

Fall 2025 Convocation Week Schedule

"Connected in Purpose: Cultivating Belonging on Campus"

Monday, August 11

7:45 - 8:30 am	Breakfast Student Center	
8:30 am	College Group Picture (Weather Permitting) Conference Center	
8:45 - 10:15 am	CONVOCATION – Mandatory Conference Center	
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 - 11:45 am	Invited Speaker - Mandatory Dr. Michael Baston President, Cuyahoga Community College Conference Center	
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Student Center	
1:00 pm	College of the Mainland Opens	
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Commit to Complete (C2C) Updates Kelly Waters, Shinya Wakao Conference Center	Faculty Course Prep
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Curriculum Committee STEM 102	
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Student Affairs Extended Service Hours: Advising, Registration, Financial Aid	

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Tuesday, August 12


All Day	Duck Tales: Meet Your Instructor Video Studio Day Media Services ICB 222-3	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Smart Start: Using D2L's Intelligent Agents Ed Tech STEM 121	Faculty Course Prep
9:00 – 10:00 am	WebAdvisor Leaving ... Whats next? Ashton Kimbark STEM 120	
10:00 - 10:45 am	Unveiling Lytho - COM's New Ticketing and Template System Barbara Kovacevich STEM 120	Dynamic Forms 101: What You Need to Know Kristen McClendon STEM 102
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 - 11:45 am	Creating an Inclusive Campus: Understanding Accessibility Services at COM Kimberly Lachney, Alisha Lyon STEM 115	Debunking Title V Funding and Support: Get the Resources Your Classroom Needs Courtney Byers STEM 102
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 - 1:45 pm	Early Alerts, Big Impact: Using Navigate to Support Student Success Alisha Lyon STEM 102	Unlock the Portal: Your Info HQ Kristen McClendon STEM 120
1:45 - 2:00 pm	Break	
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Legislative Updates Chris Brasher Conference Center	
3:30 - 5:00 pm	Faculty Course Prep	
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Student Affairs Extended Service Hours: Advising, Registration, Financial Aid	

Social/Meals	All-College Required	Faculty Course Prep	Faculty Required	Tech/Training	Compliance/Policy
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Wednesday, August 13

8:00 - 8:45 am	Faculty Course Prep	
9:00 - 10:45 am	Academic Affairs College Updates Conference Center Faculty Must Attend/Open to all	
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 - 11:45 am	Academic Deans Meetings Conference Center Faculty Must Attend	
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 - 2:45 pm	Professional Development - Discipline Enrichment Conference Center Faculty Must Attend	Employee Directory Photo STEM 101 1:00-4:30 pm 
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 - 3:45 pm	Department Meetings Faculty Must Attend	
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Faculty Course Prep	
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Student Affairs Extended Service Hours: Advising, Registration, Financial Aid	

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Thursday, August 14

8:00 - 11:45 am	New Hire Orientation Board Room 8:00-11:45 am Mandatory for New Full Time Employees ONLY	Employee Directory Photo STEM 101 	Run Hide Fight Chief Meyers STEM 102 8:00 – 9:30 am	Faculty Course Prep
			Faculty Course Prep	
Noon - 1:00 pm	COM PEERS “Pizza & Bingo” Lunch Student Center			
1:00 - 1:45 pm	Unlock Your Course: Conditional Release & Smart Setup Ed Tech STEM 121		CARE, Student Conduct, the Community Resource Center, Emergency Aid, & Title IX. Nicola Fish, Autumn Dilissio, Teclesha Blanchard STEM 120	Building Monitor Kick Off Chief Meyers STEM 102
2:00 - 2:45 pm	Faculty Senate STEM 120 2:00-3:45 pm	Employee Giving College Foundation Board Room		Faculty Course Prep
3:00 - 3:45 pm		Big Brothers Big Sisters For Workplace Mentorship STEM 102		Employee Directory Photo STEM 101 3:00 – 5:00 pm 
3:45 - 5:00 pm	Faculty Course Prep			
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Student Affairs Extended Service Hours: Advising, Registration, Financial Aid			

Social/Meals	All-College Required	Faculty Course Prep	Faculty Required	Tech/Training	Compliance/Policy
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Fall 2025 Convocation Week Schedule

