



Christian Educator Conference

OCTOBER 9, 2026

CORBAN UNIVERSITY





NOTE FROM DR. JEN KLEIBER



Welcome to Corban University!

Since 1935, this school has maintained a singular focus of educating Christians who will make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ. For more than 90 years, we have produced graduates who love Christ, love teaching, love students, and see their life calling as part of advancing the cause of the Kingdom.

Your presence on our campus today is a gift to us as we attempt to provide you with a respite from the rigors of your profession. We aim to be your partner in this Kingdom endeavor of Christian education by being a support and resource for you in the work you are doing, as well as extending the pathway of Christian education for your students as they pursue their careers and future education.

We trust that in your time with us today you will be reinvigorated and encouraged in some way, and that you will leave with a practical application or two to try in the future. We are so glad you are here!

Jen Kleiber, Ed.D.

Chair, School of Education

SCAN FOR ELECTRONIC HANDOUTS & RESOURCES:

SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	**Doors Open & Coffee Available**
8:30 a.m.	**Introduction & Worship** *Led by Corban University students*
9:00 a.m.	**Keynote Address** *Tina deVries*
9:40 a.m.	**Overview of Day** *Dr. Kleiber, Chair, School of Education*
9:50 a.m.	**Break & Disperse**
10:00–11:00 a.m.	**Breakout Session 1**
11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	**Breakout Session 2**
12:15–1:10 p.m.	**Lunch & Fellowship** *Chick-Fil-A & allergen friendly*
1:20–2:20 p.m.	**Breakout Session 3**
2:30 p.m.	**Closing Session**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: TINA DEVRIES



Tina deVries is a career Christian school educator and currently serves as Associate Superintendent at Cascade Christian Schools in Puyallup, Washington. Over the course of her career, she has served as an elementary and junior high teacher and as a principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Tina is passionate about mentoring and leadership development, organizational culture, and helping Christian schools thrive. She believes deeply in the power of people working together and often says, “We are better together.” She loves people, values meaningful relationships, and is committed to creating cultures where students and staff are known, valued, and equipped to flourish.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 DESCRIPTIONS

SAME DESTINATION, DIFFERENT ROUTES: TAILORING INSTRUCTION FOR ALL LEARNERS (PSALM CENTER)

Kathleen Johnson, Director of Special Services, Cascade School District

Meeting the needs of a diverse classroom doesn't have to mean creating thirty different lesson plans. This dynamic session demystifies differentiation, offering practical, manageable strategies to support and challenge every student, from those who are struggling to those who need extension. Discover how to flexibly adapt content, process, and product to fit varied learning styles and readiness levels without burning out. Walk away with high-impact, adaptable routines you can implement immediately to create an inclusive environment where all learners thrive.

AWAKEN THE ZOMBIES! (MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL) (SC212)

Brenda Buhrkuhl, High School Vice Principal, Santiam Christian Schools

Have you ever felt like you're teaching to a roomful of zombies...exhausted students who seem lifeless and unaware? Do you struggle to hold kids' attention and interest? Join this workshop to discover a few simple strategies that will transform your classroom from zombieland to Disneyland...the happiest place on earth!

WHAT TO DO NEXT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOR SUPPORT AT TIER 1 (SC210)

Brittany Sweet, Behavior Specialist, Harritt Elementary School

We will cover a variety of classroom management and individual student behavior support strategies. Tier 1 resources include ENVoY Strategies and High Leverage Practices.

TEACHING LIKE IT'S THE '90S IN A 2026 WORLD (CA101)

Mindy Kelly, High School Principal, Crosshill Christian School

What if moving education forward means bringing some things back? In a world of one-to-one devices, AI, and constant answers to student questions, this session explores how research-based instructional practices can help us rethink when technology belongs in the classroom (and when it doesn't). We're not going back to overhead projectors and typewriters, but we are making room for paper and pencil, handwritten work, face-to-face discussion, critical thinking, and genuine curiosity. We'll also explore modern tools that make teachers more effective without allowing technology to do the thinking for our students. The goal isn't to teach like it's actually 1996. Let's use the best of what we've learned since then to prepare students to become capable, thoughtful, and fully-functioning adults.

THE REGULATED TEACHER: FROM REACTION TO REDEMPTIVE RESPONSE (CA102)

Jessica Peterkin, M.S.Ed, High School Science and Health Teacher, Crosshill Christian School

Every teacher has moments when patience runs thin and the classroom feels like too much. This session offers practical, faith-centered ways to respond to challenging students and stressful moments with calm, grace, and healthy boundaries, while becoming the steady presence students often need most.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CORE PRACTICES OF TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT) (CA103)

Janelle Detweiler, Superintendent, East Linn Christian Academy, Oregon Christian Education Coalition Chair

Teaching for Transformation (TfT) is a design framework for the creation of authentic, formational learning experiences rooted in a transformational worldview. These learning experiences invite, nurture, and empower teachers and students to play their part in God's story through their everyday learning. The core practices of TfT are practiced in over 100 schools worldwide to create learning experiences that empower teachers and students to explore their role in the Kingdom story.

