

UNYCC Educational Forum

powered by E&I Cooperative Services

November 14, 2025, Finger Lakes Community College

Room: Stage 14 @ Student Services Building

About: Sponsored by **E&I Cooperative Services**, the forum is a transformative one-day event designed exclusively for higher education professionals. This immersive event focuses on collaboration and navigating uncertainty in today's complex and ever-changing environment. This event is provided at no cost for participants.

Educational Forum Agenda: "Collaboration and Navigating Uncertainty"

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM: Registration/ Check-In and Networking Breakfast

9:45 AM – 11:15 AM: Session 1

Exploring AI in Education: Hands-On Workshops and Conversations

Summary: A dynamic 90-minute session exploring the latest in AI for education. This interactive workshop combines hands-on mini sessions with collaborative discussions, giving you practical tools, fresh ideas, and space to connect with colleagues about the opportunities and challenges of AI in teaching and learning.

Format: Tabletop Conversations (Collaborative Discussions), Mini-Workshops (Interactive Skill-Building)

Speakers: Dave Ghidui, Assistant Professor of Computer Science (FLCC) and Debora Ortloff, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM: Session 2

"Breaking Down Silos: Collaboration Across Institutions"

Summary: A study in developing cross-institutional partnerships to maximize purchasing power, reduce costs, and streamline processes. Now more than ever, we need one another.

Format: Presentation or panel-style.

Speaker: Casey Laurienzo, Vice President of Community Engagement & Education, E&I Cooperative Services

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM: Lunch Break & Networking

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM: Session 3

"Scenario Planning for an Uncertain Future"

Summary: Engage in a hands-on workshop where small groups work through hypothetical scenarios—such as budget cuts, policy changes, or supply chain disruptions—to practice collaborative problem-solving and develop action plans.

Format: Workshop - Breakouts

Facilitator: Charles Kotecki, Sourcing Consultant, E&I Cooperative Services

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM: Break

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Session 4

"Influencing Without Authority: Building Buy-In Across Departments"

Summary: Learn interpersonal and communication techniques to persuade stakeholders, gain support for

initiatives, and align cross-departmental priorities—even when you lack formal authority. Founded on negotiation and communication best practices.

Format: Presentation

Speaker: Casey Laurienzo, Vice President of Community Engagement & Education, E&I Cooperative Services

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM: Session 5 – Collaboration Hour

"Collaborative Commitments: Building a Stronger Future Together"

Summary: Recap key takeaways from the day and invite participants to commit to actions or partnerships that will strengthen collaboration across institutions.

Format: Breakout/Group Discussion

Facilitator: Casey Laurienzo & Charles Kotecki, E&I Cooperative Services

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM: Closing Remarks and Survey
