

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (AST/PR TIME)	Registration and Continental Breakfast	Lobby, Haydeé Piñero Buck Auditorium, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM (AST/PR TIME)	<b>Opening Plenary:</b> <u>Framing with Excelencia: What works Using Data, Practice, and Leadership</u> <b>Presenter:</b> <u>Deborah A. Santiago, CEO, Excelencia in Education</u> <b>Language:</b> English	Haydeé Piñero Buck Auditorium
10:15 AM - 12:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	Coffee Station	Lobby, Haydeé Piñero Buck Auditorium, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus

TIME	CONCURRENT SESSION'S LOCATION			
	HAYDEÉ PIÑERO BUCK AUDITORIUM	HALL F (A146)	HALL F (A145)	HALL F (A144)
10:40-11:30 AM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <u>El impacto de la IA en la producción de cursos en línea</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Ana Milena Lucumi Orostegui, Miembro Coalición de IA para Puerto Rico</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Transformando el éxito estudiantil: Estrategias innovadoras para la retención y graduación</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Doris V. Rodríguez Quiles and Cristy Nieves, EDP University of PR</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <u>Analyzing microangiogenesis of porcine ischemic heart failure through immunohistochemical staining; Screening Compounds for Their Anti-Cell Proliferation Properties;</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Taylor Newton; Tina Prajapati, University of Houston-Downtown;</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Access (Track Winners):</b> <u>Models for Strengthening College and Career Pathways for Non-Credit English Language and GED Spanish Learners</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>John Hunt and David Housel, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
11:40 - 12:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Integrating technologies to support students and create meaningful connections</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Diana Melissa López Robledo, University of Puerto Rico at Ponce</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <u>Efectividad del Uso de la tecnología para ofrecimiento de servicios de tutorías</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Susana Ramirez Guedes, Derek Rosado, Fabiana Hernández, and Frances Hernández, EDP University of PR</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Online Learning (Track Winner):</b> <u>Prompt Engineering for Course Development: Wait, Confirm, Execute</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Nicholas Balderas, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Innovative Pathways: Expanding Access and Inclusion Through Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Education</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Nieves Angulo, Christelle Dejolie, Moise Koffi, and Amy Ramson, Hostos Community College, CUNY</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>



# Conference Program

## First Day | Thursday, February 12, 2026

To highlight and celebrate the outstanding work that strategically use technology to achieve student success in Higher Education!

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:30 - 1:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	LUNCH	Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	CLOSED SESSION: HETS Board of Directors Meeting	Conference Room, Chancelor's Building
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	Coffee Station	Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University Carolina Campus

TIME	CONCURRENT SESSION'S LOCATION			
	HAYDEÉ PIÑERO BUCK AUDITORIUM	HALL F (A146)	HALL F (A145)	HALL F (A144)
1:30 - 2:20 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Access:</b> <u><i>De la Habilidad Bilingüe al Profesionalismo Bilingüe: Potenciando el Vocabulario Técnico en Estudiantes de Negocios</i></u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Dr. Azucena Herrera University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <u>Enfoques Transformadores para el Desarrollo Profesional del Profesorado en Entornos de Educación a Distancia</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Margie L. Alvarez-Rivera, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Beyond the "How-To": A Dual-Framework Model to Drive Strategic LMS Adoption and Empower Student Success</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Armando A. Amador and Nieves Angulo, Hostos Community College, CUNY</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <u>The benefits of micro-internships; Using AI to Help Students with the Transfer Process; Innovating STEM Education and Community Engagement at Bronx Community College</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Celeste Meza; Jaime De Jesus Vazquez, California State University San Bernardino; John Rosa and Justin De Jesus, Bronx Community College, CUNY</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
2:30 - 3:20 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <u>Uso de la inteligencia artificial en estudiantes universitarios</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Awilda Rosa-Morales and Lillian Pintado,-Sosa, Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Gurabo Campus</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>From Chatbots to Coach Bots: Practical Uses of Generative AI in Higher Education</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Antonio Vantaggiato, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <u>The Power of Short-Form Media: The Art of Microlectures and Podcasts</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Jaime A. Rojas and Elizabeth Valdez, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <u>Agrobot and a sustainable future for humanity in space</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Elier Roman Ruiz, Sebastian Medina Maisonet,, and Carlos Laboy Orozco, Inter American University, Bayamón Campus</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
3:30 - 4:20 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Access:</b> <u>El Poder de las Segundas Oportunidades: GED Solutions como Motor de Innovación y Crecimiento Comunitario</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Presenter: Gladys Sanchez, Edgar Martinez, and David Anderson GED Solutions, Inc.</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Escalando el impacto de los servicios de carrera: un modelo estratégico replicable en educación superior</u></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <u>Norma Cervantes and Gabriel Hernández, SYMPLICITY</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <u>Higher-education alignment "Connecting Higher Education with ISOC and ICANN to Expand Access and Innovation."</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>Eng. Eduardo Díaz and Alfredo Calderón</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <u>Utilizing AI to Support in Communication with ASD Individuals; STEM with Purpose</u></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <u>John M. Esparragoza; Stephanie Chavarria and Landon Sanz, University of Houston-Downtown</u></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 - 9:00 AM (AST / PR TIME)	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>	Lobby, Haydeé Piñero Buck Auditorium, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus
9:00 - 9:15 AM (AST / PR TIME)	<b>Track Winners' Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Access by John Hunt</a> ; <a href="#">Innovation by Nitzan Pelman</a> ; <a href="#">Online Learning by Nicholas Balderas</a> ; and <a href="#">Student: Pamela Doran</a>  <b>Language:</b> English	Haydeé Piñero Buck Auditorium
10:15 AM - 12:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<b>Coffee Station</b>	Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (AST / PR TIME)	<b>CLOSED SESSION: HETS Board of Director Meeting - Corporate Session</b>	Conference Room, Chanchelor's Building

