2025 PASSHE Summit
October 29-30, 2025
Together We Thrive
Building Inclusive Excellence Across The State System

HYBRID SUMMIT: In-person events at PennWest Clarion with online, virtual options **PennWest UNIVERSITY.**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
2025 PASSHE Summit

Together We Thrive:
Building Inclusive Excellence Across the State System

PennWest Clarion

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, September 11, 2025

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) is pleased to announce that the 2025 PASSHE Summit will take place on **October 29 & 30, 2025.** The Summit will be a **hybrid** conference, with in-person sessions at **PennWest Clarion** and virtual/hybrid sessions on Zoom.

The PASSHE Summit provides a unique opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and administrators from across the State System to gather to share their work and research as well as build connections and capacity within and across institutions. In this way, the Summit serves as a dynamic platform for dialogue, reflection, learning, and collaboration. It also aims to advance PASSHE's mission-driven priorities. It aligns with Board-approved student success metrics including, but not limited to, improving graduation rates, persistence rates, credit completion ratios, and participation in high-impact practices.

The PASSHE Summit is a collaboration of the Offices of Academic Affairs, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Student Affairs.

Virtual Information/Q&A Sessions: If you want to learn more about the proposal process or are unsure whether to submit a proposal, we invite you to a drop-in Q&A session!
- Thursday, May 22, 2025 12-1pm – register here
- Wednesday, August 27, 2025 12-1 pm – register here
- Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12-1 pm – register here

If you have **questions**, please contact the PASSHE Summit co-chairs: Christa Cobb (ccobb@passhe.edu), emily howe (ehowe@passhe.edu), and Sheleta Camarda-Webb (camardawebb@pennwest.edu).

General Track	Student Track
Submit your proposal here!	**Submit your proposal here!**

The theme for the 2025 PASSHE Summit is *"Together We Thrive: Building Inclusive Excellence Across the State System."*

We know that in our universities and our communities, many successful and innovative practices are occurring. **"Together We Thrive"** is an invitation to share and coordinate these efforts within and across our institutions. It encourages us to build relationships and other structures to link our efforts; to create cohesion and collaboration that allow innovations to have a pervasive rather than isolated impact. We can do more and better when we come together. For instance, research shows that diverse teams are better at creating solutions for complex problems, and that trust and open communication between team members enable these outcomes (Guillaume et al., 2016).

Inclusive excellence is one framework for transforming organizational culture that aligns with university missions, supports student access and success, and promotes resilience within the changing higher education landscape. Inclusive excellence includes four primary elements: (1) a focus on students' intellectual and social development; (2) a purposeful use of organizational resources to enhance student learning; (3) attention to the varied cultural resources learners bring to campus and that enhance the educational enterprise; and (4) a welcoming community that engages all of its diversity to serve student and organizational learning (Williams, Berger, & McClendon, 2005).

In highlighting inclusive excellence, the 2025 PASSHE Summit provides an opportunity to explore policies, practices, research, relationships, and other organizational structures that can sustain welcoming and supportive learning environments for students and healthy working environments for staff and faculty.

We invite students, faculty, staff, administrators, Board members, trustees, and other PASSHE stakeholders to submit proposals. We encourage collaboration between these groups and within/between universities. We also welcome proposals that address the theme from various perspectives, life experiences, and academic disciplines.

Two Proposal Tracks: General Track and Student Track

When submitting a proposal, you have two tracks to choose from. The main difference between the tracks is the **desired audience**.

- The **General Track** is for presentations oriented towards faculty, staff, and/or administrators.
- The **Student Track** is for presentations oriented towards a student audience. This track also encourages students to share their work and research. The Student Track application is shorter to make it easier for students to submit a proposal.

Any person can submit a proposal to either track. You should select your track based on your desired audience or who would benefit most from your presentation. You can submit proposals to both tracks, but not the same proposal.

Both tracks are competitive so, due to limited space, we cannot guarantee that all high-quality proposals will be accepted.

What do General Track proposals look like?

The **primary audience** for general track presentations is **staff, faculty, and/or administrators**. They should cover topics that will be of interest to one or more of these groups.

Anyone (including students) can submit and attend General Track Presentations.

