

Sponsor Prospectus

 The Council of Independent Colleges

2027 Presidents Institute

HUMAN HORIZONS

January 4–7, 2027 • Hilton San Diego Bayfront • San Diego, California

Call for Sponsors

Independent higher education has long championed human flourishing amidst the impersonal pressure of economic and technological change. Centering humane values such as health, creativity, relationship, integrated knowledge, place, and vocation, our institutions have the opportunity and the responsibility to lead in a dispirited and increasingly inhumane world. Join us in reimagining the ways these human horizons can help our colleges and universities thrive.



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

Participation Highlights

The 2026 Institute included 287 presidents.

708

Total Participants

296

Total Institutions

44

States Represented

4

Countries Outside
the US Represented
(Canada, Mexico,
Morocco, Pakistan)

Geographic Regions of Institutions in Attendance

Midwest	30%
Southeast	26%
Mid Atlantic	18%
West	11%
New England	7%
Far West	6%
International	2%

Enrollment (FTE) of Institutions in Attendance

Under 1,000	24%
1,000–2,000	42%
2,001–3,000	14%
Over 3,000	20%

Time in Role for Presidents in Attendance

0–1 Year	22%
2–4 Years	32%
5–7 Years	19%
8–10 Years	13%
11 or More Years	14%

CIC's Sponsor Experience

CIC greatly values our partnerships with Institute sponsors and the benefits they provide to member institutions. Our goal is to provide multiple opportunities to sponsors to network, connect face to face, and share their expertise with the leaders of CIC member colleges and universities. Here is what sponsors can expect:

- **Attend Sessions**

Our sponsors are viewed as full participants in the Institute. Sponsor representatives are encouraged to participate in nearly all aspects of the conference, including plenary, concurrent, and discussion sessions.

- **Promote Your Firm**

Sponsor display tables are placed in high-traffic areas, rather than a separate exhibit hall with limited visiting hours. Sponsors are encouraged to connect with participants during networking breaks at the Institute.

- **Share Your Expertise**

All sponsors have the opportunity to share their expertise one-on-one with participants. Selected sponsors will have opportunities to submit proposals to share their expertise formally on the program.

- **Network with Institutional Leaders**

Sponsors are encouraged to attend breakfasts, lunches, receptions, and other social events on the schedule to make or build connections.

- **Get Exposure**

Sponsors are recognized in digital event materials, including the Institute app, and throughout the event space.

- **Connect Directly with Presidents**

CIC's Institute app allows sponsors to send messages and schedule meetings with presidents and other participants.

- **Build Relationships with CIC Leadership**

The Institute includes opportunities for face-to-face discussion with CIC's senior leadership team at the invite-only Sponsor Reception and throughout the conference.

- **Host Your Own Event**

The second night of the annual Presidents Institute is left open to all participants and sponsors are encouraged to host their own receptions or dinners for Institute participants.

Benefits of Sponsorship

All sponsors, regardless of the level of support, will receive the following benefits:

- **Complimentary Registration**

One complimentary sponsor registration (including all meal functions); additional individuals from the sponsoring organization may participate by paying the non-member rate registration fee (\$1,430). See sponsor levels for details.

- **Presidents Institute Website and Institute App Visibility**

Recognition on CIC’s Presidents Institute’s dedicated sponsor webpage, as well as the Institute app, with name, logo, 100-word description, and hyperlink to the sponsor’s website.

- **Conference Promotions to CIC Members**

Acknowledgment of sponsor in email communication prior to the Institute, logo recognition during walk-in slides at plenaries, and listing in the digital program in the Institute app.

As a sponsor of the Presidents Institute, you will receive a complimentary one-year subscription (\$1,600 value) starting in December 2026 to [CIC’s Solution Center](#), a year-round virtual exhibit for the independent college sector. Here we are cataloguing vendors who provide services to member institutions. With this opportunity you will receive:

- Courtesy subscription tier based on sponsorship level
- Assignment of “sponsor” filter and tag
- Priority listing in searches

CIC shares information about listings regularly in communications to members, including marketing the Solution Center in CIC’s popular listservs.



Sponsorship Levels

PREMIER Exclusive Opportunity

You'll Receive

- Two in-person program opportunities, including one concurrent and one discussion session
 - Named Opportunity: Sponsorship signage recognition at one event during the Institute, to be determined by CIC
 - Hotel key card with sponsor logo provided to all participants staying at the Institute hotel
 - Private room provided for one-on-one consultations, if requested
 - Thirteen registrations: ten complimentary sponsor registrations (including speakers) plus three additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
 - One banner ad with hyperlink, featured in the Institute app on a rotating basis
 - Sponsor Spotlight (60-second, on-demand video) and expanded sponsor page with digital resources listed in the Institute app
 - Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
 - Up to ten-foot display table in a prominent location
 - Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
 - Company logo on event signage
-

