

Trustee SERIES

2024-25

11 Webinars

One Hour: 3-4 p.m. CT / 4-5 p.m. ET

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webinars

Navigating Challenging Conversations at School

Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:30–4 p.m. CT / 3:30–5 p.m. ET *90min session*

Dive into the principles and practices that make civil discourse effective, and learn how to align them with your school's mission. Participate in engaging activities and gain tools to engage in productive discussions on social and political issues. In addition, explore techniques that foster mutual understanding and encourage respectful dialogue. You'll delve into the role of language, and how it can signal openness or intolerance toward differing viewpoints. Finally, discover strategies to embrace diverse perspectives and create an atmosphere of inclusivity.

Presenters: **Blake Kohn** *National Network of Schools in Partnership & Close Up Foundation*
Scot Wilson *Close Up Foundation*

Onboarding: Beyond Orientation

Thursday, September 26, 2024 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

You have welcomed your new trustees and provided them with a well-designed board orientation. Great work! But the process of onboarding board members extends far beyond those important initial steps. With board compositions evolving annually, fostering a positive and efficient board culture requires ongoing effort and dedication.

Presenter: **Lynn Wendell** *Independent School Governance Expert*

Your Board & AI Policy Considerations

Thursday, October 24, 2024 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

What is the role for trustees in leading a school's AI efforts? Join us for an interactive conversation to explore the roles trustees, administrators, faculty, and students should play in shaping a school's AI philosophy. The Association of Technology Leaders in Independent Schools (ATLIS) will share templates and resources available for school leaders on the best ways to support schools in a quickly changing environment.

Presenters: **Christina Lewellen** *ATLIS*
Ashley Cross *ATLIS*

The Promise of Pluralism in a Time of Prejudice & Polarization

Thursday, November 21, 2024 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

We live in a deeply divided country with rising levels of distrust and isolation, in which religious and cultural diversity are often seen as sources of division rather than as a foundation for cooperation. In these fraught times, we need leaders who can foster pluralism as an antidote to rising prejudice and polarization. Our schools are uniquely situated to promote and practice pluralism and serve as a model for the rest of society. Please join Patel for this important conversation for independent school trustees on how to create space to model pluralism.

Presenter: **Eboo Patel** *Interfaith America*

webinars

bonus webinar: Board Chair Roundtable I

Thursday, December 12, 2024 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Note: For current and incoming board chairs only. These sessions will not be recorded.

Join us for a facilitated conversation on the issues confronting board chairs. Peluchowski invites your participation to share and hear from peers.

Facilitator: **Georgy Ann Peluchowski** *Greenwich Leadership Partners*

The Board's Role in Enrollment & Retention

Thursday, January 23, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Enrollment is the lifeblood of independent schools with tuition bringing in approximately 80% of independent schools' overall revenue. In this webinar, hear from a former enrollment director about how you can support enrollment management efforts at your school. Learn what you should (and shouldn't) do in your role as trustee and how you can support the various stages of the enrollment lifecycle.

Presenter: **Mark Copestake** *Enrollment Management Association (EMA)*

Turning Down the Heat

Thursday, February 20, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Sometimes, emotions—ours or those of others—catch us by surprise. During this webinar, we will discuss strategies for helping communities better communicate and avoid situations that, with forethought, can be less emotionally charged. Planful interpersonal communication practices and institutional policies can support a culture of kindness and clarity. We will discuss preventative behaviors that help communities avoid conflict and work more collaboratively to build healthy partnerships between home, school, and alumni communities.

Presenters: **Catherine Braendel** *Cain Barrett Strategies*
Alison Carnduff *Cain Barrett Strategies*

Design for Culture

Thursday, March 13, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Discussing school culture can feel like tackling a shadow—ambiguous and elusive, yet central to a school's success. Many schools struggle with the healthy evolution of their culture due to a lack of clarity and honest assessment, leading to stagnation. This webinar employs a design thinking approach to help leadership gain fresh insights into your school's culture. Join us to identify and implement actionable steps that will effectively shape and enhance your educational environment.

Presenters: **Antonio Viva** *Leadership+Design*
Greg Bamford *Leadership+Design*

webinars

Independent School Philanthropy Reimagined: Bold Strategies for Trustees

Thursday, April 17, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Independent schools striving to meet ambitious fundraising targets often fall short due to inadequate trustee training or outdated approaches. In this webinar, we'll revolutionize your approach to philanthropy, moving beyond outdated tactics and demographic-based analyses. Instead, we'll delve deep into understanding donors' values, motivations, and aspirations, enabling you to craft more impactful appeals and acknowledgments. Say goodbye to outdated practices that inadvertently perpetuate donor saviorism. Gain invaluable insights into equitable fundraising strategies that resonate with evolving philanthropic norms, positioning your school for unprecedented success.

