

NSLA College Access and Summer Melt Professional Learning Community

What Members Receive | 2026–2027 Year at a Glance

Connect Your Campus Programs to the Broader Summer-Learning Field

NSLA's College Access and Summer Melt Professional Learning Community is a free national network connecting colleges, universities, and their partners with educators, school districts, community-based organizations, funders, policymakers, workforce partners, and summer-learning practitioners across the country.

The PLC brings together leaders responsible for the full range of summer learning connected to colleges and universities, including residential and nonresidential K–12 programs, gifted and enrichment experiences, pre-college and college-access initiatives, residential youth programs, career-connected learning, and summer start or bridge programs for admitted students preparing to enter college.

On the NSLA registration form, select: University Partnerships: Summer On-Campus Impact

What Members Receive

All PLC programming advances NSLA's mission to ensure that every young person in America regardless of background, income, or zip code can access and benefit from a high-quality summer-learning experience.

Three Focused PLC Sessions

Participate in three facilitated virtual sessions during the year addressing timely issues affecting summer programs. Recordings will be shared with everyone who registers, whether or not they can attend live.

Practical Tools and Expert Resources

Gain access to guest speakers, planning resources, implementation ideas, NSLA research, policy information, and examples from across the wider summer-learning field.

Visibility and Recognition Opportunities

Receive information about DiscoverSummer.org, National Summer Learning Week, the Summer Learning Awards, program storytelling, and other opportunities to elevate your institution's work.

Peer Insight and Benchmarking

Learn how other institutions are approaching enrollment, staffing, curriculum, student support, access, technology, partnerships, and emerging challenges through participant surveys, field scans, and peer exchange.

Connections Beyond Higher Education

Build relationships with school districts, community-based organizations, college-access groups, scholarship providers, funders, government agencies, workforce organizations, and other potential partners.

A Year-Round Calendar of Opportunities

Stay connected to NSLA webinars, summits, bootcamps, regional tours, professional resources, and national events, along with NAASS conferences and regional activities.

Participation is free and designed to complement your NAASS membership while connecting your institution to the wider summer-learning ecosystem.

2026–2027 PLC Year at a Glance

Summer 2026

July 6-10, 2026

National Summer Learning Week

#SummerLearningWeek

A nationwide celebration that elevates the importance of summer learning in keeping young people engaged, safe, and healthy during the summer months. This week shines a spotlight on the vital role high-quality summer programs play in supporting student success and closing the opportunity gap.

Media tool-kit: [Download](#)

Celebrate your summer program and [share your event](#) with us to be featured during the week!

Fall 2026

October

From Debrief to Design

What Summer 2026 Taught Us and What 2027 Will Demand

A survey-informed reflection and planning session focused on lessons from summer 2026 and priorities for 2027.

- A summary of peer findings and emerging trends
- Promising practices and shared lessons from summer 2026
- Cross-sector perspectives from the broader NSLA network
- Practical planning considerations for summer 2027

Winter 2027

January

Future-Ready Summer

AI, Emerging Technologies, and the Changing World of Work

A forward-looking session examining how artificial intelligence, automation, emerging technologies, and changing workforce expectations may influence k-12 summer-program strategy, curriculum, and university partnerships.

- A Future of Work and Summer Learning briefing
- Findings from the participant field scan
- Examples of emerging programs and partnership models
- Connections to guest experts and peer institutions

Spring 2027

March

Who Pays for Summer?

Scholarship Matchmaking, Last-Dollar Funding, and Access

A practical funding and partnership exchange focused on helping more students participate in high-quality summer opportunities.

- New funding, referral, and partnership contacts
- Information about scholarship and access resources
- Strategies for communicating opportunities to students and families
- Ideas for strengthening university–school–community partnerships



Related 2026 PLC Member Opportunities

September 29–October 1, 2026 : NSLA Summer Starts in September Webinar + Meet & Greet

- Day 1 Webinar: Reflection, Impact, and Innovation: An interactive webinar featuring lessons learned from summer 2026, how to measure and communicate your impact, funding strategies for 2027, innovative program approaches, workforce development highlights, and more.
- Day 2 Working Session: Connections, Collaboration, and 2027 Planning: An interactive space to connect with NSLA's Professional Learning Community leads and meet key partners in breakout rooms. Walk away with resources, contacts, and next steps you need for 2027 planning.

National Conference

With the NAASS and NSLA national gatherings taking place in Washington during the same time, opportunities may be explored for a shared reception, session, meet-up, or cross-sector networking experience.

- **November 8–10, 2026** : NAASS Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- **November 9–11, 2026** : NSLA Summer Learning Summit, Washington, D.C.

Additional Opportunities to Watch

- NSLA Summer Planning Bootcamp
- Get Ready for Summer Tour events
- National Summer Learning Week
- Summer Learning Awards
- Summer Policy Internship nominations
- Regional gatherings, site visits, and collaborative projects

Dates and details will be shared as NSLA's 2027 calendar is confirmed.

PLC Leadership

The PLC is led by **Esteban Olivares**, Principal Consultant of Ollin EDU, longtime NAASS member, and higher education summer-program leader with experience across K–12 programs, pre-college education, college access, summer bridge, student success, university partnerships, learning systems, and workforce-connected programming.

Join the PLC

Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TX7VD78>

On the registration form, select:

University Partnerships: Summer On-Campus Impact

Questions? Esteban Olivares
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