



The Pell Institute

Research for Equity in Higher Education

42ND ANNUAL SFARN CONFERENCE

Conference Program

July 10-11, 2025 | University of Maryland - College Park
Adele H. Stamp Student Union | 3972 Campus Drive College Park, MD 20742



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

Table of Contents

Page 1 | Navigating Campus with Road Closures

Page 2 | Conference Wi-Fi

Page 3 | Session Grid - Day 1, Thursday, July 10

Page 5 | Session Grid - Day 2, Friday, July 11

Page 7 | SFARN Sponsors

NAVIGATING CAMPUS WITH ROAD CLOSURES

Location Information

University of Maryland College Park
Adele H. Stamp Student Union
3972 Campus Drive College Park, MD 20742

Day 1: Stamp Prince George's Room 1211 (1st Floor)
& Carroll Room (2nd Floor) for Reception only

Day 2: Stamp Prince George's Room 1211

Please use the instructions below to assist you in navigating campus and accessing the conference room locations given there are a number of road closures due to construction. The live campus map can be accessed [here](#).

For Driving/Parking

Set your destination to Union Lane Garage, College Park, MD 20742. You can enter this address directly into your GPS. The garage entrance is on Field House Drive, **you can ignore and drive around the "Road Closed Ahead" sign before the entrance**. Parking must be prepaid using the ParkMobile app (Download on [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#)), or you can pay at a pay station located near the garage exits. Union Lane Garage parking is \$4 per hour, with a daily maximum of \$20. The garage closes at midnight.

Upon exiting the garage, the Stamp Union will be directly across from you with two visible entrances to the right of the largely printed building letters "S T A M P." **Please walk down toward the right and enter from the second entrance**, where you will see SFARN conference signage to direct you to the appropriate room location.

For Uber, Lyft, etc. drop-off

Set your destination to Union Lane Garage, College Park, MD 20742. Enter campus from the entrance on Stadium Drive and University Blvd. You can enter this address directly into your GPS. **Ask your driver to drop you off at the Stamp Union loading dock entrance on Field House Drive**. This entrance is on the same road as the Union Lane Garage and is directly across from the Bob Turtle Smith Stadium.

Upon entering the building from the entrance near the loading dock, you will see signage directing you to an elevator and again directing you to the appropriate room location.

For Walking or using Public Transportation

Set your destination to Adele H. Stamp Student Union, 3972 Campus Drive College Park, MD 20742, which will bring you to the main entrance of the Stamp Union.

Upon entering the building from the main entrance, you will see signage that will direct you to the appropriate room location.

CONFERENCE Wi-Fi

Network: UMD-Guest

July 10th Wi-Fi

Username: sfarn1

Password: rytrigolacca

July 11th Wi-Fi

Username: sfarn2

Password: lvimirokprou

Instructions to connect to Wi-Fi:

1. Connect your device to the "UMD-Guest" network
2. Open a web browser
3. If the browser doesn't automatically direct you to the login screen then go to the umd.edu website, this will cause the login screen to appear
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page click on the Red " Already have an account? CLICK HERE" button
5. Type in the username and password for the current date and click login. Remember that all usernames and passwords are in lowercase type.

NOTE: If you receive the "Success" pop-up but don't have internet access try to turn your Wi-Fi off and then back on.

Please note the Pell Insitute is offering complimentary Wi-Fi for July 10th-11th.

SESSION DAY 1 - PRINCE GEORGE'S ROOM 1211

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

8:45 am - 9:15 am | Check-in & Registration

Coffee & Light Breakfast

9:15 am - 9:25 am | Welcome

Kimberly Jones, President, Council for Opportunity in Education & The Pell Institute
Margaret Cahalan, Senior Scholar, Council for Opportunity in Education & The Pell Institute
Sean Simone, VP of Research, Council for Opportunity in Education & The Pell Institute

9:25 am - 10:10 am | Special Panel 1

An Overview of NPSAS, BPS, and B&B in the Landscape of Financial Aid Research

Christopher Bennett, RTI International
Erin Dunlop Velez, RTI International

10:15 am - 10:35 am | Research Presentation 1

Race, Wealth, and Higher Education: A Study of How the Racial Wealth Gap is Related to College Access and Success

Marián Vargas, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Kim Dancy, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)

10:40 am - 11:00 am | Research Presentation 2

Exploring College Student Food Insecurity

May Plumb, Trellis Strategies

11:00 am - 11:10 am

Break

11:10 am - 12:10 pm | Special Panel 2

Exploring Non-Federal Data for Higher Education Policymaking: National Student Clearinghouse, The Federal Reserve System, Trellis Strategies' Student Financial Wellness Survey, and FINRA Foundation's National Financial Capability Study

Moderator: Jeff Webster, Higher Education Consultant

Panelists:
Carrie Welton, Trellis Strategies
Doug Shapiro, National Student Clearinghouse
Gary Mottola, FINRA Investor Education Foundation
Tanya Gardner, University of Kentucky

SESSION DAY 1 - PRINCE GEORGE'S ROOM 1211 (cont.)

