



The Pell Institute

For the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education

43RD ANNUAL SFARN CONFERENCE

Conference Program

**Tuesday, July 14 - Thursday, July 16, 2026 | University of Louisville, Kentucky-Belknap
Red Barn building located at 2011 S Brook St, Louisville, KY 40208**



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

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HOTEL INFORMATION

Location Information

Omni Louisville Hotel

400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (502) 313-6664

Parking

- Overnight valet parking \$45 + tax (\$47.70 including taxes)
- Hourly parking rates:
 - 0-4 hours: \$37 (+ tax)
 - 4-8 hours: \$40 (+ tax)
 - Over 8 hours and overnight \$45+ tax

Additional public self-parking options are available directly behind the hotel and can be accessed from 3rd Street. These garages do not have direct access into the hotel. Please be prepared to walk 1-2 blocks, depending upon the garage you choose. Rates vary based upon the garage, but you can expect rates to range between \$15 and \$27 per night without in & out privileges.

Wi-Fi

Complimentary Guest Room Wi-Fi

Complimentary Wi-Fi access in guest rooms is included for all attendees staying within the conference room block. To join, select the Wi-Fi network named OmniGuest. Upon joining, enter your guest room number, and you will automatically connect.

Lobby Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available in the hotel lobby for all guests. No network selection is required as devices should connect automatically.

CAMPUS INFORMATION

Conference Address

University of Louisville-Belknap Campus
Red Barn
2011 S Brook St, Louisville, KY 40208

Reception Address (July 14th)

University Club of Louisville (U Club)
200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY 40208

Campus Map: https://louisville.widen.net/s/xb5mvrfgsz/uofl-belknap_campus-map

Parking

Parking and Transportation Services, Phone: 502-852-7275

2126 South Floyd Street, Suite 100
Louisville, KY 40208

Parking is available near the Red Barn at the **Floyd Street Parking Garage next to the Student Activities Building** (2126 South Floyd Street, Louisville, KY 40292). Attendees can pay for hourly parking directly at the garage (at \$2 per hour and \$12 for 5+ hours) or purchase a daily campus parking permit from the Parking and Transportation Services office (at \$7 per day or \$21 for all three days). The garage is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Parking Map: https://louisville.widen.net/s/kbmmm9gqf8/uofl-parking_map

Wi-Fi

Information Technology Services, Phone: 502-852-7997

Guest Users (Non-UofL)

Network Name: *ULvisitor*. No password is required. This is UofL's guest Wi-Fi network, which provides temporary internet access with sessions that last up to 6 hours and automatically disconnect after 30 minutes of inactivity. To connect to the *ULvisitor* Wi-Fi network: Open a web browser (the access page may open automatically on some devices). Review and accept the Terms of Use. Once redirected to the confirmation page, you're connected.

University Students, Faculty, and Staff (Uof L)

Network Name: *eduroam*. This is the University of Louisville's secure, preferred Wi-Fi network for its students, faculty, and staff. After a one-time login to verify your UofL credentials, you'll have access to campus Wi-Fi and can connect at other participating universities, institutions that also use eduroam. Visit [here](#) for more information on this wireless network.

BUS SCHEDULE

SFARN 2026 Bus Schedule Louisville, KY – July 14-16, 2026

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 (Day 1)

Number of Buses: 1 (56-passenger)

10:55 a.m

Pickup from Omni Louisville Hotel

Location: 400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202

Drop-off at University Club of Louisville

Location: 200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40208

6:30 p.m

Pick-Up from University Club of Louisville

Location: 200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY 40208

Drop-off Omni Louisville Hotel

Location: 400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 (Day 2)

Number of Buses: 2 (34-passenger & 56-passenger)

8:10 a.m

Pick-Up from Omni Louisville Hotel

Location: 400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202

Drop-off at University Club of Louisville

Location: 200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40208

5:15 p.m

Pick-Up from University Club of Louisville

Location: 200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40208

Drop Off at Omni Louisville Hotel

Location: 400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202

Thursday, July 16, 2026 (Day 3)

Number of Buses: 2 (34-passenger & 56-passenger)

8:10 a.m

Pick-Up from Omni Louisville Hotel

Location: 400 S 2nd St, Louisville, KY 40202

Drop-off at University Club of Louisville

Location: 200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40208

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 (cont.)

SFARN Conference

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Check-in and Registration / Lunch Buffet

12:00 PM - 12:10 PM | Welcome

Sean Simone, Vice President of Research | Director of the Pell Institute, COE

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM | Research Presentation 1

Implications for Higher Education Finance and Student Aid of the Right to Higher Education (RTHE) Movement

Maggie Cahalan, COE/Pell Institute

12:35 PM - 12:55 PM | Policy/Symposium Talk 1

One Big Bill Impacts on Graduate Education Access for Low Income Students

Chazz Robinson, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

01:00 PM - 01:20 PM | Research Presentation 2

Fixing the Formula: Targeting Wealth in State Financial Aid Policy

Christian Smith, University of Georgia
Alejandra Villa-Moges, Partnership for College Completion

01:20 PM - 01:30 PM

Break

01:30 PM - 01:55 PM | Policy/Symposium Talk 2

When APR Meets NIL: How 'Neutral' Metrics Deepen Structural Inequities for HBCU Athletics

Rolando Shannon, Tennessee State University
Ajah Hawley-Alexander, Iona University and University of Southern Mississippi

02:00 PM - 02:20 PM | Research Presentation 3

Higher Ed's Social Value: Postgraduate Earnings Across Fields of Study

Daniella Paradise, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)



DAY 1 - TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 (cont.)

