



# ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

*Oct 10th, 2024*

**HOSTED BY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

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*Restart and Renew*

## LOCATION

*UA Student Center*

The University of Alabama Student Center is the heart of The University of Alabama's campus. From grabbing coffee or a meal to providing space to hang out and relax with friends, you can find a place for most anything within the walls of the Student Center. [Learn more about the UA Student Center here.](#)

All conference sessions will be located on 3rd Floor of the building

The Physical Address is 751 Campus Drive West, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

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## SCHEDULE

<b>8:30-9:00AM</b>	<b>CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST</b>
<b>9:00-9:50AM</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; OPENING SESSION</b>
<b>10:00-10:50AM</b>	<b>PROGRAM SESSIONS 1</b>
<b>11:00-11:50AM</b>	<b>PROGRAM SESSIONS 2</b>
<b>12:00-1:00PM</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1:00-1:50PM</b>	<b>PROGRAM SESSIONS 3</b>
<b>2:00-3:00PM</b>	<b>BUSINESS MEETING / CLOSING</b>
<b>3:15-4:00PM</b>	<b>AVAILABLE TOUR</b>

# OPENING SESSION

Hosted by ALAHO Past-President, Dr. Jeremy Sheffield, we will start our conference with a guided panel discussion involving senior housing officers across the state about the field, trends, areas of growth, and concerns they are seeing that impact housing organizations and professionals.

## SPONSORS

ALAHO wants to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for this year's conference. Please tap their logos to go to their website and learn more.



# 10:00-10:50AM

# PROGRAM SESSIONS

**ROOM  
3114**

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN HOUSING**

*Dr. Jeremy Sheffield, University of South Alabama*

Targeted towards entry-level and mid-level professionals this presentation will focus on exposure to budgeting terms, the budget cycle, understanding varying sources of revenue, how to read and interpret a budget, and creating a long-term financial management plan.

**ROOM  
3700**

## **ELEVATING YOUR SUPERVISION**

*Kait Webster & Michael Chavers, University of Alabama*

Explore methods for finding inspiration from various sources to elevate your supervision skills and improve your team dynamics. It is never too late to renew one's intentions as a supervisor and find ways to better connect with and support your team. Supervision is an area where staff can continuously assess and renew their approach.

**ROOM  
3107**

## **A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR HOUSING MASTER PLANNING**

*Dr. Matt Kerch (UA), Nyerere Tryman (Auburn), & Neil McMillion (UAH)*

Housing departments of any size struggle with identifying which areas to prioritize while developing long-term planning documents, deferred maintenance needs, and annual upkeep of residence halls. There is an increasing need to develop long-range housing planning documents at institutions. Strategies will be shared during this session with participants that highlight how projects were successful, due in large part to data driven decision-making informing smart fiscal practices, strategic planning, and promoting the importance of living on campus. It is necessary to effectively plan for future needs, in order to ensure the continued success of residential system operations. Attendees will be able to identify the changes that need to occur in residence halls, and begin the planning process to achieve these goals. Always remember that your buildings are a reflection of your department and institution – So, what message are you sending?

**ROOM  
3111**

## **A FRESH START: RENEWING YOUR APPROACH TO RA HIRING**

*Hannah Colvin & Nicole Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Ready to revitalize your Resident Assistant recruitment and selection process? This hybrid session offers a thorough overview of UAH's approach, covering essential stages such as recruitment strategies, the selection timeline, and effective interview practices. Participants will explore resources, including one-way interviews and the use of a checkbox scoring system, for successful hiring. The session will end with a roundtable discussion, fostering engagement and collaboration as attendees share questions and insights. Join us to enhance your understanding and refine your hiring practices!

**ROOM  
3108**

## **ENTERING THE HOUSING WORLD WITH CONFIDENCE**

*Kaylea Hudson, University of Alabama*

Entering the housing world can seem daunting and overwhelming. This program is designed to help professionals who have recently entered the housing world establish confidence and a framework for success. Ideas discussed and strategies recommended can also be used in onboarding sessions to improve the training process at your University. Come to this presentation to empower you or your new hires to Enter the Housing World with Confidence!



