

2026 NJ Regional Users Group Session Descriptions

Ellucian Sessions

1. Ellucian Student Innovation

[Neché Dwyer, Ellucian](#)

What if every stage of the student journey was truly connected—from first touchpoint to graduation and beyond? At NJRUG, Ellucian will showcase key innovations across its portfolio and unveil a forward-looking product vision designed to power the entire end-to-end student lifecycle. In this session, you'll see how AI-driven insights and automation are transforming experiences at every stage—helping institutions work smarter and respond faster. Whether your focus is improving engagement, driving outcomes, or streamlining operations, you'll walk away with a clearer view of what's next.

2. Ellucian Roadmap

[Neché Dwyer, Ellucian](#)

Explore the future direction of Ellucian's solution portfolio. This session provides a high-level overview of our strategic priorities, ongoing innovation, and the vision shaping the future of our solutions to help institutions meet the evolving needs of higher education.

3. The Ellucian Student Financial Success Suite: Accelerating Impact with Targeted Solutions

[Wil Humphries, Ellucian](#)

Discover how Banner institutions are using the Ellucian Student Financial Success Suite to simplify financial aid operations, improve student engagement, and remove barriers to enrollment and retention. This session will highlight solutions including, scholarship matching, automated forms, personalized communications, and AI-powered student support. Learn how these Banner-integrated tools can enhance the student financial journey while increasing efficiency and transparency.

4. Automate Planning. Optimize Pathways. Maximize Credentials

[Jeff Relue, Ellucian](#)

Discover how your institution can automate academic planning, optimize student pathways, and increase credential attainment. In this session, we'll demonstrate how Ellucian's Smart Planning & Registration and Credential Discovery capabilities help drive student progression, maximize credentials awarded, and enhance operational efficiency.

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5. Making the Most of Lifelong Learning

Justice Anderson, Ellucian

As learner expectations, workforce demands, and funding models continue to evolve, institutions have a unique opportunity to strengthen Lifelong Learning pathways. This session explores key trends shaping higher education, the rise of skills-based learning, and strategies for connecting workforce programs, credentials, and degrees to support learner success and institutional growth.

6. Upgrading to Dynamics 365

Bishop Sanders, Ellucian

Explore Ellucian's customer-centric journey to Microsoft Dynamics 365 and the Power Platform. This session outlines the upgrade approach, institutional and Ellucian responsibilities, project resources, and post-go-live support – showing how the transition creates a more scalable, integrated foundation for future capabilities while keeping day-to-day CRM operations consistent.

User and Vendor Sessions

7. Colleague SaaS Roundtable

Gina Napurano / Elena Prudovski, Middlesex College

A collaborative forum for teammates to discuss all things SaaS. From streamlining workflows to evaluating new tools, this roundtable is our space to share real-world experiences, troubleshoot common pain points, and align on our software strategy.

8. From Analytics Implementation to Fraud Prevention at Mercer County Community College

Carolyn Walsh / Emily Bonham, Mercer County Community College / Voyatek

Mercer County Community College partnered with Voyatek to implement the Student Success Analytics Cloud platform, creating a unified foundation for strategic decision-making and operational reporting across the institution. During the implementation of the Admissions Analytics module, Mercer wondered if this tool could also be used to identify and filter out the many fraudulent and "ghost" student applications. The college extended its analytics implementation to add Voyatek's Fraud Firewall with identity verification. Join this session to learn how Mercer is identifying and preventing

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fraudulent applications before they enter the enrollment pipeline, and significantly reducing the time associated with manual fraud detection, identity verification, and data cleanup, allowing staff to focus on supporting legitimate students.

9. Strengthening Student Systems and Operational Efficiency

[Priscilla Klymenko / Andy Vaughan Felician University / SIG](#)

This session explores the collaborative overhaul of Felician University's student system infrastructure to support rapid institutional growth. Representatives will share how partnering with SIG allowed Felician to bridge resource gaps, introduce critical automation, and streamline complex compliance reporting. The presentation offers practical frameworks for evaluating system vulnerabilities and modernizing back-office operations to improve the overall student experience.

10. Using Workflow to Improve the Student Experience (Course Extensions)

[Steve Vitale / Jen Stark Thomas Edison State University](#)

Learn how Thomas Edison State University (TESU) used Ellucian Workflow to automate its course extension process, improving operational efficiency, reducing manual effort, and enhancing the student experience.

From planning to launch, follow TESU's journey as the team evaluated the strengths and shortcomings of the previous process, designed a more effective workflow, and established repeatable, reliable technical solutions that support successful student outcomes. Gain insights into key decisions, lessons learned, and best practices that can be applied to future workflow automation initiatives.

11. Modern Procurement for Modern Campuses

[Meaghan Mulligan, UniMarket](#)

Faculty expect Amazon-like purchasing. Finance expects accountability. IT expects secure, integrated systems. Procurement is expected to deliver all three.

Drawing on more than 20 years of experience leading procurement transformation across higher education – including roles in campus procurement leadership, higher education consulting, and enterprise technology implementations – Meaghan Mulligan shares practical strategies institutions are using to modernize purchasing while maximizing their investment ERP investment.

Attendees will explore how colleges and universities are extending their ERP with modern workflows, supplier management, and procurement capabilities that improve

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the faculty and staff experience, strengthen financial controls, and provide greater visibility into institutional spending.

12. Colleague Finance Roundtable

[Lori Wilkins Passaic County Community College](#)

A collaborative, peer-led forum focused on sharing best practices and troubleshooting challenges within Colleague Finance. Participants will discuss workflow efficiencies, reporting strategies, and system optimization to improve institutional fiscal operations.

13. Protecting the Nucleus: Building AI Guardrails Without Killing Innovation

[Moe Rahman, Community College of Philadelphia](#)

As AI adoption accelerates across higher education, institutions must balance innovation with responsibility. This session explores how Community College of Philadelphia developed practical AI Guardrails to address data privacy, academic integrity, transparency, human oversight, vendor risk, and accreditation expectations while still enabling meaningful AI adoption. Using the "Protecting the Nucleus" framework, attendees will gain insights into governance structures, risk-tiering approaches, AI literacy initiatives, and lessons learned from building an institution-wide framework that supports innovation without compromising trust, security, or student success.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key governance risks associated with AI adoption in higher education.
- Apply a practical framework for balancing AI innovation with institutional safeguards.
- Understand how AI governance intersects with accreditation, ethics, information security, and student success.
- Develop actionable next steps for creating or maturing AI guardrails at their own institutions.

14. Financial Aid Roundtable

[Karyn Arnold Brookdale Community College](#)

Dedicated to a discussion of financial aid operations, this interactive forum brings professionals together to discuss federal updates, workflow bottlenecks, and operational processing solutions. The session provides a collaborative space to share best practices and address common industry pain points.

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15. Registrar Roundtable

[Christine Mazza / Chris Fields Rowan University](#)

Dedicated to a discussion of registrar operations, this interactive forum brings records and registration professionals together to share insights and strategies around academic policy updates, workflow bottlenecks, and student system solutions.

16. Connecting the Dots: Turning Campus Data into Student Success

[AJ Trump / Rachael Secovnie, Bergen County Community College](#)

Student success requires collaboration across the institution. Learn how Bergen Community College is connecting Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and data-informed decision-making to break down silos, strengthen partnerships, and create a more seamless student experience that improves outcomes.