

*ACSP 2025*  
***Administrators  
Conference***



***March 27-28, 2025***  
*Denver, Colorado*



**ACSP**

Connecting educators,  
researchers and students



A city skyline at dusk with various skyscrapers and buildings illuminated against a purple and blue sky. The foreground is a blurred city street with light trails from traffic.

# Save the Date!

## October 23-25, 2025

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October 23-25 ~ Hilton Minneapolis

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# WELCOME MESSAGES

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2025 ACSP Administrators Conference, back again here in Denver, Colorado. We are excited to be meeting in person for this bi-annual event that brings together department chairs, program directors, and administrators who shape planning education and also pleased to be co-located and scheduled back-to-back with the National Planning Conference of the American Planning Association. I'm looking forward to the conversations and discussions this week that will speak directly to the challenges that we face on our university campuses and how we can find common approaches moving forward.



At the conference, you will hear from a highly regarded and accomplished academic leader Dr. Larry Bacow, President Emeritus, Harvard University in a fireside chat with Dr. Tim Chapin, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy at Florida State University about the challenges facing higher education and how it impacts our discipline. In addition, the ACSP Committee on the Academy led by Dr. Lingqian (Ivy) Hu, Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida, has put together a wonderful agenda that covers a range of topics pertinent to planning educators.

I express ACSP's sincere appreciation to our two sponsors of this year's event, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the University of Minnesota!

Thank you all for joining us, and I hope that you will find the conversations within and outside the sessions fruitful and rewarding, especially in creating a sense of community that will sustain us in the days ahead.

Warm regards,

Rayman Mohamed  
ACSP President, 2023-2025  
Chair & Professor  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
Wayne State University

The Committee on the Academy is excited to welcome you to the 2025 Administrators Conference and the newly rebranded Chairs & Directors Academy (formally the new Chairs School). In planning this conference, the committee and many dedicated speakers have recognized the increasing weight of our responsibilities in creating a meaningful and impactful experience, especially when the role of administrators becomes exponentially complex and demanding.



The conference will share information and offer support, while emphasizing strategic thinking that has long-lasting impacts even in a rapidly evolving landscape. While we readily acknowledge that no gathering can resolve every challenge, the most valuable outcome of this conference is the opportunity to cultivate peer support and build a strong, resilient network that empowers administrators, strengthens our institutions, and advances our discipline.

Lingqian (Ivy) Hu, Professor  
ACSP Committee on the Academy Chair  
Chair, Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
Associate Director, School of Landscape Architecture and Planning  
College of Design, Construction and Planning, University of Florida

## ACSP COMMITTEE ON THE ACADEMY

Chair: Lingqian (Ivy) Hu ..... University of Florida [2021-2025]  
Heather Campbell..... University of British Columbia [2023-2027]  
Tim Chapin..... Florida State University [2023 -2027]  
Elora Raymond..... Georgia Tech [2021-2025]  
Paul Smoke ..... New York University [2023-2027]  
Vonu Thakuria ..... Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey [2021-2025]  
Sandra Whitehead ..... George Washington University [2022 -2027]



# JOIN ACSP IN CONGRATULATING THE 2025 MARTIN MEYERSON AWARD WINNER

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) is thrilled to announce Larry Bacow, former President of both Harvard and Tufts University, as the winner of the 2025 Martin Meyerson Award for Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education.

Bacow will also serve as keynote, participating in a fireside chat moderated by Dean Tim Chapin of Florida State University, offering attendees a unique opportunity to engage with Larry regarding his extraordinary career and insights.

## A Legacy of Transformative Leadership

"Larry Bacow stands out as having had widespread impact on higher education broadly, as well as having moved his institutions forward substantially. Our committee enthusiastically recommends him for the 2025 ACSP Martin Meyerson Award," shared Bruce Stiftel, Award Selection Committee Chair and Professor Emeritus from the Georgia Institute of Technology, speaking on behalf of the committee, which also included Eugenie Birch of the University of Pennsylvania and Timothy Chapin of Florida State University.

