



LASSCA 2026 Breakout Session Descriptions

A Lasallian Spirituality: Does It Make a Difference?

Brother Dennis Cronin, FSC, President, Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School

The session will offer a brief overview of some key elements of De La Salle's spirituality. Participants should be prepared to share insights and experiences of how their view of our Lasallian spiritual heritage has impacted and shaped the communities they lead and some decisions they have made.

Holding the Center: Crisis Communication for School Leaders When Trust Is on the Line

Veronica V. Sopher, K-12 Communications Expert, VV Sopher LLC

This interactive 75-minute breakout is designed for Catholic, Lasallian secondary school leaders who carry both operational responsibility and moral authority in moments of crisis. Drawing from real-world school scenarios, participants will explore how effective crisis communication can stabilize a situation, preserve trust, and reflect the values that define their school communities.

Name, Image and Likeness

Carly Kastens, Director, Altius Sports Partners

College athletics is in the midst of a fundamental transformation. Rapid changes in regulation, legislation and litigation are rewriting the future of opportunities, risks and competition. This session focuses on where college athletics has been, where it stands today, and what lies ahead, to empower high school administrators, coaches and athletes with insight and confidence to navigate this new era.

Unlocking Enrollment Success in Lasallian Schools

Edward B. Bernot, M.Ed., President, Saint John Paul II Academy

Explore effective strategies for attracting, admitting and retaining mission-appropriate students in Catholic, Lasallian high schools. This open forum invites school leaders to share insights on marketing, financial aid, parent engagement and data-informed decision making while strengthening Lasallian identity and community partnerships to ensure sustainable enrollment and long-term vitality.

What Leaders Need to Stay, Learn and Lead

Dr. Melinda Lawlor Skrade, President, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory

Azure'D Nunley, President, St. Mary's College High School, Berkeley

Dr. Caesar Smith, Coordinator of Strategic Projects and Partnerships, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory

This session explores how Lasallian schools can strengthen leadership development beyond discernment alone. We examine the transition point at which vocation becomes responsibility, and why leaders thrive when learning is embedded in real work, supported by mentoring, and expanded in scope. Participants will leave with micro- and macro-level learning outcomes, retention-focused questions, and practical next steps to cultivate leadership and sustain skill sets within the Lasallian network.