Presenter: **Romayne Levee** *Mission Minded*

bonus webinar: Board Chair Roundtable II

Thursday, May 8, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Note: **For current and incoming board chairs only.** *These sessions will not be recorded.*

Join us for a facilitated conversation on the issues confronting board chairs. Former board chairs Katz and Waters invite your participation to share and hear from peers.

Facilitators: **Lucinda Lee Katz** *Former Head of School & Board Chair*
Irvenia Waters *Former Board Chair & Executive Coach*

Crunching Numbers, Making Waves: Linking Accreditation Data & Governance Challenges

Thursday, May 22, 2025 3–4 p.m. CT / 4–5 p.m. ET

Join us for an engaging webinar where we explore the cornerstone of school strength and sustainability: a dynamic board. We'll tackle the common, widespread, and deeply entrenched governance challenges head-on. Delve into groundbreaking research from the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), uncovering the vital link between accreditation recommendations and governance hurdles. Learn how to navigate these challenges as we unveil actionable recommendations designed to empower your school to lead the way in governance excellence. Join the conversation as we answer two crucial questions: What are the governance challenges schools are facing, and how can boards take proactive steps to enhance governance practices?

Presenters: **Jefferson Burnett** *ICAISA*
Bonnie J. Ricci *ICAISA*

presenters



Greg Bamford is a co-founder and senior partner of Leadership+Design. Prior to this, he was associate head of school for strategy and innovation at Charles Wright Academy and head of school at Watershed School. He is currently on the board of his alma mater, The Overlake School. Bamford brings a strategic lens to leadership development, innovation, and change management. He has been a speaker at conferences and his writing has appeared in publications such as Independent School, Net Assets, and The Yield.

[Design for Culture](#) | [March 13, 2025](#)



Catherine Braendel of Cain Barrett Strategies is dedicated to helping schools, businesses, and nonprofits work constructively and effectively towards shared goals through workshops, coaching leaders, and helping improve communications—skills, stories, strategies. Previously she was the strategic advisor to the head of school and head of communications & marketing at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, and as vice president of communications and marketing at Illinois Tech.

[Turning Down the Heat](#) | [February 20, 2025](#)



Jefferson Burnett is an advisor to independent school leaders and board chairs. With over 30 years at the National Association of Independent Schools, he sits on the boards of the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools and the Association of Secondary School International Students and Teachers. He is a councilor-at-large at the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation and been a trustee at the Washington International School.

[Crunching Numbers, Making Waves](#) | [May 22, 2025](#)



Alison Carnduff of Cain Barret Strategies provides leadership and management consulting services to businesses and mission-driven organizations. Her practice focuses on assisting teams seeking to improve results through enhancing team effectiveness and leadership capability. Carnduff leads teams to improved alignment, shared vision, and renewed commitment to specific implementation plans. Previously she served in several leadership capacities during her 25+ year career in real estate development, acquisitions, and finance.

[Turning Down the Heat](#) | [February 20, 2025](#)



Mark Copestake is the senior director of professional development at the Enrollment Management Association (EMA). Before joining EMA, he held key roles at Latin School of Chicago and Lake Forest Academy. His experience also includes admissions and leadership positions at prestigious institutions like the University of Cambridge and University College London, as well as work with the Social Mobility Foundation.

[The Board's Role in Enrollment & Retention](#) | [January 23, 2025](#)



Ashley Cross, EdD, CAE is the senior director of education and content at ATLIS. Cross leads discussions with industry experts on crucial topics like data privacy, cybersecurity, and AI in schools. Her research includes a National Science Foundation grant focusing on STEM education across the globe and doctoral work at Pepperdine University delving into the use of makerspaces for hands-on learning in K-12 education. Beyond her role at ATLIS, Cross serves on the board of Summit Preparatory School.

[Your Board & AI Policy Considerations](#) | [October 24, 2024](#)



Lucinda Lee Katz is a board governance consultant and executive coach. Her background includes 14 years as the head of school for Marin Country Day School, roles as chief education officer for Mayor Daley in Chicago, and head of school and principal at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. She served as the vice chair and on the editorial board of NAIS, past president of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), and board chair for ISACS. She has also contributed her expertise to three private school boards in California.

[Board Chair Roundtable II](#) | [May 8, 2025](#)



Blake Kohn is the executive director of the National Network of Schools in Partnership (NNSP) and Senior Advisor at the Close Up Foundation. Over the past decade, she has shaped NNSP's growth, built its reputation, and championed school collaboration. Before NNSP, she worked at Ravenscroft School and Oldfields School in teaching and administrative roles.