Bacow's distinguished career spans decades, holding leadership roles such as center director, department head, faculty chair, Chancellor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and President of both Tufts University and Harvard University. His impact has been profound and far-reaching.

"Larry's leadership in city planning education spans decades," shared Eugenie Birch of the University of Pennsylvania. "As a faculty member and department chair at MIT, he conceived innovative programs. Later, as chancellor at MIT and president of Tufts and Harvard, he carried forth the values of city planning into the larger arena to the great benefit of thousands of students."

Bacow's commitment to accessibility, collaboration, and meaningful change is further highlighted by his ability to balance academic excellence with bold initiatives. Bish Sanyal of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology noted, "I vividly remember Larry's simple yet elegant diagram during conversations about student debt at MIT. It captured the essence of the problem and convinced administrators to address it, resulting in significantly increased financial aid for urban planning students."

## Broad Influence and Vision

Robert M. Hollister and Rachel G. Bratt of Tufts University described Bacow as "one of the most consequential university presidents in recent decades," citing his leadership in raising the public service roles of higher education and fostering global partnerships.

Bacow's leadership also extended beyond his institutions. While at Tufts, he launched the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, a global alliance representing over 450 institutions in 80 countries.

Ann Forsyth of Harvard University, highlighted Bacow's role in addressing critical issues: "In 2019, Larry established a committee to examine the legacy of slavery at Harvard. Its report, released in 2022, resulted in a \$100 million fund to implement its recommendations. Larry's leadership also saw Harvard's endowment commit to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, setting a model for other universities."

Bacow's career exemplifies the principles of leadership, service, and innovation in higher education. ACSP is honored to celebrate his remarkable contributions with the 2025 Martin Meyerson Award.

"A man with principles, a big heart, and with a vision and longing to make the world a better place for all. I cannot think of anyone who deserves the Martin Meyerson Award more than Larry Bacow," adds Bish Sanyal.

*Photograph credits to Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard Staff Photographer*



# AGENDA

All meetings will occur at the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Union Station unless otherwise noted.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, PRE-CONFERENCE

5:00pm - 7:00pm / Registration location is Wazee+Blake Rooms

7:00pm - 8:00pm / Join colleagues at Woodie Fisher at the Hilton Garden Inn, for pre-conference cocktails (optional/on your own).

## THURSDAY, MARCH 27

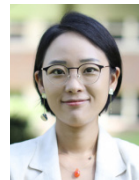
### Breakfast / Registration Open

7:00am - 8:00am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

### Plenary Session: The Art of War: Anti-DEI Actions: What planning administrators need to know

8:00am - 9:00am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Facilitator: Ivis Garcia, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University (top row left)
- April Jackson, Associate Professor, University of Illinois Chicago (top row middle)
- Kareem Usher, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University (top row right)
- Mia White, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, The New School (middle row left)
- Elizabeth Walsh, DU Grand Challenges Community Fellow, University of Denver (middle row middle)
- Berneece Herbert, Department Chair & Associate Professor, Jackson State University (middle row right)
- Minjee Kim, Assistant Professor, University of California Los Angeles (bottom row middle)
- Joaquin Lopez-Huertas, PhD student, University of Utah (bottom row right)



Amid growing political and legal attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), planners must navigate rapidly changing landscapes. This ACSP Anti-Racism Committee workshop examines recent federal and state efforts to roll back DEI, including executive orders, legislation, and the Supreme Court's affirmative action ruling. Through expert insights and interactive dialogue, participants will gain practical tools to uphold equity and inclusion in planning education and practice, despite rising opposition.

### State of the Association

9:00am - 9:30am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Rayman Mohamed, Chair & Professor, Wayne State University

ACSP President Rayman Mohamed brings you up to speed on Association activities including StudyUrbanPlanning.com, Association finances, and more.