**OR TAP HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR  
PROGRAM EVALUATION**

# 11:00-11:50AM

# PROGRAM SESSIONS

**ROOM  
3114**

## **FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS ON-CAMPUS**

*Stephany Godinez, University of Alabama*

The number of First Generation students on campus have grown over the years. Finding ways to connect with students that have a different experience arriving to your institution is vital for their success. How should you cater to their interest and keep them involved if they do not have the correct support system? Learn how to design hall programs and what UA is doing around campus to include First Generation students.

**ROOM  
3700**

## **ENGAGE & ELEVATE: TRANSFORMING TRAINING INTO A FUN ADVENTURE**

*Reagan McKelvey, University of Alabama*

Get ready to revolutionize your training experience! In this engaging session, we'll explore how to make training sessions lively and inclusive. We'll kick things off with a creative icebreaker, then dive into the significance of neurodivergence and effective accommodations. Learn to choose themes that enhance participation, create exciting challenges, and foster team building through a fun points system. From dress-up days to scavenger hunts, discover practical examples for any university size. Join us to unlock strategies that will transform your training into an unforgettable adventure for everyone involved!

**ROOM  
3107**

## **PREPARING TO INTERVIEW: THE NEXT LEVEL**

*Joe Kelley, University of Alabama*

Have you considered applying for a mid-level or upper level position? Come explore ways to prepare yourself to be ready for that next level interview. This session will discuss what to do currently in your position, how to prepare interview responses, and resume/cover letter writing to show you are ready for that promotion. This session will combine real life experience with tangible take away items to help you prepare for the mid-level interview process.

**ROOM  
3111**

## **UNDERSTANDING COMMUNICATION STYLES FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

*Savannah Dorriety, University of Alabama*

Communication is a vital skill for effective leadership, but with different people come different communication styles. A good leader should be able to communicate across styles effectively. This presentation aims to equip participants with an understanding of various communication styles and their impact on leadership. By exploring different approaches to communication, we can enhance interpersonal relationships, foster collaboration, and drive success.



**OR TAP HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR  
PROGRAM EVALUATION**

**1:00-1:50PM**

# **PROGRAM SESSIONS**

**ROOM  
3114**

## **FROM “HEAR ME OUT” TO “HERE YOU GO”: MASTERING THE ART OF IDEA IMPLEMENTATION**

*Nicole Smith & Hannah Colvin, University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Ready to turn your ideas into action? Join us for a dynamic session that will equip you with the tools to transform your concepts into successful plans. Discover the SPARKLE Framework, a practical guide through each project stage, from idea generation to execution. You'll gain insights from real-world examples, learning how we've converted “hear me out” moments into impactful results. By the end of the session, you'll have the skills and confidence to drive your ideas forward and make a meaningful impact in your role and organization. Don't miss this opportunity to turn your creative visions into reality.

**ROOM  
3700**

## **SB129 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

*Maya Walker, University of Alabama*

In this session, staff from each institution have the opportunity to participate in a round table discussion regarding the effects of SB129, how each institution is working to abide by SB129, and how each institution is ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and opportunity for all residents/students.

**ROOM  
3107**

## **MENTAL WELLBEING OF RESIDENT ADVISORS: THE UNIQUE IMPACT CRISIS HAS ON STUDENT STAFF**

*Grey Smith, University of Alabama*

Our RAs are often the first people on the scene when crisis occurs in a residence hall. As a supervisor, it is important to provide the support and resources necessary to prevent burnout and secondary trauma associated with crisis response. We will review what the current data tells us about Resident Advisors and their mental wellbeing, how we can be proactive to mitigate the impact an incident can have on an RA, as well as look at how to strengthen your staff after an incident has occurred.

**ROOM  
3111**

## **LEADING OUR LEADERS: A GUIDE TO STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*Caleb Sanders, University of South Alabama*

This presentation focuses on effective strategies for fostering student leadership development from a supervisory perspective. Emphasizing experiential learning and peer mentorship, we aim to help participants equip students with essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Through interactive leadership assessments and analyses, we hope to outline key characteristics that create a culture of leadership within educational environments. Supervisors will gain actionable insights to support and empower student leaders, ensuring they can make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.



**OR TAP HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR  
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