

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, Jonh 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	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	One Particular Harbor	Breakfast		
8:30:00 AM 9:00:00 AM	CR WEST & SOUTH	Morning Welcome	Ricky Alfaro & Steven Pabom to give morning welcome - details to come	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	One Particular Harbor	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	Colton Woo to speak on how to manage student retention - details to come	Colton Woo
	CR SOUTH	Hot Audit Topic (TBD)	Sikich to speak a hot audit topic - details to come	Sikich
11:30:00 AM 12:30:00 PM	CR WEST	Clery / Title IX	Chris DeLuca to speak on clery / title IX - details to come	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 - details to come	Cecil Kidd
12:30:00 PM 1:30:00 PM	One Particular Harbor	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 - details to come	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 - details to come	Ed Cramp
3:30:00 PM 4:00:00 PM	One Particular Harbor	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 - details to come	Fame Team
	CR SOUTH	Washington Update	Tom Netting to speak on updates from Washington - details to come	Tom Netting
5:30:00 PM 7:30:00 PM	Salty Bar	Welcome Reception	Welcome Reception - details to come	

FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 2026				
Financial Aid Track Technology Track Management Track				
TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
7:00:00 AM 8:00:00 AM	One Particular Harbor	Breakfast		
8:00:00 AM 8:30:00 AM	CR WEST & SOUTH	Morning Welcome	Ricky Alfaro & Steven Pabom to give morning welcome - details to come	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	Cyanna overview - details to come	Cyanna
	CR SOUTH	State Regulations and Consumer Protection Laws Governing Provate Loans	Sean Steinmarc, TFC to speak about State Regulations and Consumer Protection Laws Governing Provate Loans - details to come	Sean Steinmarc, TFC
9:30:00 AM 10:00:00 AM	One Particular Harbor	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 (Audit Firm)
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