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Friday, August 15

8:00 - 8:45 am	Interactive Learning with H5P: D2L Tools in Action Ed Tech Team STEM 121		Faculty Course Prep
9:00 - 10:30 am	Honors Program and the 2026 GCIC Academic Symposium Information Dalel Serda STEM 120	Rubrics That Work: Fast, Fair Grading with D2L Ed Tech Team STEM 121	
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own		
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Grade Smarter: Creating a Custom Gradebook in D2L Ed Tech/Faculty STEM 121	Unlock the Portal: Your Info HQ Kristen McClendon STEM 120	Faculty Course Prep
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Grant Session Cindy Pagan STEM 102		
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Faculty Course Prep		



Fall 2025 Convocation Week Schedule

"Connected in Purpose: Cultivating Belonging on Campus"

Session Descriptions

Tuesday, August 12

All Day

Duck Tales: Meet Your Instructor Video Studio Day

Hosted by Media Services

Come explore the EdTech studio space—no slides, no pressure, just a chill space to share and connect. Whether it's a creative assignment, a cool student moment, or a clever way you organize your course, drop in and casually show off one thing you're proud of. Other faculty can stop by to listen, swap ideas, ask questions, or quietly collect inspiration. Light refreshments, warm vibes, and great ideas guaranteed.

8:00 - 9:00 am

Smart Start: Using D2L's Intelligent Agents

Presented by Edgar Villalta

Let D2L do the nudging! In this session, learn how to use Intelligent Agents to automate personalized messages based on student activity. Whether it's a welcome message, a friendly nudge, or a celebration of progress, this tool makes your course feel more human—without the extra work.

9:00 – 10:00 am

WebAdvisor Leaving ... Whats next?

Presented by Ashton Kimbark

WebAdvisor is retiring—but don't worry, we've got you covered! Join us for an informative session where we'll walk you through all the new tools replacing WebAdvisor functions. Whether you're looking to check pay stubs, update personal info, or review academic records, we'll show you where and how to do it.

10:00 - 10:45 am

Unveiling Lytho - COM's New Ticketing and Template System

Presented by Barbara Kovacevich

Learn about COM's new, streamlined marketing process powered by Lytho's integrated platform. Lytho Workflow, Digital Asset Management (DAM) and Tempo will enhance collaboration, improve project tracking, and make it easier than ever to request and manage marketing support.

Social/Meals	All-College Required	Faculty Course Prep	Faculty Required	Tech/Training	Compliance/Policy
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Fall 2025 Convocation Week Schedule

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Tuesday, August 12 – Cont.

10:00 - 10:45 am

Dynamic Forms 101: What You Need to Know

In this session, you'll learn everything you need to know about using **NextGen Dynamic Forms** as a general user. Whether you're filling out forms, reviewing submissions, or managing cosigners—this training will walk you through it step by step.

11:00 - 11:45 am

Creating an Inclusive Campus: Understanding Accessibility Services at COM

Presented by Kimberly Lachney and Alisha Lyon

Join us for an engaging session focused on Accessibility Services at College of the Mainland. This session will provide an overview of how our office supports students with disabilities through accommodations (including Service Animals and Personal Care Attendants), advocacy, and collaboration. Participants will learn about the intake process, legal obligations under ADA and Section 504, and practical ways faculty and staff can contribute to an inclusive learning environment.

11:00 - 11:45 am

Debunking Title V Funding and Support

Join Title V Director, Courtney Byers, for an insightful session that demystifies the Title V funding process. This presentation will provide clarity on how faculty and staff can utilize Title V resources to enhance programs and benefit students. Learn how to submit funding requests, navigate approval steps, and explore what each of the three Title V Grants supports.

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Early Alerts, Big Impact: Using Navigate to Support Student Success

Presented by Alisha Lyon

Faculty play a critical role in student success, and Navigate's Early Alert system makes it easier than ever to connect students with the support they need, when they need it. In this session, you'll learn how to submit early alerts, what happens after an alert is raised, and how our Student Success Center responds to ensure timely outreach and intervention.

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Tuesday, August 12 – Cont.

1:00- 1:45 pm

Unlock the Portal: Your Info HQ

Presented by Kristen McClendon

Stay up to date with what's happening across Campus, quickly find forms, policies, and helpful resources, Access step by step guides and how - to- articles, Get the answers you need - all in one place. Come see the new employee portal and be ready to engage.