BUILDING AND EVALUATING QUALITY ATHLETIC PROGRAMS (CA107)

Darren Shryock, Retired High School Basketball Head Coach (21 years) and Athletic Director/Assistant Principal (11 years)

The best athletic teams have followed the PREACH model whether they know it or not. We will walk through how to develop and evaluate an athletic program, have and maintain respect with your athletes, execute at a high level, maximize the level of achievement your teams attain, compete at the highest level, and maintain a team's health physically, mentally, and spiritually.

MEET GEN ALPHA (AC3327)

Dr. Sam Baker, Corban University Professor of Christian Ministries

Join us for an insightful session focused on Generation Alpha, the youngest members of our churches and schools. As the first generation raised in a digital environment, it is crucial for educational and ministerial leaders to understand their unique experiences and spiritual development. This understanding is essential for effectively guiding them in both their academic pursuits and faith journeys.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 DESCRIPTIONS

IS AI REALLY THAT I? UNCOVERING THE "MAGIC" BEHIND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AC4420)

Dr. Deborah Thomas, Corban University Professor of Computer Science

While AI is pervasive in a lot of areas of life, it seems like this magical unknown. In this session, we will simplify how it uses mathematical models and simple programming to work. You will begin to learn how it processes information and produces results that make it appear intelligent.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN ELEMENTARY MATH LESSONS (AC4424)

Professor Rachel Saltalamachia, Corban University Adjunct

What could be better than math and literature together? In this session, we will explore the benefits of using stories to increase engagement in math.

FRAMING GEN Z ANXIETY THEOLOGICALLY (PV101)

Dr. Tim Anderson, Corban University Professor of Theology

Some have entitled our current global pandemic of Gen Z mental illness, "The Anxious Generation" and the "Great Rewiring of Childhood" (Haidt). As Christian educators and parents, how do we process teen mental illness/anxiety? The Bible does indeed frame it so that we may make sense of it, trust God for remedies and healing, and live with it in light of the gospel.

ENGAGING RELUCTANT WRITERS (PART 1) (PV102)

Lynne Marks, M.Ed, Elementary Teacher Leader & Instructional Coach, Willamette Valley Christian School

How can we inspire reluctant writers to become confident, joyful communicators? In this session, participants will discover how to use "Heart Poems" to uncover students' authentic voices and spark creative ideas. In the second session, you'll learn practical strategies to help students expand those initial poems into rich, complete stories.

CALM, CONNECTED, AND READY TO LEARN: PRACTICAL SEL TOOLS FOR THE K-8 CLASSROOM (PV103)

Professor Rebecca Alburn, Corban University Director of Undergraduate Education

In this interactive session, educators will experience community-building activities, brain breaks, and social-emotional learning tools. Leave equipped with practical, low-prep strategies designed to foster connection, emotional well-being, and engagement in grades K-8.

ACADEMIC RIGOR: DESIGNING LEARNING THAT MAKES STUDENTS THINK (PV108)

Al Stefan, Ed.S, Superintendent, Santiam Christian Schools

Academic rigor is not simply more work, faster pacing, or harder assignments—it is the intentional design of learning that develops knowledge, deep thinking, meaningful application, evidence-based communication, and student independence. In this interactive workshop, K–12 educators will examine the essential elements of rigorous instruction and explore how high expectations can be paired with purposeful modeling, scaffolding, feedback, and support.

ELEMENTARY ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES: USING FORMATIVE AND FORMAL GRADING TO BUILD A STUDENT LEARNING PROFILE (PV109)

Dr. Jen Kleiber, Corban University Chair, School of Education

How do we really know what our students can do as independent learners? Using formative and formal assessment tracking strategies can help us build a student learning profile for targeted instruction and provide important data for report card grading.

SESSION NOTES

SESSION NOTES



Graduate Teacher Licensure

READY TO EARN YOUR TEACHING LICENSE?

- Build on your bachelor's degree and experience in any field.
- Fully online program does not require Oregon residency.
- Remote observations.
- Teach in your own classroom or traditional placement options.
- Elementary or secondary content endorsement areas.
- Finish in just 5 terms!

Learn more:

Master of Science in Education

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER.