Below are some potential topics that could be included in the General Track, but this is **not** an exhaustive list:
- Professional learning communities and cross-departmental/cross-unit/interuniversity collaborations
- Frameworks and practices to support organizational learning
- Designing and implementing initiatives using high-impact practices to promote student success (e.g., capstone courses, collaborative projects, global learning, first-year seminars, internships, learning communities, community-based learning, undergraduate research, writing-intensive courses)
- Use of data to improve campus climates
- Structures and policies to support student mental health and well-being
- Inclusive pedagogy and course redesign
- Best practices for course sharing
- Coalition building
- Learning for democracy and civic engagement

What do Student Track proposals look like?

The **primary audience** for student track presentations is **undergraduate and/or graduate students**. The Student Track also encourages students to share their work and research. The Student Track application is shorter to make it easier for students to submit a proposal.

Anyone can submit and attend Student Track Presentations. We will prioritize sessions that include student presenters in our selection process.

Below are some potential topics that could be included in the Student Track, but this is **not** an exhaustive list:
- Starting and sustaining student clubs and organizations
- Student-focused affinity spaces/caucus spaces
- Building healthy relationships in college and/or grad school
- Student leadership
- Advocacy skill sessions
- Supporting student mental health, self-care, and community care
- Student internships and career support
- Student research projects and creative projects
- Respectful communication: transforming debate to dialogue

Proposal Submission Guidelines and Process

I. Identify Your Track

Two tracks will dictate where you submit your proposal. The main difference is the **desired audience** for your presentation.

- **General Track** is for presentations oriented towards faculty, staff, and/or administrators.
- **Student Track** is for presentations oriented towards a student audience. This track also encourages students to share their work and research. The Student Track application is shorter to make it easier for students to submit a proposal.

Any person can submit a proposal to either track. Select your track based on who you think would benefit most from your presentation. You can submit proposals to both tracks, **but not the same proposal.**

II. Select a Session Type

There are five session categories to which you can submit a proposal. Review the descriptions below to determine which session category best suits your work. In the submission, you must select the session category for which you submit a proposal.

Session types 1-4 can be General or Student Track. The Poster & Multimedia Session is a *student-track-only session* for in-person presenters.

1. **Best Practices Session** *(45 minutes; maximum of four presenters)*: Best Practices Sessions should highlight practical insights and knowledge from a practice-focused inquiry project. Proposals should also provide thoughtful engagement with the project's context, history, and motivations to help the audience understand the ways this project and its insights are relevant and applicable to other contexts. Presenters should plan to allot at least 10 minutes for a discussion with the audience.

2. **Research Talk** *(45 minutes; maximum of four presenters)*: Research Talks should focus on a particular empirical or conceptual research project (its context, questions, methodology, and results). Research studies do not have to be complete but should be far enough along to present preliminary results. Presenters should plan to allot at least 10 minutes for a discussion with the audience.

3. **Panel Discussion** *(75 minutes; maximum of five presenters and one facilitator)*: Panel Discussions should be a themed session with multiple presenters (but no more than 5) discussing relevant research, theory, and/or practice related to that theme. Presenters should give at least 15 minutes for discussion with the audience. Panels will be assessed on the timeliness of the topic and the range of perspectives they bring to bear.

4. **Interactive Workshop** *(75 minutes; maximum of five presenters)*: Workshops should create a structured and engaging space for attendees to interact with specific ideas and practices. We also encourage structured discussions to help the audience connect with each other. These proposals should be explicit about their topic, how the session will be interactive for the audience, and what workshop takeaways will be.

5. **Poster & Multimedia Session** *(45 minutes; student track only)*: Projects for this session can include research posters, visual art, videos, or other multimedia content. Research posters should highlight the research context, questions, methodology, and (preliminary) results. Visual and multimedia art projects should have captions or other ways to explain the process and meaning of the work.

III. Submit Your Proposal Online

- After reading the submission procedure and requirements and selecting a track, please submit your proposals through the appropriate online form:
    - **General Track submission form**
    - **Student Track submission form**
- Proposals for both tracks must be completed and submitted on or before <mark>**Thursday, September 11, 2025**</mark> to be reviewed.