[Navigating Challenging Conversations at School](#) | [August 8, 2024](#)

presenters



Romayne Levee is a partner and director of education strategy at mission minded. She specializes in helping independent schools and educational organizations enhance their visibility through strategic communications. Levee has crafted strategic plans for schools nationwide, including Columbus School for Girls, Friends School of Baltimore, and University High School of San Francisco. She is also the founding board chair of Vistamar School and sits on the board of Lewis & Clark College.
[Independent School Philanthropy Reimagined](#) | [April 17, 2025](#)



Christina Lewellen, MBA, CAE has been the executive director of ATLAS since 2019. With a data-driven approach, she leads strategic business planning. Lewellen holds an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and is a Certified Association Executive. She is a trustee at the Harmony Foundation International and serves on the board of the Virginia Society of Association Executives.
[Your Board & AI Policy Considerations](#) | [October 24, 2024](#)



Eboo Patel is founder and president of Interfaith America, the leading interfaith organization in the United States. Under his leadership, Interfaith America has worked with governments, universities, private companies, and civic organizations to make faith a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. Patel served on President Obama's Inaugural Faith Council, has given hundreds of keynote addresses, and has written five books, including *We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy*. He is an Ashoka Fellow and holds a doctorate from Oxford University.
[The Promise of Pluralism in a Time of Prejudice & Polarization](#) | [November 21, 2024](#)



Georgy Ann Peluchowski is a partner at Greenwich Leadership Partners with decades of experience in financial services, nonprofit board service, strategic planning, organization design, enterprise risk management, and independent school leadership. Within her 12-year tenure as a trustee at the Latin School of Chicago, she served as board chair, treasurer and chair of the finance committee. Currently, she co-chairs Latin's Senior Advisory Council and serves on the boards of the Independent School Chairperson's Association and High Jump Chicago.
[Board Chair Roundtable I](#) | [December 12, 2024](#)



Bonnie J. Ricci is the executive director at ICAISA. She held various roles at independent schools, including teacher, advisor, coach, and head of school. She has dedicated a decade to leadership in accreditation, professional development, and governance at the Association of Independent Schools in New England. She has served on the boards of the Lesley Ellis School, the Schools for Children, Inc., and Apprentice Learning.
[Crunching Numbers, Making Waves](#) | [May 22, 2025](#)



Antonio Viva is a partner at Leadership+Design. Before joining the team, he led Artisans Asylum, a renowned makerspace. Prior to that, he spent 12 years as head of school at Walnut Hill School for the Arts. As a child of immigrants and a first-generation college graduate, he is passionate about diversity and inclusion. His expertise spans global risks, creativity, design, and leadership.
[Design for Culture](#) | [March 13, 2025](#)



Irvenia Waters, MBA is an executive coach, team performance coach, and consultant with over three decades of experience. Waters specializes in management consulting, strategy planning and execution, leadership development, and group facilitation. She has collaborated with numerous independent schools and nonprofits and has provided leadership on boards within both sectors.
[Board Chair Roundtable I](#) | [December 12, 2024](#)



Lynn Wendell has worked as a consultant at more than 90 independent schools and nonprofits. She served as a trustee at three independent schools and as board chair at San Francisco University High School. In addition, she has served on nonprofit boards, board committees, and advisory councils.
[Onboarding: Beyond Orientation](#) | [September 26, 2024](#)



Scot Wilson is Close Up's vice president of academics. His main interests are political polarization, economic issues, and the relationship between culture and politics. Born in Cuba, he lived in Italy and Spain before attending college at George Washington University. He is working on his PhD from Indiana University in teacher education and curriculum studies with a minor in political theory. Wilson is on the leadership group of the Teaching for Democracy Alliance, a coalition of civic education organizations working to promote teaching about elections and voting.
[Navigating Challenging Conversations at School](#) | [August 8, 2024](#)

registration + fees

Series Registration Fee

(Fee covers entire board & head of school for all 11 webinars)

ISACS member schools:
\$600 per school

Non-member schools:
\$700 per school

IMPORTANT: Only *one registration per school* is needed for your school to receive access to the entire Trustee Series.

Please have ONE designated contact person register for your school at isacs.org/trusteeries

[Register Your School](#)

Please note: There are no refunds for the Trustee Series.

Zoom Pre-registration

Prior to each webinar, ISACS will send reminder emails to the school's contact person with details including the Zoom pre-registration link for that webinar.

Trustees and heads who plan to attend the live presentation must complete a Zoom pre-registration prior to EACH webinar.

Recording Access

Webinars will be recorded and available to registered schools until June 30, 2025. The Board Chair Roundtables will not be recorded.

Questions?

Contact programinfo@isacs.org.

Learn more at
isacs.org/trusteeries



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