

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Luncheon and Keynote

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

Symposium Luncheon Keynote

David Weerts, Ph.D.

David J. Weerts is Professor of Higher Education in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and Associate Vice Provost for Public Engagement for the University of Minnesota System. Over the past twenty-five years, Professor Weerts's research and teaching has focused on higher education leadership and organizations, particularly in the areas of university-community engagement, state financing of higher education, and institutional advancement. His research on these topics has appeared in leading academic journals including Teachers College Record, The Journal of Higher Education, Research in Higher Education, and Review of Higher Education.

Professor Weerts is active in national leadership initiatives to support university engagement and outreach across the U.S. and internationally. He served two terms on the executive committee for the Council on Engagement and Outreach for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and currently serves on the board of directors for the Seed Coalition (formerly Iowa-Minnesota Campus Compact). In addition, he directs the Engagement Academy for University Leaders, a professional development program designed for mid-career and senior leaders of engagement. The program has trained over 1,300 leaders across 160 institutions and 5 countries. Professor Weerts earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was inducted into the Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) in 2025.