



NYSOBBA Annual Conference
Aloft Buffalo Downtown
500 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
June 7 -10, 2026

Sunday - June 7, 2026

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Welcome Reception/ Networking Event**
Location: Spare Lanes, Aloft Buffalo Downtown

Monday- June 8, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Conference Registration**
Location: TBD

8:00 am – 11:30 am **Business Partner Set-up**
Location: TBD

Pre-Conference Sessions (Open to All Conference Registrants)

Concurrent Sessions

10:00 am -11:30 am **Session I: Bridging the Gap: Campus-Based and Alternative Student Loan Solutions in a Changing Policy Landscape**

As federal student loan programs continue to evolve and institutions face increasing financial aid gaps, colleges and universities must explore alternative funding solutions to support student access and success. This workshop will examine campus-based loan programs, private and alternative lending options, and emerging state-level initiatives designed to address unmet financial need. Participants will also discuss the recently introduced New York State Loan-Based Program in the Assembly and consider how institutions can adapt their financial aid strategies to help students bridge funding gaps while maintaining responsible borrowing practices.

Presenter(s): Maria Livolsi, SUNY Student Loan Service Center;
Chris Stompanato, ECSI; Karen Reddick, NCM

Location: TBD

Session II: Financial Aid for Bursars

This session will discuss some hot topics in Financial Aid that could have impacts on accounts receivables. Topics will include the increase of withdrawals, the rise in fraud, and the upcoming changes associated with OB3 (the One Big Beautiful Bill).

Presenter(s): Katie Kocsis, Niagara University & Amy Masters, SUNY Geneseo

Location: TBD

Monday- June 8, 2026 -Continued

11:30 a.m. **Welcome/Opening Remarks, NYSOBBA President/Business Partner Intros**

11:45- 12:30 **Lunch**

Location: TBD

General Session

12:30 -2:00 p.m.

Keynote: From Anxiety to Agency: Reframing Our Climate Response

This keynote invites New York State’s Bursars and Business Administrators to view sustainability and climate action not as an added mandate, but as a practical leadership mindset grounded in fiscal stewardship, risk management, and long -term institutional resilience. Drawing on lessons from the University at Buffalo and the operational realities facing higher education, the talk explores how reframing climate challenges can reduce resistance, manage uncertainty, and unlock financially sound, scalable strategies that strengthen institutions while positioning them to thrive in a rapidly changing environment.

Presenter(s): Ryan McPherson, SUNY University at Buffalo

Location: TBD

Concurrent Sessions

2:00 – 3:00

Session I: Artificial Intelligence

Presenter(s): Dave Ghidui, Finger Lakes Community College

Location: TBD

Session II: Bursar Forum

This session is designed for those new to student accounts, student financial services, the higher education workplace or those that want a refresher on the core responsibilities of the student accounts area. This will be a safe space to ask questions and connect with other colleagues new to the industry.

Presenter(s): Jacob Kopera, Niagara University

Location: TBD

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments with the Business Partners

Location: TBD

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

General Session: Therapy 101 A Roundtable on Navigating Difficult Student Accounts Conversations

Working in Student Accounts means navigating complex, high-emotion situations everyday. From irate parents and students disputing charges to threats of legal action, policy challenges, stolen credit card information, and students in genuine financial distress, these conversations are rarely straightforward and are often deeply personal. Participants will engage in facilitated discussions at small tables. Each table will be given a real-life scenario drawn from common Student Accounts experiences. Participants will discuss how they would approach each situation, share strategies that have worked in their offices, and learn from the perspectives of colleagues across institutions. The goal is to highlight that while we all encounter similar challenges, there is no single “right” response. This session is intended to normalize the emotional complexity of Student Accounts work, foster connection among peers, and reinforce that the challenges we face are shared across institutions. Attendees will leave with new perspectives, practical ideas, and reassurance that they are not alone in navigating the hardest conversations on campus.

Facilitator(s): Kathy Meloon, SUNY University at Buffalo

Location: TBD

Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

7:30 am - 8:30 am **Breakfast & Introduction to Partner Organizations**
COHEAO, NACUBO: Bryan Dickinson; ABB: Kathy Meloon, EACUBO: Laura Hubbard

Location: TBD

8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Conference Registration**

Location: TBD

General Session

8:30 am - 9:30 am **General Session: Leading with Resiliency**

Presenter: Audrey Culver, M&T Bank

Location: TBD

9:30 am - 10:00 am **Refreshments with Business Partners**

Location: TBD

General Session

10:00 am - 11:00 am **Washington Update**

We are one year into the second Trump administration, and midterm elections are just around the corner. Will we see more legislation that impacts colleges and universities? How should institutions prepare for new regulations being promulgated at the Department of Education? Learn what's happening in Washington—both on the Hill and at the federal agencies—that might affect your office and your campus.