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Legislative Updates

Chris Brasher

An informative session focused on the latest legislative updates impacting higher education.

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Session Descriptions

Wednesday, August 13

9:00 - 10:45am

Academic Affairs Updates - Open to all / Faculty Must Attend

Agenda:

9:00 am - Welcome, Dr. Heather Rhodes, Vice President for Academic Affairs

9:10 - 9:25 am - Dr. Tanya Ingram, Dean of Students – Dean of Students Updates

9:25 - 9:40 am – Alisha Lyon, Director of Advising – Advising Updates

9:40 - 9:55 am – Dr. Shani Johnson, Director of Instructional Support Updates

9:55 - 10:05 am - Bradley Denison - D2L and Ed. Tech Updates

10:05 - 10:25 am - Dr. Kimberly Ross – Updates & Big Brothers Big Sisters for Workplace Mentorship

10:25 - 10:35 am – Dr. Anne Dickens – Dual Credit Updates

9:00 - 10:45am

Academic Dean Meetings – Faculty Must Attend

1:00 – 2:45 pm

Professional Development – Discipline Enrichment – Faculty Must Attend

3:00 – 3:45PM

Department Meetings – Faculty Must Attend

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Session Descriptions

Thursday, August 14

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Unlock Your Course: Conditional Release & Smart Setup

Presented by Jessi Cooley

Organize your course like a pro with D2L's Conditional Release features. You'll learn how to reveal content based on dates, activities, quiz scores, and more. Build a course structure that scaffolds learning and supports success—just like unlocking new levels in a game.

CARE, Student Conduct, the Community Resource Center, Title IX, and Emergency Aid.

Presented by Nichola Fish, Autumn Dilissio, and Teclesha Blanchard

2:00 - 2:45 pm

Employee Giving

Hosted by COM Foundation

We will share an impact report on Employee Giving over the last year. Come and enjoy a sno-cone while supporting our students.

Big Brothers Big Sisters for Workplace Mentorship

Presented by Big Brothers and Big Sisters

The College of the Mainland has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters for Workplace Mentorship. Join us to see what this new initiative will bring to our students for workplace Mentorship opportunity for employees at COM.

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Session Descriptions

Friday, August 15

8:00 - 8:45 am

Interactive Learning with H5P: D2L Tools in Action

Presented by Jessi Cooley

Engage students with interactive activities built directly into your D2L course using H5P! We'll showcase quick-to-use tools like:

- Fill in the Blanks – for vocabulary or concept checks
- Multiple Choice – for self-check quizzes
- True/False Questions – for quick concept checks
- Drag and Drop – for matching, sequencing, and sorting

See real examples, get hands-on support, and walk away ready to embed interactivity in your own course.

9:00 - 10:30 am

Honors Program and the 2026 GCIC Academic Symposium Information

Presented by Dalel Serda

Join us for good conversation and information on the COM Honors Program and the 2026 GCIC Academic Symposium. This is a great opportunity to get the details and to be involved in these initiatives focused on students' success.

Rubrics That Work: Fast, Fair Grading with D2L

Presented by Edgar Villalta

Take the guesswork out of grading! Learn how to create and apply D2L's rubric tool to assignments and discussions. With a few clicks, you can provide consistent feedback, auto-calculate scores, and make your expectations crystal clear. Save time, boost transparency, and support student success.

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Unlock the Portal: Your Info HQ

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Stay up to date with what's happening across Campus, quickly find forms, policies, and helpful resources, Access step by step guides and how - to - articles, Get the answers you need - all in one place. Come see the new employee portal and be ready to engage.

Grade Smarter: Creating a Custom Gradebook in D2L

Presented by Edgar Villalta

Tired of wrestling with grade columns? This session walks you through setting up a custom D2L gradebook that aligns with your teaching style. Whether you use points, weighted categories, or a mix of both, we'll help you create a clear, student-friendly gradebook that works for you all semester long.

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Grant Session

Presented by Cindy Pagan

Cindy Pagan present and guide you through the process on grants, grant compliance, and mini grants. This is particularly important for faculty in preparing and applying for grants.

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