9:30am - 9:45am **BREAK**

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## Concurrent Session: Globalizing Planning Education

9:45am - 11:15am / Larimer Room

- Ashok Das, Associate Professor and Chair, University of Hawaii at Manoa (left)
- Megan Ryerson, Chair, University of Pennsylvania (middle)
- Robert Goodspeed, Chair and Associate Professor, University of Michigan (right)



Political and policy changes in the U.S. and other countries provide a backdrop of volatility to North American planning schools' pursuit of globalizing planning education and training. Nonetheless, with the adoption of the revised PAB accreditation standards in 2022, many programs have continued to globalize their curricula and pursued expanded international student enrollment and exchanges. The session will open with short remarks by three chairs highlighting their experiences on these issues, and then the session will move into an interactive discussion of up to three topics of interest. In an age of change and uncertainty, our focus will be on concrete actions we are taking to build the planning programs and a planning field needed to shape global urbanization.

## Concurrent Session: Exploring Urban Planning Data: Insights from APA, ACSP and PAB

9:45am - 11:15am / Wynkoop Room

- Weiping Wu, Professor and Vice Provost for Academic Programs/Director, M.S. in Urban Planning program at GSAPP, Columbia University (left)
- Rayman Mohamed, Chair & Professor, Wayne State University (middle)
- Sagar Shah, Planning and Community Health Center Manager, American Planning Association (right)



Discover data that APA/AICP, ACSP, and PAB maintain and gain valuable insights into the state of the planning profession and academy. This session will delve into the spatial distribution of professional planners, faculty, students, and planning programs. Explore the changing demographics of the planners and students. Let's make this session an engaging and collaborative exploration of data on urban planning.

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11:15am - 11:30am **BREAK**

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## Luncheon and Fireside Chat with Larry Bacow, winner Martin Meyerson Award

11:30am - 1:00pm / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Bruce Stiftel, Professor Emeritus, Georgia Institute of Technology (left)
- Tim Chapin, Professor & Dean, Florida State University (middle)
- Larry Bacow, former President of both Harvard and Tufts University (right)



*"A man with principles, a big heart, and with a vision and longing to make the world a better place for all. I cannot think of anyone who deserves the Martin Meyerson Award more than Larry Bacow,"* states Bish Sanyal. Bacow will serve as keynote, participating in a fireside chat moderated by Dean Tim Chapin of Florida State University, offering attendees a unique opportunity to engage with him regarding his extraordinary career and insights.

## Plenary Session: Academic Freedom

1:00pm - 2:30pm / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Dawn Jourdan, Dean & Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland (left)
- Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Dean and Distinguished Professor, UCLA Luskin (middle)
- Ivy Hu, Professor & Chair/Associate Director, School of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Florida (right)



In 2023, ACSP commissioned a task force to consider the growing threats to academic freedom experienced by member schools. This panel seeks to share the findings of the taskforce report and to carry the conversation further to discuss the law and politics surrounding conversations of academic freedom as it relates to the planning academy. The panelists will share their experiences in navigating these threats and invite the audience to share their experiences and to practice the skills shared.

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2:30pm - 2:45pm **BREAK**

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### Concurrent Session: Undergraduate Planning Education

2:45pm - 4:15pm / Larimer Room

- Noreen McDonald, Senior Associate Dean, UNC Chapel Hill (top row left)
- Gulsah Akar, Professor and Chair, Georgia Institute of Technology (top row middle)
- Laura Dedenbach, Urban Planning and Public Service, University of Florida (top row right)
- Marc Doussard, Professor and Head, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (bottom row right)



At a session on undergraduate education during the 2023 Administrators' Conference, attendees expressed enthusiasm for new efforts to support career-oriented undergraduate education in ACSP member schools. Given this support, the Governing Board created a task force on undergraduate education. This session will present the key findings of the task force, including insights on industry needs and implications for planning education. Participants will join small-group discussions with planning programs at different stages of offering undergraduate education. We aim to explore diverse strategies to meet the industry demand and anchor planning education in real societal needs to fulfill our mission.



