



NCIA Rising Star Instructional Institute
Hyatt Place, Downtown Lincoln Haymarket
June 4 - 6, 2026

Thursday, June 4th

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

Welcome from Executive Director, Katherine Wesley

Welcome and brief introduction of BibliU, Sponsor

6:00 – 7:00 Opening Keynote

Small Group Breakouts – Ice Breakers

7:15 – 7:45 Evening Wrap and Preview, Mitch Holder

Friday, June 5th

Breakfast available at the Hyatt (begins at 6:30 am)

Hyatt Conference Room, 1st Floor

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

8:30 – 9:45 Your First 90 Days

Interactive discussion to help new VPs, deans, directors and chairs succeed in their first 90 days. Focus on culture building, quick wins, communication strategies and navigating campus politics.

9:45 – 10:00

Restroom Break

10:00 – 11:15 **Generation Z versus Generation Alpha – Understanding Today's and Tomorrow's Community College Students**

This session will explore behavioral trends, mental health considerations, technology preferences, priorities/motivations, and retention strategies for Gen z and emerging Gen Alpha students. Essential context for instructional leaders making decisions about curriculum, support services, and engagement strategies.

11:15 – 11:30 Break

Snacks Provided

11:30 – 12:45 **Opportunities and Challenges for Instructional Administrators**

This session will be a panel discussion where instructional administrators share strategies to address top 5 challenges revealed through recent Educause Survey. Topics will include faculty resistance and buy-in, resource and staffing constraints, declining enrollment and student preparation and policy and regulatory shifts.

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch provided

1:45 – 3:00 **“People-First” Leadership: Building or Rebuilding a Team Culture**

Interactive leadership discussion on emotional intelligence, redirecting "moral injury" among employees or between leaders and direct reports, re-motivating long-term faculty and staff, and building cross-functional and un-siloed teams.

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 6th WEAR YOUR SCHOOL COLOR DAY

Breakfast available at the Hyatt (begins at 6:30 am)

Hyatt Conference Room, 1st Floor

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

9:00 – 10:30 AI is Here, Now What?

Keynote Facilitated by Tim Mousel of Lone Star College

In Part One of this keynote, discover how Lone Star College in Houston - an institution serving over 97,000 students and 8,000 employees - built a system-wide AI Task Force to align faculty, staff, and administrators around guidance, training, and culture for AI integration. In Part Two, explore actionable strategies for leveraging AI to streamline workflows and boost productivity in your daily work.

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, if requested.