

2025 High School Leadership Conference Agenda

Check-In, Welcome, and Keynote

8:15 am -9:00 am	Check-In- Schools will check in their students for the day and pick up schedules and materials (DSU First Floor, Grand Stairwell)
9:00 am -9:05 am	Welcome from President Timothy C. Caboni of WKU (DSU Auditorium)
9:05 am -9:30 am	Keynote address from Emily Anne Pride Sutton

Session I (9:45 am – 10:30 am)

Room Number	Session	Presenter
DSU 2113	The College Experience- Student Panel	WKU Students
DSU 3006-3007	The First Gen Experience	Cierra Waller
DSU 3020	Overcoming Obstacles in Leadership	Joey Szakacs
DSU 3003-3004	Money Matters	WKU Center for Financial Success
DSU 2081 (SGA Chambers)	DISC Personality Assessment	Bethany Smith
DSU 3005	Ethics in Leadership	Melanie Evans
Big Red Statue (1 st Floor)	Campus Tour	WKU Honors Toppers

Session II (10:45 am – 11:30 am)

Room Number	Session	Presenter
DSU 2113	The College Experience- Student Panel	WKU Students
DSU 3020	Overcoming Obstacles in Leadership	Joey Szakacs
DSU 3006-3007	The First Gen Experience	Cierra Waller
DSU 3003-3004	Money Matters	WKU Center for Financial Success
DSU 3005	Ethics in Leadership	Melanie Evans
Big Red Statue (1 st Floor)	Campus Tour	WKU Honors Toppers
DSU 2081 (SGA Chambers)	DISC Personality Assessment	Bethany Smith

LUNCH BREAK

11:30 am - 12:40 pm

FRESH FOOD COMPANY

School Advisors have passes

Session III (12:45 pm – 1:30 pm)

Room Number	Session	Presenter
DSU 2113	The College Experience- Student Panel	WKU Students
DSU 3003-3004	Money Matters	WKU Center for Financial Success
DSU 2081 (SGA Chambers)	DISC Personality Assessment	Bethany Smith
Big Red Statue (1 st Floor)	Campus Tour	WKU Honors Toppers
DSU 3020	Overcoming Obstacles in Leadership	Joey Szakacs
DSU 3005	Ethics in Leadership	Melanie Evans

Session Descriptions

Keynote Address

Emily Anne Pride Sutton serves as Health Careers and Education Specialist for the South Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center and an instructor for the WKU School of Media and Communication. Additionally, she serves as a KY Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) Senior Fellow for Student Basic Needs, providing project leadership to support KY Student Basic Needs strategy and Piazza Center Scholar and Project Coordinator for the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research. She volunteers with organizations such as Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, the Women's Fund of Southcentral Kentucky, the WKU Sisterhood, HOTEL INC, Room in the Inn, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and more. She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in organizational communication from WKU and is a Doctoral Candidate in Educational Leadership. Emily is married to Alex Sutton, a project engineer, and they are expecting their first child this Fall.

The College Experience- Student Panel

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a college student? Hear from WKU students from across campus about what it is like *actually* being a student.

Money Matters

Learn more about how to manage personal finances and more.

DISC Personality Assessment

The DISC assessment is a tool that evaluates four key behavioral traits—Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness—to understand and predict human behavior and communication styles in various situations. Learn your traits and how to implement them as a leader. Spots are limited.

Campus Tour

Receive a guided tour of WKU's campus from WKU students.

Overcoming Obstacles in Leadership

We all face obstacles in life, and some of us face more than others. Hear from graduate student, Joey Szakacs, about the challenges he has faced in leadership through his disability and growth, then work through your own challenges in leadership.

Ethics in Leadership

Sometimes being a leader requires difficult decision-making. Consider civil and ethical aspects of leadership as Melanie Evans guides you through ethical leadership scenarios.

The First Gen Experience

Are you the first generation in your family who plans to attend college? Visit this session to learn special tips and insights about what it means to be a first-generation college student and how you can capitalize on opportunities.