### Concurrent Session: How Best to Work with Deans and Higher Level Administrators

2:45pm - 4:15pm / Wynkoop Room

- Facilitator: Tim Chapin, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University (left)
- Dawn Jourdan, Dean & Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland (middle)
- Stacey Swearingen White, Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois Chicago (right)



This session is designed to help chairs, directors, and faculty learn about how best to manage up to their deans and other administrators within an institution. A seasoned set of deans will discuss how they approach working with faculty and unit heads, offer tips on ways to have more meaningful and productive meetings with them, and discuss ways to manage up to Provosts and Presidents.

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4:15pm - 4:30pm **BREAK**

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### Concurrent Session: Fostering Learning in a Changing Climate

4:30pm - 6:00pm / Larimer Room

- Ward Lyles, Associate Professor, The University of Kansas



This session aims to use the context of climate change pedagogy and curriculum to foster discussion and exchange about how planning programs can support meaningful relationships among students, faculty, and other members of our communities at a time of unprecedented uncertainty, fragmentation, and fear. Participants will first hear an update of the ACSP Climate Change Task Force's accomplishments in its first few years and its future directions in light of the US Federal administrative changes. Most of the session will then focus on small group discussion about challenges and opportunities planning programs face as we aim to advance learning in the intersecting realms of contending with climate change, advancing justice, and fostering sustainable and compassionate communities. The session aims to generate summary information that can be shared back with ACSP, particularly in regards to how variations in program context (public/private university, state/province, small/large program) shape the challenges and opportunities.

## Concurrent Session: Higher Education Leadership: Why, How and When

4:30pm - 6:00pm / Wynkoop Room

- Facilitator: Tim Chapin, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University (top row left)
- Arnab Chakraborty, Professor and Dean of the College of Architecture and Planning, The University of Utah (top row middle)
- Thomas Vicino, Professor and Dean, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University (top row right)
- Weiping Wu, Professor and Vice Provost for Academic Programs/Director, M.S. in Urban Planning program at GSAPP, Columbia University (bottom row right)



This session is aimed at demystifying the roles of deans and higher-level administrators within an institution, as well as a Call to Action to the next generation of planning, design, and policy school faculty to consider stepping into academic leadership roles. A panel of current deans discuss the processes and decision factors that shaped their thinking around higher education leadership, as well as engage in a frank discussion of the joys and challenges of full-time administrative roles.

## Dinner

**Dinner on your own**

### Dean's Dinner

6:00pm - 7:30pm / Wynkoop Brewing Company

The Deans Dinner at Wynkoop Brewing Company, located at 1634 18th Street, Denver, CO 80202, will allow for Deans to network, exchange ideas, and foster collaborative relationships. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a casual private dinner and discuss pressing issues their schools face, such as challenges in enrollment, advancements in curriculum design, strategies for enhancing diversity and inclusion, and more! Wynkoop Brewing Company was the first craft Brewery in Denver on Skid Row in the century-old J. S. Brown Mercantile Building.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 28

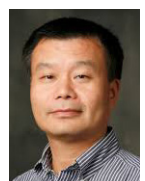
## Breakfast

7:00am - 8:00am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

## Plenary session: Accreditation's Role in Supporting Student Success: From National Trends to Program Practices

8:00am - 9:30am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Jan Friis, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, CHEA (top row left)
- John Harris, Director, The University of Oklahoma (top row middle)
- Michael Frisch, Program Director and Associate Professor, The University of Missouri - Kansas City (top row right)
- Ming Zhang, Professor, The University of Texas at Austin (bottom row right)



This session highlights trends in student learning effectiveness and accreditation, and how planning programs are improving and teaching the critical skills and competencies for today and the future. Join the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), PAB, and several planning program administrators as they discuss current challenges and opportunities in bridging accreditation and supporting student success. Three program administrators will discuss how they integrate outcomes assessments to support and enhance student learning, curriculum innovation, and career development for students. At the end of this session, audience members will have learned about national trends in student success and outcomes assessment in established professions; how accreditation motivates program efforts to support student success in planning education; and notable examples of how outcomes assessment has been used by programs to improve curriculum, advising, and career services.



