



Day 1		
Time	Title	Description
2:15 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.
3:15 pm PT	Break	
3:30 pm PT	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.
	Beyond the Audit: Understanding Your School's Financial Health *Nathan Salsbery	Financial statements reveal more than past performance. They provide insight into a school's financial health, sustainability, and future opportunities. This practical workshop will help school leaders interpret key measures such as liquidity, reserves, tuition dependency, staffing



		costs, financial aid, and operating performance. Using real-world examples and peer benchmarks, participants will learn to identify financial risks, recognize healthy trends, and use data to support strategic planning and long-term resilience.
4:30 pm PT	End of Day 1	
Day 2		
8:45 am PT	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	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.
	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.
	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.
	School Fundraising: This Year, Next Year, and the Next 30 Years *Troy Thelen	A strong fundraising program requires the right staffing, clear priorities, and a long-term strategy. This session will help school leaders strengthen current development efforts while building a sustainable plan for this year, next year, and the decades ahead.
11:00 am PT	BREAK	



11:15 am PT	<p>Future Ready: Forming Students to Flourish in an Age of Accelerating Technology *Christina Crook</p>	<p>As emerging technologies reshape how students learn, connect, and understand the world, schools must move beyond reactive technology policies. Christina Crook explores how educators can cultivate wisdom, attention, resilience, and healthy community while preparing students to use new technologies thoughtfully and responsibly.</p>
	<p>Applied AI: Triangulating Healthy Relationships for Healthy Enrollment *Andy Lynch</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Schools at Risk: Warning Signs, Adaptive Leadership, and Avoiding Organizational Failure *Vance Nichols</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Scaling Excellence: How Culture, Clarity, and Systems Drive School Growth *Chris Schoenleb</p>	<p>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.</p>
12:15 pm PT	Lunch	
1:15 pm PT	<p>Leading with Purpose *Dr. Matt Northrop</p>	<p>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.</p>
2:15 pm	End of Day 2/Event	

**Catalyst: Business and Leadership Summit
Westlake Village, CA | September 3-4, 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
Navigating Finances and Sustainability in Smaller School Settings	100%	0%
Future Ready: Forming Students to Flourish in an Age of Accelerating Technology	100%	0%
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%
Simple Practices for Sustaining Christian Leadership	100%	0%
The Employee Lifecycle: Takeaways to Implement Quickly	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%
Beyond the Audit: Understanding Your School's Financial Health	100%	0%
Scaling Excellence: How Culture, Clarity, and Systems Drive School Growth	100%	0%
School Fundraising: This Year, Next Year, and the Next 30 Years	100%	0%
TOTAL AVERAGE	100%	0%