- Designed with the practicing educator in mind.
- Choose from tracks in Curriculum & Instruction, ESOL, or Principal Licensure
- Take courses full time or part time.
- Develop leadership skills to address the needs of your school community.

Learn more:



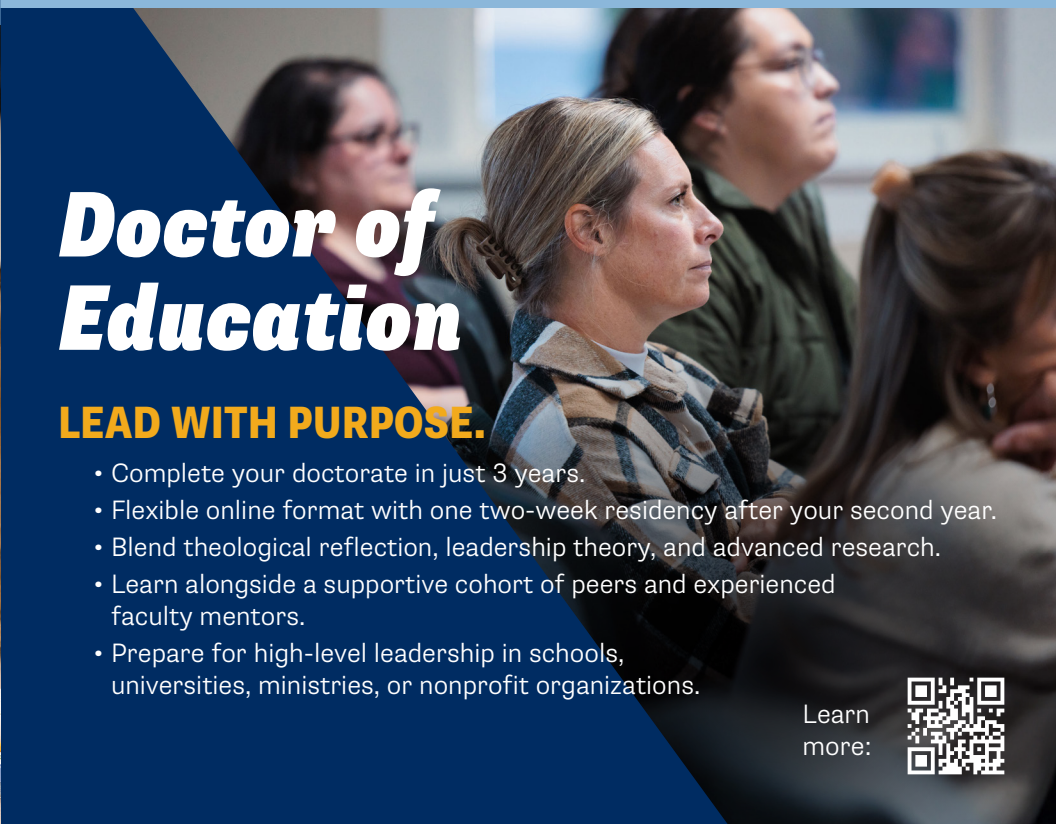


Principal Licensure Program

STEP INTO ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP.

- Qualify for your Oregon Principal License in just 5 terms.
- 100% online and designed for working educators.
- Gain 300+ hours of practical leadership experience through internships.
- Learn to lead with wisdom, integrity, and a Christ-centered perspective.

Learn more:



Doctor of Education

LEAD WITH PURPOSE.

- Complete your doctorate in just 3 years.
- Flexible online format with one two-week residency after your second year.
- Blend theological reflection, leadership theory, and advanced research.
- Learn alongside a supportive cohort of peers and experienced faculty mentors.
- Prepare for high-level leadership in schools, universities, ministries, or nonprofit organizations.

Learn more:

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 DESCRIPTIONS

YOU GAVE THE ASSESSMENT, NOW WHAT? (PSALM CENTER)

Kathleen Johnson, Director of Special Services, Cascade School District

You've collected the data and graded the papers; now comes the most critical step. This practical session dives into assessment for learning and shows you how to turn assessment results into actionable, everyday instruction. Educators will learn to move beyond assigning grades and use assessment data as a diagnostic tool that informs immediate teaching strategies, targets student needs, and fosters active student reflection. Join us to discover simple, high-impact techniques that bridge the gap between testing and teaching, turning "what students know" into "where we go next."

HOW "ACCOMMODATING" DO I REALLY NEED TO BE? (SC212)

Brenda Buhrkuhl, High School Vice Principal, Santiam Christian Schools

Let's talk about classroom accommodations...what works, what doesn't, what enables, and what empowers. The learning struggles are real, but we only have so many "preferential seats"! Come ready to share and learn so that we all might be better equipped to accommodate well!

