

Sunday, January 5, 10:00–11:15 a.m., Grand Oaks D-F

High Conflict Case Studies – Students and Parents

Following up on the morning plenary, this session will allow presidents to apply high conflict prevention lessons to a case study involving alumni and donors.

Facilitator: **Robert D. Kelly**, President, University of Portland (OR)

Students and Parents Case Study

Carryon University is a small independent college in upstate New York with about 1200 students. Student protests erupted on the Carryon campus after a US-backed NATO ally in Eastern Europe, Agitland, launched a preemptive attack on a neighboring Russian backed country, Cheekistan. Agitland claimed to have an intelligence source from Cheekistan who adamantly claimed that the Cheekistan army was mobilizing to invade Agitland.

Peaceful anti-Agitland protests started with small group of Cheekistany students at Carryon but escalated when a non-student protestors joined the movement and demanded that the university divest itself of any investments in US companies that directly or indirectly supported the Agitland government's war effort. The vocal and increasingly radical leader of the Cheekistan Student Support Committee (CSSC), a Carryon student named Enrique Bannon, began calling the Agitland government evil and genocidal and declared that the United States was complicit in the murder of Cheekistany children. A smaller group of Agitland supporters began showing up at CSSC-led protests with posters declaring that CSSC followers were un-American communist traitors. After a week of intense verbal confrontation, the CSSC declared that it would launch a sit in protest in the Carryon administration building that would last until the university met its divestment demands.

The parents of one hundred students with ethnic ties to Agitland delivered a letter to the Carryon president, Claudine Penn, that their children no longer felt safe on campus and if the protests did not end and the protestors punished, they would withdraw their children from the university. Shortly after a student wearing an Agitland scarf was arrested for spitting on a CSSC student protestor. Congressmen supporting both sides began calling on President Penn to reestablish order and threatened to hold hearings that would embarrass the university and its leadership.