

Catalyst: Business and Leadership Summit
Roseville, CA | August 31 – September 2, 2026
Religious vs. Non-Religious for Title Funding

Keynote	Non-Religious	Religious
#1 From Stressed to Strengthened	100%	0%
#2 Advancing Mission Through Strategic Financial Assistance	100%	0%
#3 Leading with Purpose	100%	0%
Workshops	Non-Religious	Religious
The Board-Head Reality Check: Tools for Alignment to Boost Authentic Partnership	100%	0%
From Project to Proof: Reporting Impact That Donors Can See	100%	0%
Parents are Customers! Implications and Applications for this Paradigm Shift	100%	0%
Flourishing Families: Moving Beyond Communication to True Partnership	100%	0%
Building at Sustainable Financial Model	100%	0%
The Employee Lifecycle: Takeaways to Implement Quickly	100%	0%
Navigating Finances and Sustainability in Smaller School Settings	100%	0%
Applied AI: Triangulating Healthy Relationships for Healthy Enrollment	100%	0%
Schools At Risk: Danger Signs, Adaptive Learning, and Avoiding Organizational Disaster	100%	0%
Simple Practices for Sustainable Leadership	100%	0%
Scaling Excellence: How Culture, Clarity, and Systems Drive School Growth	100%	0%
Developing Your Right Fit Family	100%	0%
TOTAL AVERAGE	100%	0%



Day 1		
Time	Title	Description
1:45 pm PT	From Stressed to Strengthened *Jon Talbert	Educators and administrators often carry the emotional burden of being “the steady one,” but resilience does not have to mean pushing through alone. In this interactive keynote, Jon Talbert uses stories, humor, practical exercises, and research-backed insights to explore the importance of community, rest, renewal, and healthy coping strategies. Attendees will discover practical ways to protect their well-being, renew their sense of purpose, and move from stress to strength without relying solely on grit.
2:45 pm PT	Break	
3:00 pm	The Board-Head Reality Check: Tools for Alignment to Boost Authentic Partnership *Nikki Daniels	Effective school governance depends on a strong Board-Head partnership grounded in trust, role clarity, and shared accountability. This interactive workshop explores healthy governance and the important boundaries between governance and management. Through practical exercises, case studies, and a relationship diagnostic tool, participants will identify signs of misalignment and leave with strategies to strengthen the Board-Head partnership and advance their school’s mission.
	Parents are Customers! Implications and Applications for this Paradigm Shift *Ryan Ermeling	Most schools consider parents essential partners in student success, but how often are they also viewed as customers? Understanding their needs, expectations, and hopes can lead to stronger strategic alignment, more effective leadership, and higher retention. This session will help participants assess how they respond to feedback, explore practical ways to gather parent input, and understand the importance of creating an effective feedback loop.
	Simple Practices for Sustainable Leadership *Al Hearne	School leaders often carry significant professional and personal responsibilities while neglecting their own emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Over time, this can lead to exhaustion that affects school culture, workplace relationships, and family life. This session offers practical tools for meaningful self-care, establishing healthy boundaries, and sustaining effective leadership without guilt.
	Flourishing Families: Moving Beyond Communication to True Partnership *Julie Widman	This interactive session helps school leaders move beyond one-way communication to build authentic, grace-filled partnerships with families. Participants will explore the differences between educator and parent perspectives, apply a research-based family engagement framework,



		and identify their school's strengths and opportunities. Attendees will leave with practical tools and strategies they can use within 30 days to strengthen trust, belonging, and student flourishing.
4:00 pm PT	End of Day 1	
Day 2		
8:45 AM ET	Advancing Mission Through Strategic Financial Assistance *Dr. Kati Melton	Financial assistance is often viewed as a budget item, enrollment tool, or fundraising need. This interactive session explores how schools can use it more strategically to support access, sustainability, and long-term impact. Drawing from research and conversations with independent school leaders, participants will use practical frameworks, collaborative discussions, and actionable tools to evaluate their current approach and identify opportunities to strengthen both their mission and financial future.
9:45 am PT	BREAK	
10:00 am PT	Building a Sustainable Financial Model *Brandon Allen	What does long-term sustainability look like for private schools? This workshop examines current financial and fundraising trends, affordability challenges, and the future of school operations. Participants will explore practical strategies for overcoming short-term barriers and building a sustainable, multigenerational future.
	Navigating Finances and Sustainability in Smaller School Settings *Jeremy Brown	Small private schools often face changing enrollment, rising costs, staffing pressures, and long-term planning challenges. This session offers practical strategies for budgeting, affordability, enrollment, and financial sustainability, helping leaders identify manageable next steps without becoming overwhelmed.
	The Employee Lifecycle: Takeaways to Implement Quickly *Chris Loncar	HR professionals in schools often balance multiple responsibilities, making it difficult to focus beyond immediate needs. This session examines each stage of the employee lifecycle, from recruitment and onboarding to retention, development, and separation, and highlights practical priorities that can strengthen progress and workplace culture. Participants will leave with realistic, actionable steps they can implement within the time and resources available.
	Applied AI: Triangulating Healthy Relationships for Healthy Enrollment *Andy Lynch	Enrollment health requires both sufficient numbers and right-fit families who strengthen school culture. This session explores practical ways leaders can use applied AI to engage the local community, enrolled families, and faculty and staff. Participants will discover how AI can support



		stronger relationships, healthier enrollment, and a more vibrant school culture.
11:00 AM ET	BREAK	
11:15 AM ET	From Project to Proof: Reporting Impact that Donors Can See *Angel DeLeon	Most schools struggle to report impact because they haven't clearly defined what funding actually makes possible. This session will show how to structure project-based asks that connect gifts to real outcomes, so you can confidently demonstrate the difference your donors are making.
	Developing Your School's Right-fit Family™ Rubric *Andy Lynch	Who is your school designed to serve? The answer directly affects financial stability, school culture, and long-term success. This two-part workshop explores how a Right-fit Family™ Rubric and public-facing Portrait of a Partnership can strengthen alignment, prevent organizational drift, and clearly communicate your school's value to prospective families.
	Schools at Risk: Warning Signs, Adaptive Leadership, and Avoiding Organizational Failure *Vance Nichols	As post-pandemic enrollment gains begin to fade, schools may face growing organizational challenges. This session identifies common warning signs, examines the forces behind them, and offers practical strategies to prevent dysfunction and support long-term organizational health.
	Scaling Excellence: How Culture, Clarity, and Systems Drive School Growth *Chris Schoenleb	This session offers a practical framework for leading school turnaround and growth. Explore strategies for improving staff retention, raising academic expectations without increasing student stress, and creating an inclusive special education model. Participants will leave with actionable ideas to strengthen school stability, achievement, and enrollment.
12:15 pm PT	Lunch	
1:15 pm PT	Leading with Purpose *Dr. Matt Northrop	This session explores practical principles for visionary leadership, including assessing challenges honestly, rallying a community around a shared mission, navigating resistance, and building a strong organizational culture. Participants will leave with strategies to lead meaningful growth and renewal.
2:15 pm PT	END OF DAY 2/Event	