WHAT TO DO NEXT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOR SUPPORT AT TIER 2 (SC210)

Brittany Sweet, Behavior Specialist, Harritt Elementary School

We will cover a variety of classroom management and individual student behavior support strategies. Tier 2 resources include Function of Behavior planning and additional individualized student supports like Token Boards and Check in – Check out.

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THE CLASSROOM (CA101)

Adam Kronberger, Head of School, Crosshill Christian School

God has called each of us to a specific school, classroom, and group of students. Every lesson, conversation, challenge, and relationship provides an opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission to "go," "make disciples," and "teach." But what does intentional discipleship look like in the everyday life of a Christian school classroom? This session will consider how discipleship can move beyond scheduled Bible lessons to encompass invitations to salvation, opportunities for heart transformation, the development of a biblical worldview, and the cultivation of a lasting and authentic faith. We will consider how to prepare for both scheduled and unexpected opportunities to disciple students, and how to intentionally build a classroom culture in which students learn to take every thought captive and follow Christ.

THE STUDENT ISN'T LAZY: UNDERSTANDING WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING BENEATH THE BEHAVIOR (CA102)

Jessica Peterkin, M.S.Ed, High School Science and Health Teacher, Crosshill Christian School

Disengagement, avoidance, missing work, and "I don't care" can easily be mistaken for laziness, but sometimes the story beneath the behavior is far more complex. This session examines how anxiety, stress, trauma, executive functioning, and emotional regulation can affect a student's ability to learn and engage. Through research, practical strategies, and a Christian understanding of students as image-bearers, educators will learn to look beyond behavior while maintaining meaningful expectations for growth.

BRAVE KNIGHTS AND WATCHFUL DRAGONS: LEWIS, CHESTERTON, AND THE STORIES THAT FORM OUR STUDENTS (CA103)

Dr. Jake Rainwater, Corban University Chair, School of Ministry

C. S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton both believed that stories reach the heart before arguments reach the mind. This session draws on their essays to show how fiction forms students to love what is good and to face evil with courage and provide practical ways to foster this fiction-formation.

BEYOND INFORMATION: THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM IN THE AGE OF AI (CA107)

Professor Ken Driver, Corban University Assistant Professor of Business

In an era where information is abundant and answers are instant, what is the true role of the classroom? This session explores how a flipped classroom approach can transform class time into a space for application and active learning. Through examples, practical strategies, and shared conversation, participants will explore how to help students move beyond retrieving information to using it in meaningful ways.

MEET GEN ALPHA (AC3327)

Dr. Sam Baker, Corban University Professor of Christian Ministries

Repeat from Session 1; see description on page 5.

EQUIPPING THE CALLED: CAREER READINESS THROUGH A BIBLICAL LENS (AC4420)

Hilary Paulsen, Career & College Advisor, Santiam Christian Schools

Career readiness is more than connecting students to jobs or educational pathways. It's about guiding them to follow Jesus with their whole life, for their whole life. This session equips Christian educators who influence JH/HS students in their future plans with practical tools to inspire lifelong learning, whole-person growth, and a sense of calling rooted in Christ.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 DESCRIPTIONS

FROM BORED TO CURIOUS: MAKING SCIENCE COME ALIVE IN THE K–12 CLASSROOM (AC4422)

Kevin Hilbert, High School Science Teacher, Santiam Christian School

How do we get students excited about science? How do we turn a difficult concept into an experience young learners actually remember? How do we make science fun without sacrificing rigor? This course is designed for educators who want practical answers to those questions. We will explore creative ways to teach science through demonstrations, hands-on activities, games, challenges, mysteries, real-world problems, and unexpected connections. Participants will learn how to take ordinary science standards and turn them into experiences that encourage students to wonder, investigate, discuss, and discover.

PEER COACHING FOR MUSIC EDUCATORS (AC4424)

Mary Lou Boderman, retired, Coordinator of Music and Drama, Salem-Keizer Public Schools

Music teachers, have you ever felt that your mandatory professional development fell short of fitting your needs? Do you long for professional dialogue that focuses on music content and skill development? This session will introduce you to a framework that encourages music educators to work together virtually to help "fill in the blanks" using peer coaching.

USING PERSONALITY TRAITS TO ENHANCE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND RESILIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM (PV101)

Dr. Kristine Medyanik, Corban University Assistant Professor of Business & Leadership Expert

Join us for an engaging and interactive session focused on the four typologies in Wayz to Lead, understand how the personalities grow and learn and what can best support students when they are in ego or overwhelm.