<u>**Proposal Requirements**</u>: Below are the **proposal requirements.**

- **Title** (200 characters or less)
- Selecting a **session type**
- **Proposal Abstract** (1200 characters/~200 words or less)
- **Proposal Summary** (3000 characters/~500 words or less) – G*eneral Track Only*
    - Explaining the topic and context of your session
    - Purpose and desired outcomes of your session
    - Overview of content to be presented – *ensure it is aligned with your chosen session type!*
- **Audience engagement** (500 characters/~75 words or less) – *General Track Only*
    - Who is/are your target audience(s)?
- **2-3 learning objectives/takeaways** (1000 characters/~150 words or less) – *General Track Only*
- **3-5 topic keywords**
- Whether the session will be **in-person, hybrid, or virtual**
    - **General Track options:** (a) in-person presenter with in-person audience; (b) in-person presenter with hybrid audience; (c) virtual presenter with virtual audience
    - **Student Track options:** (a) In-person presenter with in-person audience; (b) In-person presenter with hybrid audience
- Your **preferred session times**
- **Presenter Information:** Name, title, institution/organization, email address, biography, and photo for all presenters in the proposal *(This information will not be provided to reviewers for a double-blind review)*

IV. Review & Selection Process

- Due to a limited number of sessions in the schedule, we cannot guarantee that every proposal will be accepted.
- Each proposal, regardless of track, will be reviewed by 2-3 members of the Systemwide Planning Committee or the Student Conference Committee. Committee members will engage in a double-blind review process and will score proposals using a rubric based on the session type and proposal requirements.
- Reviewer scores are the primary determinant of proposal acceptance. Topic variety within the program and session type availability will also be considered in the selection process.
- Decisions will be communicated to all applicants by **Monday, October 6, 2025.**

2025 PASSHE Summit Systemwide Planning Committee

- **Becky Barnhart**, PennWest California, Academic Coordinator
- **Nichole Book**, Commonwealth University – Mansfield, DEI Coordinator and Title IX Deputy
- **Keshia Booker**, Slippery Rock University, Interim Chief Diversity Officer
- **Angela Boswell**, Commonwealth University – Lock Haven, Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences
- **Roger Briscoe II**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Executive Director of Student Inclusion
- **Sheleta Camarda-Webb** (co-chair), PennWest University, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- **Lakiyah Chambers**, Cheyney University, Director of Employee and Labor Relations, DEI, and Compliance
- **Christa Cobb** (co-chair), Office of the Chancellor, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- **Miranda Fisher**, Shippensburg University, Assistant Director of Sports Medicine
- **L. Fleming**, East Stroudsburg University, Director of Center for Multicultural Affairs & Inclusive Education
- **Wendell Griffith,** Cheyney University, Director of Student Success and Wellness
- **emily howe** (co-chair), Office of the Chancellor, Manager of Special Projects & Research
- **Samantha Johnson**, PennWest Edinboro, Associate Director of Residence Life & Housing, Communications
- **Laura Kieselbach**, East Stroudsburg University, Associate Professor of English
- **Samantha Moreno**, Millersville University, Client Services Supervisor & Senior Financial Aid Counselor
- **Porsche Murray**, West Chester University, Assistant Director/Coordinator of Equal Opportunity Programs and Strategic Initiatives
- **Amariliz Sanchez**, PennWest Clarion, Student Success Center Coach
- **Yasoda Sharma**, Kutztown University, Professor of Social Work

2025 PASSHE Summit Student Conference Committee

- **Bria Allen**, PennWest California, Graduate Assistant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- **Alena Clark**, PennWest Clarion, Assistant Director of DEI Initiatives
- **Savannah Dorsey**, PennWest California, Assistant Director of DEI Initiatives
- **Darrek Harshberger**, PennWest California, Assistant Director of Student Development and Engagement
- **Jordyn Reynolds**, PennWest California, Student
- **Pat Smith**, PennWest California, Student
- **Michelle Torregano**, PennWest California, Associate Professor of Education
- **Sandra Trejos**, PennWest Clarion, Professor of Economics
- **Kori Williams**, Office of the Chancellor & Kutztown University, Graduate Research Assistant
- **Sarah Zerfoss-Calhoun,** PennWest Clarion, Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Director of Student Development