

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 ND , 2026				
Financial Aid Bootcamp Student Success Bootcamp: From Admissions to Placement				
TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
12:30:00 PM 5:00:00 PM	OPH Foyer	Early Registration		
1:00:00 PM 5:00:00 PM	CR WEST	Financial Aid Bootcamp	The financial aid boot camp with give new financial aid staff the tools to understand the process of applying for aid through packaging the student. It includes verification and resolving conflicting information, packaging students, and calculating Pell awards and direct loans for all types of programs. We will also include a time line so important deadlines are not missed.	Carolyn Melton, Ibis Chow, Sally Samuels, John Rocha
1:00:00 PM 1:50:00 PM	CR SOUTH	Level Up Your Brand: 6 Lessons from Getting on Game Shows	Discover personal branding strategies that aren’t only a win for yourself, but also your school! From owning your strengths, to researching your target demographic, to crafting your story together – you’ll learn how to better connect with Gen Z on tours and in the classroom. As an added bonus, you’ll get a crash course on TikTok so that you better understand why video-based platforms are crushing competitor social apps and how you can capitalize on this craze. (You’ll even learn the secret to getting cast on a game show!)	Jenn Lyles
2:00:00 PM 2:50:00 PM	CR SOUTH	The Cheapest Student You’ll Ever Recruit Is the One You Keep	Every student who walks out the door before graduation takes tuition, aid eligibility, and your school’s reputation with them. In today’s regulatory climate, retention isn’t optional — it’s the single greatest lever for protecting revenue and ensuring compliance. In this session, you’ll discover how to connect leadership, student support, and career services into a powerful system that keeps more students enrolled, engaged, and walking across the finish line. Because when it comes to the future of your school, the cheapest student you’ll ever recruit is the one you keep.	Penny Burns
2:45:00 PM 3:15:00 PM	OPH Foyer	PM Break		
3:10:00 PM 4:00:00 PM	CR SOUTH	Meet your Starts Goals: Simple Marketing Moves That Drive Profitability	You don’t need a big budget to get big results, just a smarter approach. In this session, we’ll explore practical ways schools can improve their marketing and make every campaign more profitable. Learn how to turn your website into an active lead generator, and how AI can help you reach students with the right message at the right time. You’ll walk away with proven tactics that can boost inquiries and enrollments, without increasing spend.	Enrollment Resources
4:10:00 PM 5:00:00 PM	CR SOUTH	The Admissions Playbook on Turning Student Interest Into Enrollments	Reaching enrollment capacity doesn't just happen, it's built on consistent best practices. This session walks through what the most successful schools are doing to connect with students earlier, follow up faster, and close more enrollments. We’ll cover simple frameworks to improve communication, nurture inquiries, and create a student experience that builds trust and commitment from the very first interaction. Walk away with practical ideas your admissions team can apply right away to attract, engage, and enroll more students.	Enrollment Resources