SFARN Conference

02:25 PM - 02:50 PM | Policy/Symposium Talk 3

Financing Program Sustainability and Scale: A Conversation with CUNY ASAP Replication Partners

Bethany Lewis, Ithaka S+R
Ioana Hulbert, Ithaka S+R
Diana Strumbos, ASAP National Replication Collaborative
Aaron McVean, San Mateo County Community College District
Casey O'Brien, The State University of New York System
Jennifer Forster, West Virginia University Parkersburg

02:55 PM - 03:15 PM | Research Presentation 4

An Impact Study of the Washington College Grant (WCG)

Daniel Oliver, Washington Student Achievement Council
Ian Mikkelsen, Washington Student Achievement Council

03:15 PM - 03:25 PM

Break

03:25 PM - 03:45 PM | Research Presentation 5

Higher Education's Economic Value to States

Daniella Paradise, Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)

03:50 PM - 04:10 PM | Research Presentation 6

Place and the Perceptions of Postsecondary Value

Kathryn Blanchard, Strada Education Foundation

04:15 PM - 05:05 PM | Special Panel 1

Implementing Workforce Pell Under OBBA: What the New Provisions Mean for Higher Education

Katie Berger, Lumina Foundation
Robert Kelchen, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Wesley Whistle, New America

05:15 PM - 06:30 PM

Reception | University Club of Louisville (U Club) Ballroom
200 East Brandeis Avenue, Louisville, KY 40208



DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

SFARN Conference

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM

Coffee & Light Breakfast

09:00 AM - 09:05 AM | Welcome Back

Sean Simone, Vice President of Research | Director of the Pell Institute, COE

09:05 AM - 09:50 AM | Special Panel 2

Updates on New Data and Product Releases

Chris Bennett, RTI International
Josh Pretlow, RTI International
Sean Simone, COE/Pell Institute
Nicole Brunt, COE/Pell Institute

09:55 AM - 10:15 AM | Research Presentation 7

Estimating Indirect Off-Campus Costs of Attendance: How Do Published Estimates Compare with Benchmarks?

Jeremy Thompson, Hildreth Institute

10:20 AM - 10:40 AM | Research Presentation 8

Understanding the Implementation of Universal FAFSA Completion Policies in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, and Louisiana

Kyla Hurns, EdTrust
Victoria Jackson, EdTrust

10:40 AM - 10:50 AM

Break

10:50 AM - 11:10 AM | Research Presentation 9

True Cost of College in CA: Aligning Cost of Attendance Budgets with Student Realities

Laura Szabo-Kubitz, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
Jessica Petrass, John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY)

11:15 AM - 12:05 PM | Special Panel 3

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Across Practitioner Offices On-Campus: What Financial Aid Offices Should Know

Moderator: Charlotte Etier, NASFAA

Panelists:
Lindsay K. Wayt, NACUBO
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University



DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 (cont.)

SFARN Conference

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM | Research Presentation 10

Restoring Opportunity for Higher Education

Tom Mortenson, Pell Institute/COE
Nicole Brunt, Pell Institute/COE

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | Lunch

Enjoy your meal!

01:30 PM - 01:50 PM | Research Presentation 11

New Jersey's Community College Opportunity Grant: A First Study to Measure Impact and Outcomes

Thomas Zimmerman, New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)

01:55 PM - 02:20 PM | Policy/Symposium Talk 4

Evaluating a Statewide Financial Aid Intervention: Early Evidence from the Pell Initiative for Virginia

Moderator: Barry Simmons Sr., State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Panelists:

Dannette Gomez Beane, Radford University
Joy Pugh, University of Virginia
Alexis Brooks-Walter, Virginia State University

02:25 PM - 02:45 PM | Research Presentation 12

Supporting College Students Year-Round: Implementing Summer TAG in New Jersey

Kirsten Meidlinger, Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University

02:50 PM - 03:10 PM | Research Presentation 13

Explaining Recessionary Changes in Funding for State Financial Aid Programs

Meredith Fergus, University of Minnesota



DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 (cont.)

