UT Austin Educational Forum

powered by E&I Cooperative Services

William C. Powers, Jr. Student Activity Center (WCP)

October 8, 2026

About: Sponsored by E&I Cooperative Services, the Educational Forum is an interactive one-day experience designed for education sector procurement professionals and adjacent organizational leaders. Through engaging presentations, collaborative workshops, and peer-to-peer discussions, participants will explore practical strategies for leading through change, strengthening partnerships, and solving today's most pressing challenges. Grounded in the belief that the best solutions come from collaboration, the Forum offers an opportunity to learn from experts, share best practices, expand your network, and leave with actionable ideas you can put to work immediately.

Educational Forum Agenda: "Better Together: Leading Through Collaboration"

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Registration and Networking Breakfast

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 AM – 10:45 AM: Session 1
AI on Campus
Summary: TBD
Format: TBD
Speaker: Jennie Wong, Slalom

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM: Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Session 2
"Stronger Together: Breaking Down Silos Through Influence and Collaboration"
Summary: Today's biggest challenges can't be solved by one department, or one institution, alone. Whether you're working with colleagues across campus(es), suppliers, peers, or external partners, success depends on your ability to build trust, gain buy-in, and influence without formal authority. Through practical communication strategies and the Relationship Action Plan framework, participants will learn how to strengthen partnerships, navigate competing priorities, and foster collaboration that leads to better outcomes for their organizations and the education community.
Format: Interactive Workshop
Facilitator: Casey Laurienzo, Vice President of Community Engagement & Education, E&I Cooperative Services

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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch Break & Networking

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Session 3
"Negotiating Big: Building Confidence for Better Outcomes"
Summary: Negotiation isn't about winning, it's about creating value. This practical session explores proven strategies to

approach difficult conversations with confidence, navigate conflict constructively, and reach mutually beneficial outcomes with suppliers, colleagues, and stakeholders. Participants will leave with practical tools they can apply in both formal negotiations and everyday workplace interactions.
Format: Interactive Workshop
Facilitator: Casey Laurienzo, Vice President of Community Engagement & Education, E&I Cooperative Services

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2:00 PM – 2:15 PM: Break

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM: Session 4
"Challenge Accepted: A Collaborative Best Practices Exchange"
Summary: Tap into the collective experience of your peers in this interactive, participant-driven session. Choose the organizational challenge most relevant to your work and collaborate with colleagues from across education to exchange ideas, tackle common obstacles, and develop practical solutions together. Discussion topics include Strategic Sourcing & Decision Making, Building High-Impact Partnerships, Operational Excellence, and Strategy & Portfolio Management. Whether you're looking to refine existing practices or discover new approaches, you'll leave with actionable ideas, fresh perspectives, and a network of peers tackling many of the same challenges.
Format: Facilitated collaborative workshop
Facilitators: Elaine Chew, Sourcing Consultant, E&I Cooperative Services

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3:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Closing Remarks and Commitments
"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: Group Discussion/Action Planning
Facilitator: E&I Cooperative Services Facilitators