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 RD , 2026				
Financial Aid Track Technology Track Management Track				
TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
7:30:00 AM 8:30:00 AM	OPH Foyer	Breakfast		
8:30:00 AM 9:00:00 AM	CR WEST & SOUTH	Morning Welcome	Grab your coffee and get ready to ride the Waves of Innovation! The Fame team will kick off the day with a warm welcome, event overview, and inspiration for the days ahead.	Ricky Alfaro, Steven Pabom
9:00:00 AM 10:00:00 AM	CR WEST & SOUTH	Federal Update	Sally and Tom will bring you the latest guidance on the One Big Beautiful Bill and what to expect in the 2026-2027 award year.	Sally Samuels & Tom Netting
10:00:00 AM 10:30:00 AM	OPH Foyer	AM Break		
10:30:00 AM 11:30:00 AM	CR WEST	R2T4	Year over year, R2T4 findings hit the top 5 audit finding list. John and Ibis will go over the most commonly found findings and how to avoid them.	Ibis Chow, John Rocha
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	How to Manage Student Retention	Join Colton as he walks through how to manage student retention.	Colton Woo
	CR SOUTH	Steering Through Regulatory Seas: Navigating State & Federal Changes for Institutional Loans & Payment Plans	Regulations are rolling in like high tide—so it’s time to secure your lines. Join fellow education leaders as we chart a safe course through shifting state and federal rules affecting institutional loans and payment plans. We’ll cover TILA requirements, state registration, default management, and the legislative “storms” forming on the horizon. Leave with practical knowledge to stay cool, stay compliant, and keep your school steady amid the waves of change.	Sean Steinmarc
11:30:00 AM 12:30:00 PM	CR WEST	Clery / Title IX	Join Chris DeLuca as he speaks about Clery / Title IX.	Chris DeLuca
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	VFAO Workshop	This interactive workshop offers participants a hands-on opportunity to engage with the Virtual Financial Aid Office processes to explore practical strategies and collaborate with others to address real-world challenges. Guided by Amber Turner, attendees will take part in group discussions, activities, and problem-solving exercises designed to deepen understanding and drive actionable outcomes. Ideal for those looking to gain practical insights and leave with tools they can apply immediately in their work.	Amber Turner
	CR SOUTH	AACS Update	Cecil Kidd to speak on AACS updates.	Cecil Kidd
12:30:00 PM 1:30:00 PM	OPH Foyer	Lunch		
1:30:00 PM 2:30:00 PM	CR WEST	ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR RISK FOR LOSS OF TITLE IV FUNDING? Understanding Default Prevention: The Essentials & Strategies to avoid drowning in the waterfall of student loan defaults	Join John White (Champion Col-EDGE Solutions), to explore the latest challenges with student loans, including increasing delinquency and default rates, and how these issues impact borrowers and institutions. Dive into regulatory changes, default prevention strategies, and proactive loan repayment approaches while gaining a deeper understanding of how defaults affect both borrowers and schools. This session will also examine the challenges posed by the end of pandemic-related programs and discuss solutions for mitigating risks, including school audits, mandated default prevention plans, and the potential loss of Title IV funding. Insights into these issues will help institutions stay ahead of emerging challenges.	John White
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	Improving Efficiency with Financial Aid Processes	The Fame Team to speak on improving efficiency with FA processes.	Fame Team
	CR SOUTH	Making The Grade: Will Your Educational Programs Meet New GE and OBBB Measures Clarified in Recent Rulemaking?	This session will review the latest outcomes from ED's ongoing AHEAD rulemaking process, explain how they impact program eligibility requirements in the new Gainful Employment regulation and the new Accountability Measure established in the One Big Beautiful Bill and outline the likely standards that educational programs will need to meet in order to retain eligibility for federal student loans and grants.	Ron Holt
2:30:00 PM 3:30:00 PM	CR WEST	Q & A with Auditors	There are always audit topics of interest, hear the latest from our experts in the field.	Chris Adams, Luke Hoey, John Mazurek, Ben Sanders, Sally Samuels
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	How to Automate Student Accounts	We’ll explore how to efficiently manage tuition and other charge autoposting within Advantage to ensure timely and accurate billing. We’ll also cover bulk award postings —especially for clients not integrated with AFA. Additionally, we’ll dive into how all posted charges and payments influence key compliance metrics, including the 90/10 rule and 1098-T reporting. You’ll gain a clear understanding of how to maintain financial integrity while optimizing operational workflows.	Fame Team
	CR SOUTH	Using AI at your school from a legal perspective	Ed Cramp to speak on using AI at your school from a legal perspective.	Ed Cramp
3:30:00 PM 4:00:00 PM	OPH Foyer	PM Break		
4:00:00 PM 5:00:00 PM	CR WEST	Protect Your File Review Future	Grab your coffee and your compliance hat—it’s time to keep our file review process flawless! 🧐🌟 This quick refresher covers all the little details that make a big difference: PJs, DOs, verification quirks, and those sneaky ISIR flags that love to test our patience. Think of it as your Financial Aid Survival Guide—short, sharp, and just nerdy enough to keep you out of audit trouble!	John Rocha
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	Conversion Journey from Freedom to Advantage	The Fame Team to speak on the conversion journey from Freedom to Advantage.	Fame Team
	CR SOUTH	Washington Update	Tom Netting to speak on updates from Washington.	Tom Netting
5:30:00 PM 7:30:00 PM	Salty Bar	Unwind and connect at our Welcome Reception! Enjoy refreshing drinks, tasty bites, and lively conversation as we ease into the conference together.		

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7:00:00 AM 8:00:00 AM	OPH Foyer	Breakfast		
8:00:00 AM 8:30:00 AM	CR WEST & SOUTH	Morning Welcome	Start your final day at Fame Forward with fresh energy and a look ahead. We'll highlight what's in store for the day, reflect on the week's biggest insights, and set the stage for a strong finish filled with learning and collaboration.	Ricky Alfaro, Steven Pabom
8:30:00 AM 9:30:00 AM	CR WEST	Implementing the One Big Beautiful Bill	The One Big Beautiful Bill, goes into effect July 1, 2026, understanding and implementing the new requirements.	Sally Samuels
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	Cyanna + Fame	Join us for an in-depth look at the latest EDlumina technology updates designed to streamline operations and improve the user experience.	Cyanna
	CR SOUTH	Hot Audit Topic	Details to come.	Sikich
9:30:00 AM 10:00:00 AM	OPH Foyer	AM Break		
10:00:00 AM 11:00:00 AM	CR WEST	Maximum Time Frame when schedules change in clock hour programs	Do you check Maximum timeframe before disbursing Title IV Funds to your student? Let's discuss the requirement and learn the forumla behind the maximum timeframe calculation.	Ibis Chow, Christal Carson
	HEMISPHERE DANCER	Student Journey with VFAO	As students increasingly expect digital-first experiences, financial aid offices are shifting to virtual models to meet those needs. This session will explore the student journey within the virtual financial aid office—highlighting stages from initial outreach through award disbursement and continued support. Attendees will gain insights into how Fame is leveraging technology to improve accessibility, streamline processes, and deliver more personalized, student-centered support in a fully virtual environment.	Amber Turner
	CR SOUTH	The Compliance Gauntlet: Protecting Your PPA in an Era of High-Stakes Enforcement	A 360-Degree View of Administrative Capability, Institutional Integrity, and Campus Safety	Ben Sanders
11:00:00 AM 12:00:00 PM	CR WEST	Consumer Information - What do you know?	This fun, interactive game gives you an opportunity to test your consumer information knowledge and win some prizes. A great way to wrap up the conference.	Sally Samuels