SIGNATURE CLAIMED

Limited Opportunity

You'll Receive

- One concurrent program opportunity
- Named Opportunity: Sponsorship signage recognition at one event during the Institute, to be determined by CIC
- Thirteen registrations: ten complimentary sponsor registrations (including speakers) plus three additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
- One banner ad with hyperlink, featured in the Institute app on a rotating basis
- Sponsor Spotlight (60-second, on-demand video) and expanded sponsor page with digital resources listed in the Institute app
- Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
- Up to ten-foot display table in a prominent location
- Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
- Company logo on event signage

Sponsorship Levels

DISTINGUISHED

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Named Opportunity: Sponsorship signage recognition at one event during the Institute, to be determined by CIC
 - Eight registrations: five complimentary sponsor registrations plus three additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
 - One banner ad with hyperlink, featured in the Institute app on a rotating basis
 - Sponsor Spotlight (60-second, on-demand video) and expanded sponsor page with digital resources listed in the Institute app
 - Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
 - Six-foot display table in a prominent location
 - Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
 - Company logo on event signage
-

PATRON

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Named Opportunity: Sponsorship signage recognition at one event during the Institute, to be determined by CIC
- Eight registrations: three complimentary sponsor registrations plus five additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
- Sponsor Spotlight (60-second, on-demand video) and expanded sponsor page with digital resources listed in the Institute app
- Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
- Six-foot display table in a prominent location
- Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
- Company logo on event signage

Sponsorship Levels

BENEFACTOR

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Six registrations: three complimentary sponsor registrations plus three additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
 - Sponsor Spotlight (60-second, on-demand video) and expanded sponsor page with digital resources listed in the Institute app
 - Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
 - Six-foot display table in a prominent location
 - Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
 - Company logo on event signage
-

MAJOR DONOR

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Four registrations: two complimentary sponsor registrations plus two additional sponsor registrations at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
 - Participant list for a one-time use, prior to the Institute
 - Six-foot display table in a prominent location
 - Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
 - Company logo on event signage
-

CONTRIBUTOR

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Three registrations: two complimentary sponsor registrations plus one additional sponsor registration at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*
- Six-foot display table in a prominent location
- Company logo, description, and URL listed on conference website and in conference app
- Company logo on event signage

Sponsorship Levels

SUPPORTER

Multiple Opportunities

You'll Receive

- Two registrations: one complimentary sponsor registration plus one additional sponsor registration at the CIC non-member rate (\$1,430). *Registrations cannot be substituted or transferred.*

Note: There is no display table provided at this level. Sponsors are encouraged to attend sessions and other social events to make the most out of your sponsorship.

Add-On Opportunity to Above Sponsorship Levels

TRAVEL GRANTS

Multiple Opportunities

Consider providing travel grant support for CIC members with funding needs to participate in the Institute.

- Your generous support of \$2,500 per grant recipient will cover Institute registration fees and expenses incurred for lodging and travel.

CONFERENCE WI-FI SPONSORSHIP **CLAIMED**

Exclusive Opportunity

Sponsor the Institute Wi-Fi and use your company name as the password.

- Your company name will be used as the Wi-Fi password in conference rooms with redirect to the sponsor website (character limitations apply).
- Your company logo will appear on conference signage and on the general session opening slide.

CONFERENCE NAME BADGE SPONSORSHIP

Exclusive Opportunity

Elevate your brand with digital name badge sponsorship.

- Maximize your brand's visibility by sponsoring our new digital name badges.
- Your logo will be prominently featured on every attendee badge, including your QR code, ensuring continuous brand exposure throughout the event.
- Badges will be printed onsite at a kiosk for all participants.

Important Deadlines

Sponsorships are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note the following 2026 deadlines:

- Full sponsor payment must be received no later than **Tuesday, December 1**. If payment is not received, your sponsorship will be subject to forfeiture.
- Based on your sponsorship level, you will receive the participant list after registration closes and only if sponsorship payments are made in full by **Tuesday, December 1**.
- If you have a new company logo or description, those must be received by **Wednesday, October 21**, to be included in any conference materials. No changes or revisions will be accepted after this date.
- The deadline for all sponsor registrations is **Tuesday, December 1**. After this date, no substitutions or changes will be honored. All requests must be made in writing prior to the start of the Institute.
- Request for sponsorship cancellation must be received in writing no later than **Tuesday, December 1**. Cancellations after this date will incur a 25 percent cancellation fee.

Additional Deadlines

Premier Sponsor: Key card logo and message must be received by **Monday, November 2**.

Premier, Signature, and Distinguished Sponsors: Banner ads and hyperlinks must be received by **Wednesday, October 21**. Submissions after this date will not be accepted.

Premier, Signature, Distinguished, Patron, and Benefactor Sponsors: Spotlight videos must be received by **Wednesday, October 21**. Submissions after this date will not be accepted.

Display Table Hours

- Set Up: **Monday, January 4**, from noon until 3:00 p.m.
- Tear Down: **Thursday, January 7**, at 10:45 a.m.*

* Tables must remain intact until 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 7. Tables dismantled prior to this time will be subject to forfeiture of participation for the following year's program.

Hotel Information

Hilton San Diego Bayfront
1 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 564-3333
[Hotel Website](#)



Save the Date

JOIN US NEXT YEAR

2028 Presidents Institute
January 4–7, 2028
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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