SFARN Conference

03:15 PM - 04:00 PM | Poster Presentations with Refreshments

Working and Learning in Hard Times: A Causal Analysis of How Economic Downturns Shape Community College Students' Trajectories
Chenjun Yu, University of Michigan

Graduate Student Debt and Inequality: Education Access Under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill
Gabriella Pitcher, University at Albany

Beyond Tuition: Affordability Constraints in Community College STEM Pathways
Leanne Davis, Education Northwest

Understanding Student Experiences in Debt-Free Programs: A Qualitative Analysis from Marshall For All
Madison Martin, Marshall University

Funding an Online Master's Degree in STEM: How Do Students Do It and Is It Worth It? |
Alexandria Ardisson, University of Florida

College Access and Success for Youth Formerly in Foster Care: Addressing Systemic Barriers and Policy Gaps
Stephanie Saulnier, ECU Dept. of Social Work

Economics is the New Need Analysis
Zachary Goodwin, Marquette University

Maximizing Financial Aid for Student Parent Success
Laura Szabo-Kubitz, California Competes & The California Alliance for Student Parent Success

When Financial Aid Excludes Faith: How Federal Student Aid Policy Constrains Muslim Students' Graduate Education Pathways
Hind Haddad, The Ohio State University and Denison University

Navigating the New FAFSA: Undergraduates' Experiences, Support Systems, and College Access
Joy Sorrells, Florida State University

04:30 PM - 04:50 PM | Research Presentation 16

Stressed and Strapped: How Financial Insecurity Shapes Student Mental Health
Anthony Schuette, Trellis Strategies

04:55 PM - 05:15 PM | Research Presentation 17

Designing Data Informed Supports for Debt Free Pathways: Principles and Practices from Marshall For All
Madison Martin, Marshall University



DAY 3 - THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

SFARN Conference

08:30 AM - 08:45 AM

Coffee & Light Breakfast

08:45 AM - 08:50 AM | Welcome Back

Sean Simone, Vice President of Research | Director of the Pell Institute, COE

08:50 AM - 09:40 AM | Special Panel 4

State Longitudinal Data Systems

Jacob Gross, University of Louisville Kentucky
Raj Darolia, University of Kentucky
Matt Berry, Kentucky Center for Statistics
Travis Muncie, Council on Postsecondary Education
Stephanie Saulnier, Eastern Kentucky University

09:45 AM - 10:05 AM | Research Presentation 18

TRIO's Impact: A Look at Grant Distribution Across Three Programs

Daniel Ceva, EdTrust

10:10 AM - 10:30 AM | Research Presentation 19

How Much Is Safe? Lessons from Borrowers and Practitioners About Student Loans

Ashley Barry, College Access: Research & Action (CARA)

10:30 AM - 10:40 AM

Break

10:40 AM - 11:00 AM | Research Presentation 20

From College to Homeownership: How Undergraduate Major, Salary, and Student Loan Debt are Associated with Housing Outcome

Roy Y. Chan, Lee University



DAY 3 - THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 (cont.)

SFARN Conference

11:05 AM - 11:30 AM | Policy/Symposium Talk 5

Rethinking Satisfactory Academic Progress: Evidence for Policy and Practice

Ira Nichols-Barrer, Mathematica
Charlotte Etier, NASFAA,
Christina Lomeli, JBAY
Jessica Petrass, JBAY
Janai Raphael, Lumina Foundation

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM | Research Presentation 21

Losing Pell, Losing Students: Federal SAP Policy as a Hidden Completion Barrier

Meacie Fairfax, Complete College America
Kate Szur, John Jay College
Margo Wright, FAIR AID Initiative

12:00 PM - 12:20 PM | Research Presentation 22

The Relationship Between Financial Aid and First-Generation Student-Athlete Retention at Small Colleges and Universities

Adam Cocco, University of Louisville
Alan Grosbach, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

12:20 PM - 12:30 PM | Closing Remarks

Sean Simone, Vice President of Research | Director of the Pell Institute, COE



Nearby Restaurants

Restaurants near University of Louisville - SFARN 2026



Old Louisville Tavern
1532 S 4th St, Louisville, KY 40208
(502) 409-6281
Daily: 11 AM – 11 PM

Doc Crow's Southern Smokehouse and Raw Bar
127 W Main St, Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 587-1626
Sun - Thu: 8:00 AM- 10:00 PM | Fri & Sat: 8:00 AM- 11:00 PM

Jack Fry's
1007 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 452-9244
Mon – Fri: 11 AM – 10 PM | Sat: & Sun: 5:30 PM – 10 PM

Porch Kitchen & Bar
280 W Jefferson St, Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 671-4246
Mon – Fri: 11 AM – 10 PM

The Eagle Louisville
1314 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 498-8420
Daily: 4 PM – 11 PM

North of Bourbon
935 Goss Ave, Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 749-3305
Tues – Sat: 11:30 AM – 11 PM

Nic & Norman's
108 W Washington St, Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 963-5654
Daily: 11 AM – 10 PM

Connors Steak & Seafood
615 S Hurstbourne Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 812-1122
Daily: 11 AM – 10 PM

Lou Lou on Market
812 E Market St, Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 515-9699
Daily: 11 AM – 10 PM

La Bodeguita De Mima
725 E Market St, Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 742-3358
Most Days: 5 PM – 9 PM

Check's Cafe
1101 E Burnett Ave, Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 637-9515
Most Days: 11 AM – 10 PM

CASK Southern Kitchen & Bar
9980 Linn Station Rd, Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 614-6499
Most Days: 11 AM – 9 PM

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