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9:30am - 9:45am **BREAK**

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### **Plenary Session: ACSP Strategic Planning**

9:45am - 11:15am / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Ivis Garcia, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University



This session focuses on key administrative priorities within ACSP's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, including program support, mentorship, DEI initiatives, planning education innovation, and financial sustainability. Administrators will discuss actionable steps to enhance program enrollment, curriculum, operational excellence, and partnerships. The session aims to strengthen ACSP's role in advancing planning education, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensuring long-term institutional success.

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11:15am - 11:30pm **BREAK**

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### **Luncheon: Navigating Headwinds and Tailwinds to Higher Education**

11:30am - 1:00pm / Wazee+Blake Rooms

- Facilitator: Tim Chapin, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University (left)
- Ivy Hu, Professor & Chair/Associate Director, School of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Florida (right)



The conference closes with a plenary luncheon during which we will engage in a facilitated discussion on the current state of higher education in North America. With policy and budgetary directives flowing out of a new administration, wide political divides, AI-related upheaval, and a coming demographic cliff, higher education sits at a time of great uncertainty. The intent of this closing plenary is to recognize these headwinds and identify potential for ensuring the success of ACSP's many, diverse programs.

### **Conference Adjourned**

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - CHAIRS & DIRECTORS ACADEMY**

### **Open Session: Are They Learning What We're Teaching? A Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Training**

1:00pm - 2:15pm / Wynkoop Room

- Laurie Goldman, Senior Lecturer, Tufts University



This hands-on workshop will introduce core concepts and strategies for delineating and measuring student learning outcomes. Participants will hear about promising examples of measurement and data collection techniques for capturing the extent to which our students are actually learning what we aim to teach. You'll also start developing new ideas for assessing student learning outcomes for your planning program. The workshop aims to help you evaluate what your program is doing well and what needs improvement, both to fulfill PAB (re)accreditation requirements and to guide efforts to strengthen curriculum, teaching, and learning in your program.



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## School Session: What Do Directors/Chairs Do

1:00pm - 2:15pm / Larimer Room

- Facilitator: Tim Chapin, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University



This opening session engages with the fundamental question of “What do chairs and directors actually do?” In what ways do they pursue strategic initiatives, allocate their time, and manage the day-to-day operations of their units. Attendees will share lessons learned and best practices, with input from a mix of new and seasoned leaders.

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2:15pm - 2:30pm **BREAK**

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## School Session: Managing Difficult Situations and Conversations

2:30pm - 3:45pm / Larimer Room

- Facilitator: Tim Chapin, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University



Perhaps the hardest part of being in a leadership position is handling difficult situations and managing the faculty, staff, and students in their organization. From underperforming colleagues, challenging personalities, bad actors, and occasionally strange situations, a chair or director inevitably is faced with leading the institution’s response when things aren’t going well. This interactive, scenario-based session will allow participants to engage with example situations and reason through how best to respond.

## Extended Snack Break with Social Activity

3:45pm - 4:30pm / Larimer Room

## School Session: Maintaining Career Momentum and Returning to the Faculty

4:30pm - 5:45pm / Wynkoop Room

- Vonu Thakuriah: Distinguished Professor & Dean Emeritus, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (left)
- Ann Forsyth, Professor, Harvard University (middle)
- Clint Andrews, Associate Dean for Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (right)



For most faculty, unit level leadership is a short-term responsibility, one that usually leads to return to life as a regular faculty member. Given the demands of unit-level leadership, though, this can often be a challenge. This session, led by seasoned ACSP leaders, explores the challenges involved in maintaining career momentum while a unit head and then making the transition back to the faculty.

## Academy Adjourned



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