TIME	CONCURRENT SESSION'S LOCATION			
	HAYDEÉ PIÑERO BUCK AUDITORIUM	HALL F (A146)	HALL F (A145)	HALL F (A144)
10:40-11:30 AM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Innovation (Winners All Tracks):</b> <a href="#">How an AI social capital bot helped LaGuardia Community College Students land job offers through building relationships.</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Jessica Perez, LaGuardia Community College CUNY</a> and <a href="#">Nitzan Pelman, Founder &amp; CEO, Climb Together</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <a href="#">Diseñar la libertad de cátedra en la era de la IA: gobernanza académica y compliance en Online Learning</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Alice Casanova, Albizu University</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <a href="#">Innovation in Puerto Rican Robotics</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Jairon J. Carrasco Cortés, Isamar De Los Santos Ortiz, and Yamira A. Franco, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Access:</b> <a href="#">Flip of Fate: Innovative Experiential Learning in Negotiation Education</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Djordje Djordjevic, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
11: 40-12:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <a href="#">La calidad importa, pero no es suficiente: diseño de experiencias de aprendizaje en línea en la era de la IA</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">José R. Ferrer López, Catedrático, Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez, Universidad de Puerto Rico</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <a href="#">BioYarn: An Eco-Friendly Approach to The Fiber Arts; Alga Sargaco</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Andrea M. Arriaga; Genesis Matos Morales; Andrea Rodríguez</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English/Spanish</p>	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <a href="#">Digital Ethics: Fostering Integrity in the Age AI</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Roberto Rivera and Claudia Vela, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <a href="#">Framed by others: A Technology-Based Investigation of Contextual Effects on Body Perception; Using gene editing technology and AI to advance scientific investigation.</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Samantha Coronado; Richard Corsey, California State University San Bernardino</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>

# Conference Program

## Second Day | Friday, February 13, 2026

To highlight and celebrate the outstanding work that strategically use technology to achieve student success in Higher Education!

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:30 - 1:30 PM (AST/PR TIME)	LUNCH	Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (AST/PR TIME)	Coffee Station	Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus

TIME	CONCURRENT SESSION'S LOCATION			
	HAYDEÉ PIÑERO BUCK AUDITORIUM	HALL F (A146)	HALL F (A145)	HALL F (A144)
1:30 - 2:20 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Online Learning:</b> <a href="#">Tendencias Longitudinales del Desempeño en Simulaciones de Negocios</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Moises Laguna-Nieves and Gadiel Ramírez-Rodríguez, Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Cupey Campus</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Student (Track Winner):</b> <a href="#">Building Multilingual Pathways: Glossary-Informed Machine Translation</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Pamela Doran, SUNY Empire State University</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <a href="#">Puerto Rico's Cybersecurity and AI Center of Excellence</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Eric Belardo, Yarice Hidalgo and Loritza Grillasca, Raíces Cyber</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Access:</b> <a href="#">Scaling Accessibility Education: A Fellowship Program Driving Curricular and Institutional Transformation</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Rolando Méndez, Teach Access</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
2:30 - 3:20 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p><b>Access:</b> <a href="#">De briefs creativos a bots tutores: Innovaciones con IA para potenciar el éxito estudiantil</a></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> <a href="#">Iliana Ballester-Panelli, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> <a href="#">Developing Scientific and Language Skills with High-Fidelity Labs for English &amp; Chemistry Mastery in</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Abner J. Colón and Sherlie Vázquez, Ponce Health Sciences University</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <a href="#">Huntington's Disease as a Biosocial Challenge; Interactive Cuadrillas Game: Digital platform for the preservation and cultural learning of Meta, Colombia</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Sarah Alejandra; Andrey Korol Franco Calderón, Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Student Track:</b> <a href="#">AccessAble: Creating an Accessible Study Platform for Students with Dyslexia; Technology as an Academic Reset; Automating Event Management</a></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <a href="#">Stanley Hernandez; Brittany Vasquez; Jake Torres, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY</a></p> <p><b>Language:</b> English</p>
3:30 - 4:00 PM (AST/PR TIME)	<p>Closing Reception</p> <p>Jesús T. Piñero Building Square, Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus</p>			