Presenter(s): Bryan Dickson, NACUBO

Location: TBD

Concurrent Sessions

11:00 am - 12:15 pm **Session I: Birds of a Feather- Public**

Moderator: TBD

Location: TBD

Session II: Birds of a Feather-Private

Moderator: TBD

Location: TBD

Session III: Birds of a Feather- 2-Year Public

Moderator: TBD

Location: TBD

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 -Continued

12:30 pm -1:30 pm **Lunch and Business Meeting**
Location: TBD

Concurrent Sessions

1:30 pm -2:30 pm **Session I: Managing Student Workers Roundtable Discussion**
Higher education is experiencing a severe staffing crisis characterized by high turnover, burnout, low pay, not being able to work from home and recruitment difficulties. This may result in institutions to rely more on student workers to fill operational gaps. But is this a good idea? What about confidentiality? Let's talk about it!

Presenter(s): Kelly Loss
Location: TBD

Session II: Solving the AR Puzzle: Best Practices for In-House Recovery
Are your internal collection efforts hitting a wall? Join this interactive roundtable to pull back the curtain on how different institutions manage their in-house accounts receivable. This session is designed for higher education accounts receivable professionals to exchange best practices on topics including effective communication strategies, the right time to place accounts with a third party, internal payment plans and more.

Presenter(s): Teresa Major, SUNY Brockport; Elizabeth Gorall, SUNY Brockport;
Abby Berry, Colgate University

Location: TBD

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Refreshments with Business Partners**
Location: TBD

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Session I: Securing Campus Payments: Navigating PCI v4 and eCommerce Risk**
As colleges and universities continue to expand digital and eCommerce payment options across tuition, auxiliary services, and departmental storefronts, the risks associated with handling sensitive payment data have grown significantly. At the same time, PCI DSS v4 introduces new expectations for governance, documentation, and ongoing oversight—signaling a shift away from point-in-time compliance toward continuous, campus-wide responsibility. This session will explore how higher education institutions can navigate PCI v4. while strengthening payment security across their campus merchant communities. Attendees will gain a practical understanding of what has changed in PCI v4, how those changes impact decentralized eCommerce environments, and the role business and financial leaders play in managing risk. The discussion will highlight common challenges and emerging threats facing campuses, including eCommerce skimming, phishing, third-party vendor risk, and merchant sprawl. Through best practices, real-world examples, and actionable frameworks, participants will learn how to reduce PCI scope, simplify compliance efforts, and use PCI v4 as a foundation for stronger governance, better processes, and more secure campus payment operations.

Presenter(s): Scott Manley, Touchnet & Abby Berry, Colgate

Location: TBD

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 –Continued

Session II: Student Accounts & Business Office Relationship

The Bursar's Office and Business Office may not appear to always have the same goals or timelines. That doesn't mean the relationship has to be adversarial. Join me in mapping communication strategies and building a tool box to mitigate challenges with the Business (or any) Office on campus.

Presenter(s): Robyn Meyer, Daemen University

Location: TBD

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Session I: Life Cycle of a Financial Wellness Program

Presenter: James Nowak, Arbol & abby Watson, Keuka College

Location:

Session II: Three Forces Shaping Financial Aid & Student Payments

Financial aid and bursar offices face rapid change—from evolving payer expectations and rising fraud to AI's growing influence. This session explores three trends impacting how students access aid and pay for college. Learn where friction occurs in the aid-billing journey, how to reduce fraud risk while maintaining compliance, and how AI may support operations and student engagement.

Presenter(s): Ellen Last, Illumia/Transact, Jesse Decosse, SUNY Plattsburgh

Location: TBD

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cocktail Reception

Location: TBD

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Banquet Dinner and Entertainment (Raffle Winners Announced)

Location: TBD

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 am **Conference Registration**
Location: TBD

8:00 am - 9:00 am **Breakfast**
Location: TBD

General Session

9:00 am - 10:00 am **General Session: HESC Updates**
Presenter: Lisa Simpson, Director of Grants and Scholarships, HESC
In this session, HESC will provide program changes/ updates for the 2026-27 academic year which includes program enhancements as well as changes stemming from the recent NYS budget. Most frequent questions sent to priority services will be addressed as well as any hot topics in processing. HESC has been very busy working to streamline processing and Lisa cannot wait to share the news with you. She is excited to show you what's new and what is coming including training opportunities.

Location: TBD

Concurrent Sessions

10:00am – 11:00 am **Session I: Reaching Students, Families and Departments: Communications from Student Accounts**

Presenter: Laura Stevens, SUNY University at Buffalo
& Christy Guzman, SUNY University at Buffalo

Location: TBD

Session II: Leveraging Generational Differences in the Workplace

Presenter(s): Erik Andersen, SUNY Stony Brook; Julia Barth, Trocaire College;
Marisa Hoogkamp, SUNY Plattsburgh;
Jesse Decosse, SUNY Plattsburgh;
Corinna Sutherland, Vassar College;
Susan Andrade, SUNY University at Buffalo

Location: TBD

11:00 am – 11:15am **Conference Wrap-Up & Giveaways**-Final Vendor and/or large ticket items giveaways on last day. Must be present to win!!

12:00pm Hotel Checkout