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

12:15 pm - 12:35 pm | Research Presentation 3

How Latinos Pay for College

Madelyn Lucas, Excelencia in Education
Lily Cuellarsola, Excelencia in Education
Emily Labandera, Excelencia in Education

12:40 pm - 1:00 pm | Research Presentation 4

Doing More with Less: An Analysis of HBCU Instructional Spending and Its ROI Implications

Joy Gorham Hervey, Genesis Ed Solutions
Denise A. Smith, Higher Ed Policy, The Century Foundation

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Lunch

Enjoy your meal!

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Special Panel 3

Economic Mobility for Community College Students: Non-Federal Data Sources

Moderator:
Abby Miller, ASA Research

Panelists:
John Fink, Community College Research Center (CCRC)
Konrad Muggleston, Aspen Institute
Tia Caldwell, Postsecondary Education & Economics Research (PEER) Center

3:05 pm - 3:25 pm | Research Presentation 5

Universal FAFSA Completion: Understanding the State Policies and Impact

Sayda Martinez-Alvarado, EdTrust

3:30 pm - 3:50 pm | Research Presentation 6

A State Policy for Increased Enrollment and Completion at State-supported Colleges and Universities in Virginia: The Pell Initiative for Virginia (PIV), An Innovative State-funded Approach after its First Year

Barry Simmons Sr, Pell Initiative for Virginia, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

3:55 pm - 4:45 pm | Round Table Discussion

Facilitator: Sean Simone, VP of Research, Council for Opportunity in Education & The Pell Institute

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Reception

***LOCATION* MEET IN CARROLL ROOM 2203K! (2ND FLOOR UPSTAIRS FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S ROOM.)**

SESSION DAY 2 - PRINCE GEORGE'S ROOM 1211

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

8:45 am - 9:15 am

Coffee & Light Breakfast

9:15 am - 9:20 am | Welcome Back

Sean Simone, VP of Research, Council for Opportunity in Education & The Pell Institute

9:20 am - 10:20 am | Special Panel 4

State Data Sources

Moderator: Ellie Bruecker, The Institute for College Access & Success

Panelists:

Dana Brandt, Strada Education Foundation

Tod Massa, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Carrie Klein, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

10:25 am - 10:45 am | Research Presentation 7

Transforming Student Aid: A Research-Funder Collaboration on Wealth-Based Financial Aid

Christian Smith, Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia

Janai Raphael, Lumina Foundation

Ernest Ezeugo, Lumina Foundation

10:45 am - 10:55 am

Break

10:55 am - 11:55 am | Special Panel 5

The Future of Data Infrastructure for Higher Education Policymaking

Moderator: Jeff Webster, Higher Education Consultant

Presenters:

Robert Kelchen, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Nicholas Hillman, University of Wisconsin at Madison and Director of SSTAR Lab

Dominique Baker, University of Delaware

Taylor Myers, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)

12:00 pm - 12:20 pm | Research Presentation 8

When the Bill Comes Due: Borrower Experiences with an Asynchronous Loan Repayment Course

Alyssa Stefanese Yates

Jonathan Lewis

Monica Chan, University of Massachusetts-Boston

SESSION DAY 2 - PRINCE GEORGE'S ROOM 1211 (cont.)

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

12:25 pm - 12:45 pm | Research Presentation 9

College Affordability for Latino, and all, Students: Insights from Seal-Certified Institutions in Texas

Madelyn Lucas, Excelencia in Education
Lily Cuellarsola, Excelencia in Education
Emily Labandera, Excelencia in Education

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm | Lunch

Enjoy your meal!

1:45 pm - 2:25 pm | Symposium Talk

Budget Reconciliation 101: Unpacking Republicans' Proposals to Shape Higher Education and Student Financial Aid Policy

Moderator: Ben Cecil Third Way

Panelists:
Sarah Sattelmeyer, New America.
Kim Dancy, Institute of Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Helen Faith, University of Virginia

2:30 pm - 2:50 pm | Research Presentation 10

How The College Athletics Landscape is Shaping Student Aid

Christian Collins, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

2:55 pm - 3:15 pm | Research Presentation 11

Financial Literacy Blind Spots and Financial Preparedness Among College Students

Venoo Kakar, San Francisco State University

3:20 pm - 3:40 pm | Research Presentation 12

Student Transfer in Illinois: The Role of Cost in Student Decision-Making and Success

Alejandra Villa-Moges, Partnership for College Completion
Giselle Palacios, Partnership for College Completion

3:45 pm - 4:05 pm | Research Presentation 13

What are they all working towards? – The Role of Philanthropy in Simplifying Federal Financial Aid

Pooja Patel, University of Pennsylvania

Gates Foundation



The Pell Institute thanks our generous sponsors!

