



OPENING DOORS, CHANGING LIVES
THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 7-10 | CHICAGO, IL

Council for Opportunity in Education
2025 Annual Conference Registration
September 7-10, 2025

Agenda with Special Events
As of July 18, 2025
(All times are in Central Standard Time)
All information is tentative and subject to change

Sunday, September 7th

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	All Day Pre-Conference Sessions (Additional Cost - Ticketed Event)
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	State Leaders Caucus (Additional Cost - Ticketed Event)
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Exhibits
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions (Additional Cost - Ticketed Event)
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Moderators Orientation (Invite Only)
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Newcomers Reception (Invite Only)
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Opening Session: Keynote Speaker Reverend William Barber
8:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Book Sales and Signing
8:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Chair's Reception (Ticketed Event – Included in COE Registration)

Monday, September 8th

7:00 a.m.	Wellness Activity: Yoga
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Plenary Session: Congressional Speaker or Panel
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (will be on website by July 31, 2025)
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Plenary Session: Mason Awards and First-Generation Celebration (Ticketed Event – Included in COE Registration)
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	College Fair
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (will be done by July 2025)
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	College Fair Walkthrough
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Hot Topics (will be on website by July 31, 2025)
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Plenary Session: COE Update
6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	Alumni Reception (Invite Only)
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Salsa Dancing
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Karaoke

Tuesday, September 9th

7:00 a.m.	Wellness Activity: Walk in the Windy City
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Exhibit Walkthrough
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Plenary Session: “Promises Kept, Promises to Keep: Reflections on the Higher Education Act of 1975”
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (will be on website by July 31, 2025)

Tuesday, September 9th (con.)

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

Hot Topics (will be on website by July 31, 2025)

Concurrent Sessions (will be on website by July 31, 2025)

Plenary Session - "The Role of the States in Higher Education"

Hot Topics - 2nd round (will be done by July 2025)

Corporate Reception

Cash Bar

TRIO Educational Opportunity Dinner and TRIO Achievers and Lifetime Achievement Award (Ticketed Event – Included in COE Registration)

9:30 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Dance

Wednesday, September 10th

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Information Booth

Plenary Session: Is Economic Mobility Possible without a College Degree in the Current Workforce?

Plenary Session: Update from the Department of Education

Closing Session Awards and Remarks from 25-26 COE Board of Directors
Chair, Jeff Kahlden