

SPONSOR PROSPECTUS



The Council of Independent Colleges

2026 State Councils Annual Conference • April 28–30, 2026 Chicago, Illinois



The State Councils Annual Conference is the centerpiece of CIC State Councils programming. The conference provides state executives and their staff with a forum for face-to-face networking and an opportunity to share best practices with their institutional members. Programming at the Annual Conference includes educational sessions and various networking opportunities as well as tools for State Councils colleagues to better serve independent colleges and universities within their respective states.

CIC's 2026 State Councils Annual Conference will be held April 28–30, 2026, in Chicago, Illinois, at the [Royal Sonesta Chicago River North](#) hotel.

ABOUT CIC

CIC is an association of more than 700 nonprofit independent colleges and universities, state-based councils of independent colleges, and other higher education affiliates. CIC has a threefold mission:

- Supporting and developing campus leaders
- Advancing the excellence of member institutions
- Enhancing public understanding of the contributions independent higher education makes to society



CALL FOR SPONSORS

We invite you to join us to support CIC's 2026 State Councils Annual Conference.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

The State Councils Annual Conference provides an opportunity to cultivate high-level, meaningful relationships in an intimate setting of approximately 50 attendees. Participants represent leaders and supporting staff who make strategic decisions on behalf of statewide associations serving independent colleges and universities.

Your sponsorship supports:

- Groundbreaking discussions on higher education trends and innovative practices
- Peer-to-peer learning, which strengthens the collective voice of independent institutions nationwide
- Opportunities that help nonprofit state associations build their capacity and expand their impact

CIC greatly values our partnerships with sponsors and the benefit they provide to our state council organizations as well as member institutions. Our goal is to provide multiple opportunities for sponsors to connect and share their expertise or service with the leaders of CIC State Councils member organizations. We've developed this unique sponsorship opportunity for the State Councils Annual Conference to achieve these goals:

1. Highlight Your Organization as a Leader in Independent Higher Education

Each sponsorship arrangement promotes your organization to leaders of State Councils who serve hundreds of colleges and universities across the country.

2. Provide Thought Leadership

Sponsor levels below include the opportunity to share your organization's knowledge directly with conference participants.

3. Attend, Observe, and Gain Insight about Member Needs

Sponsor opportunities provide valuable insights into the candid discussions happening at State Councils member organizations and campuses nationwide.

4. Gain Digital Exposure

Sponsors, according to sponsorship level, are recognized across digital materials related to the State Councils, including the conference website.

5. Connect Directly with Institutional Leaders

At the State Councils Annual Conference, there will be time for sponsors to interact with members of State Councils organizations and share updates or new initiatives, as well as time for informal networking. Members of State Councils will also have dedicated time to share updates from their organizations and states.



Below are sponsorship levels available for consideration:

Premier Sponsorship

- Opportunity to lead a session during the conference
- Logo on CIC State Councils Annual Conference website
- Sponsor recognition in promotional materials, conference materials, and on signage
- Optional 6-ft. display table in conference area
- A participant list to be provided after registration closes on March 30, 2026, for a one-time use to market to participants, if sponsorship payment is received by this date
- Two complimentary sponsor registrations for attendance at the entire conference including receptions and dinners
- Opportunity to sponsor one conference reception and dinner

Higher Education Champion Sponsorship

- Opportunity to lead a session during the conference
- Logo on CIC State Councils Annual Conference website
- Sponsor recognition in promotional materials, conference materials, and on signage
- Optional 6-ft. display table in conference area
- A participant list to be provided after registration closes on March 30, 2026, for a one-time use to market to participants, if sponsorship payment is received by this date
- One complimentary sponsor registration for attendance at the entire conference including receptions and dinners
- Opportunity to sponsor offsite conference reception and dinner

Higher Education Partner Sponsorship

- Sponsor recognition in promotional materials, conference materials, and on signage
- A participant list to be provided after registration closes on March 30, 2026, for a one-time use to market to participants, if sponsorship payment is received by this date
- One complimentary sponsor registration for attendance at the entire conference including receptions and dinners
- Opportunity to sponsor one conference lunch



Higher Education Cultivator Sponsorship

- Sponsor recognition in promotional materials, conference materials, and on signage
- A participant list to be provided after registration closes on March 30, 2026, for a one-time use to market to participants, if sponsorship payment is received by this date
- One complimentary sponsor registration for attendance at the entire conference including receptions and dinners

Add-on Opportunity to Above Sponsor Levels

Wi-Fi Sponsorship

- Conference Wi-Fi is a crucial productivity tool for all conference attendees using wireless devices.
- Company name as Wi-Fi password with redirect to sponsor website for use in conference rooms (character limitations apply)
- Wi-Fi information on the general session opening slide and on table tents

DEADLINES

- All pledge forms and full payment must be received **no later than January 30, 2026**. *If payment is not received, your sponsorship will be subject to forfeiture.*
- If you have updated company logos and/or changes to descriptions previously submitted in the pledge form, those must be received by February 27, 2026, to be included in any conference materials. No changes or revisions will be accepted after this date.
- **The deadline for all sponsor registrations is March 30, 2026.** No substitutions or changes will be honored onsite. Any changes must be submitted in writing prior to the start of the conference.



The Council of
Independent Colleges

To learn more, please contact Simone Smith,
Director of Sponsorships, at (202) 552-8987 or simone.smith@cic.edu.