



Rural Community College Alliance

LEARNING ACADEMIES

☀️ **New Opportunity from RCCA: The 2025–2026 RCCA Rural Learning Academies** ☀️ **Empower Rural Innovation. Advance Institutional Excellence**

The Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) is proud to launch the Rural Learning Academies, a transformative one-year leadership experience for rural community colleges. This opportunity blends hands-on application, personalized support, and peer collaboration to drive long-term institutional change.

Two Academy Tracks to Choose From:

Fund Development Academy

Facilitator: Dr. John J. Rainone, President, Mountain Gateway Community College (VA)

With over \$55 million raised, Dr. Rainone brings decades of fundraising and nonprofit leadership expertise.

The Fund Development Academy will assist college leadership in developing a strategy and plan for building and diversifying your college's funding streams through:

- Advocacy with local, state, and federal leaders
- Donor and sponsor cultivation
- Grant writing and fund management
- Philanthropy-driven culture-building
- Alumni engagement strategies

Student Success Academy

Facilitator: Dr. Elizabeth Cox Brand, Executive Director, Oregon Student Success Center

Dr. Brand, a rural first-gen college graduate, leads one of the most recognized student success efforts in the country.

The Student Success Academy will assist college leadership in developing a strategy and plan for redesigning your college's student success strategies with a focus on:

- High-impact advising and student support
- Guided academic pathways
- Closing equity gaps for rural learners
- Holistic, student-ready college models

One-Year College Commitment:

- September 2025–September 2026
- Attend RCCA Annual Conferences (2025 + 2026)
- Monthly virtual check-ins & quarterly webinars
- Final presentation of your Academy plan at the 2026 Conference

Benefits:

- RCCA-subsidized travel support
- One-on-one and group consultation
- Participation in a learning community with nationally respected experts
- A completed institutional action plan

🔗 **Ready to Join? Apply by [clicking here](#)**

Spots are limited—only 5 colleges per track will be selected!