

2022 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting Onsite Conference to feature speaker Paul LeBlanc

BY MARISSA DECHANT

The 2022 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting Onsite Conference will be held June 22-23 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. Paul LeBlanc, president of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), will be featured as the keynote speaker at this year's conference.



Paul LeBlanc

LeBlanc has served as president of SNHU since 2003. The university has grown from 10,000 students to more than 165,000 learners under his leadership, and it is the largest nonprofit provider of online higher education in the country. It was ranked #12 on Fast Company magazine's "World's Fifty Most Innovative Companies" list—the only university to be included.

Forbes has named LeBlanc one of its 15 "Classroom Revolutionaries" and one of the "most influential people in higher education." The author of *Students First: Equity, Access, and Opportunity in Higher Education*, he served as senior policy advisor to Secretary Ted Mitchell at the US Department of Education, working on competency-based education, new accreditation pathways, and innovation.

"In higher education—where change doesn't come easily—Paul LeBlanc is an innovator, guided by the ideal of putting student learning first," said ATS Executive Director Frank Yamada. "He is a reformer. Through his vision and leadership, he has transformed the university into a place that emphasizes what students need from

their education while providing increased access and affordability to first-generation students and underserved communities."

Charla Long is president of the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN) and leads C-BEN's Consulting Services, which is dedicated to helping institutions with competency-based learning. Friends for several years, she and LeBlanc have delivered talks about competency-based education at various events. Long will pose a series of questions for LeBlanc to answer for the keynote presentation at the onsite conference in Pittsburgh.



Charla Long

A coordination event for the Pathways for Tomorrow initiative grantees will be held on Tuesday, June 21, preceding the 2022 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting Onsite Conference. New chief executive officers and leaders involved in the racial/ethnic affinity groups are also

invited to take part in programming on June 21 before the larger event begins. This year's conference will include sessions centered around the theme *A Better Future Together*. [Register now and find additional information about the event.](#)

Prior to the onsite conference, the Biennial online business meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14 via Zoom.

Chief executive officers should register themselves (or designate a voter) to participate in the business of the Association and the Commission on Accrediting. [View the meeting agenda and find more information about registering.](#)



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