants in the program were given an in depth look at all the offices of the college, what they do, and how they fit into the college's mission. The DISC Leadership Assessment and some of the Becoming Your Best - Do What Matters Most were also incorporated into the curriculum. Participants worked in groups to develop an approach that would help the college achieve one of its goals. The current class is working on how to raise our graduation rate.

**Noon to 12:45 Lunch provided**

12:45 – 1:45 Leading the Shift to Shortened Academic Terms ~ A Panel Discussion

*Kathryn Rogalski, NCIA Board Member, Northeast Wisconsin Technical Institute*

Brad Piazza, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs at Waukesha Technical  
College

Tamara Clunis, Vice Chancellor of Instruction and Workforce development at  
Central Texas College

Academic Affairs leaders who have spearheaded significant transformations within their institutions will participate in a panel discussing their colleges' shift to shortened academic terms. These leaders will share their experiences in transitioning their respective colleges from traditional-length semesters to shortened terms. The focus of the panel discussion will revolve around the

motivations behind their institutions' decisions to adopt this new approach and the comprehensive strategies they employed to implement these changes. The panel will delve into the critical factors that necessitated this shift, exploring the benefits of shortened terms, such as increased flexibility for students, improved retention rates, and enhanced alignment with workforce demands. Dr. Piazza, Dr. Clunis, and Dr. Rogalski will provide an overview of the planning and execution processes that facilitated this transformation, highlighting the collaborative efforts between college administration and faculty. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the challenges encountered during the implementation phase, with the panelists discussing key considerations and potential pitfalls to watch out for. The leaders will share their firsthand experiences on how they navigated obstacles, managed resistance, and ensured smooth transitions for students and staff alike.

2:00 – 3:00 Keynote Address

Leading Leaders: Effective Leadership in the AI Era

*Featuring guest speaker, Dr. James Ball, President Emeritus  
Carroll Community College*

Future community college leaders will face significant challenges, including declining enrollment and revenue, the "workforce sansdemoc," rising costs, diminishing confidence in the value of college credentials, increased competition from alternative educational options, and, most critically, the transformative implications of artificial intelligence (AI). These factors will profoundly reshape how colleges operate and serve their communities. Institutions that are poised for success will anticipate challenges and strategically harness the opportunities that disruption can bring. Leadership under such conditions will require a strong focus on cultivating an inclusive leadership culture that fosters commitment, resilience, strategic foresight, and innovation.

In our keynote address, Dr. James Ball, will explore how community colleges can remain essential in the AI era. Dr. Ball will share reflections and response to challenges during his career and discuss strategies for rising stars to advance careers while fostering a leadership culture that identifies, nurtures, and empowers leadership within your institution. He will provide insights on claiming needed resources from within, assuring commitment through building a strong sense of

belonging, using teams to drive strategic innovation, positioning your college as an indispensable resource for the communities it serves.

3:00 – 5:00 **Restoration and Rejuvenation**, Escorted by Board Member

*Dinner on your own.*

*Dining options are provided at the hotel main desk.*

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Breakfast available at the Hyatt

Hyatt Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**9:00** a.m. – 12:00 pm

9:00 – 10:00 President's Panel, Moderated by Mitch Holder, NCIA President

*Featuring:*

**Eric Heiser, President, Coconino Community College, AZ**

**Josh Baker, President, Mountwest Community & Technical College, WV**

**Laura Bettencourt, Interim President, LoneStar College Online, TX**

**James Ball, President Emeritus, Carroll Community College, MDD**

The President's Panel is a guided question and answer session with community college presidents. Conversation will focus on their paths to presidency, professional development, challenges, and future opportunities for community college leaders.

**10:15 – 10:30 Snacks provided**

10:30 – 11:45 Real Talk Roundtables

This session will be developed in response to the Survey results provided at the start of the Rising Star Institute. Each table will be moderated by the NCIA board member who facilitated the session and those best aligned to address additional topics noted on the survey.

Real Talk Roundtables will provide opportunities for a more in-depth conversation on topics of your choice.

11:45 – 12:00 *Closing*

**To Go Box lunch provided**