ENGAGING RELUCTANT WRITERS (PART 2) (PV102)

Lynne Marks, M.Ed, Elementary Teacher Leader & Instructional Coach, Willamette Valley Christian School

How can we inspire reluctant writers to become confident, joyful communicators? In session one, participants discovered how to use "Heart Poems" to uncover students' authentic voices and spark creative ideas. In this session, you'll learn practical strategies to help students expand those initial poems into rich, complete stories.

WEATHERING THE CHALLENGES OF THE CLASSROOM AS A NEW TEACHER (PV103)

Professor Rebecca Alburn, Corban University Director of Undergraduate Education

How can I thrive and endure when each day feels like survival mode? This session is designed for anyone in their first few years of teaching. Gain practical tips for balancing the joys and challenges of teaching and leave with a sense of purpose and confidence for the journey ahead.

GHOSTS (PV108)

Dr. Ryan Stark, Corban University Professor of English & Humanities

What are ghosts, from where do they come, and what do they tell us about the essence of personhood? Such questions animate this talk, along with that scene in Harry Potter where Professor Binns, a ghost, continues to teach his course on history, unaware that he had died the night before.

BEYOND POPCORN READING: STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE AND GROW STUDENT READING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE (PV109)

Dr. Jen Kleiber, Corban University Chair, School of Education

This session will discuss strategies that engage students in the reading process and build confidence in struggling readers.

STUDIATA: ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (RIADY BOARD ROOM)

Steve Boynton, Co-Founder of THE Platform

Come hear about innovative thinking around managing your school services and offering additional educational opportunities for students and staff. *(Recommended for school admin)*

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 DESCRIPTIONS

TEACHING CONTENT WITH THE BIBLE (PSALM CENTER)

Dr. Aaron Imig, Corban University Vice President for Academic Administration

In Christian education we throw around the term biblical integration like everyone knows what it means—administrators, teachers and staff, parents, and even students. But do people in our community know what we mean by biblical integration? This session will give a brief look at how we ask our faculty to go about integrating the Bible into content areas at Corban, and how they involve their students in understanding what it looks like in courses.

TEACHING FROM OVERFLOW: NURTURING THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS (SC212)

Dr. Amanda Egan, PhD, LPC, Counselor & Corban University Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Teaching is both a profession and a ministry, making self-care essential rather than optional. As Christian educators, we are called to pour into the lives of others, yet we cannot give from an empty cup. This session will explore the biblical foundation for self-care while discussing practical strategies for preventing burnout, establishing healthy boundaries, and cultivating habits that promote rest, renewal, and resilience in both personal and professional life.

SAME DESTINATION, DIFFERENT ROUTES: TAILORING INSTRUCTION FOR ALL LEARNERS (SC210)

Kathleen Johnson, Director of Special Services, Cascade School District

Repeat from Session 1; see description on page 4.

PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE: ADMISSIONS, DUAL CREDIT & PRE-COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES (AC3301)

Thressa Brand, Corban University Dual Credit Coordinator

Discover how students can get a head start on college through dual credit, pre-college programs, and a clear admissions roadmap.

GHOSTS (AC3327)

Dr. Ryan Stark, Corban University Professor of English & Humanities

Repeat from Session 2; see description on page 15.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEDIA TEACHER: HOW TO BRING CREATIVE MEDIA INTO ANY CLASSROOM (AC4420)

Professor Naomi Yanike, Corban University Associate Professor of Media and Communication

Our students live in a world of images, video, audio, and digital storytelling—but bringing creative media into the classroom can feel like one more thing to learn or manage. This practical session will explore approachable ways educators across disciplines can use photography, video, audio, design, and storytelling to help students create with purpose. We'll also consider what it means to create as image-bearers, communicate truthfully, and use our creative work to serve others—without requiring expensive equipment or advanced technical skills.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING! (AC4424)

Dr. Sandee Flint, Corban University Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Forensic Psychology

This session is about applying everyday social psychology...every day. "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right!" Remember that poster from your childhood? We will be exploring the art and science of perception and come to understand that if we simply recognize the role social psychology plays in our lives, we can choose to sit in the driver's seat in any situation.

USING PERSONALITY TRAITS TO ENHANCE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND RESILIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM (PV101)

Dr. Kristine Medyanik, Corban University Assistant Professor of Business & Leadership Expert

Repeat from Session 2; see description on page 14.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN ELEMENTARY MATH LESSONS (PV102)

Professor Rachel Saltalamachia, Corban University Adjunct

Repeat from Session 1; see description on page 6.

CALM, CONNECTED, AND READY TO LEARN: PRACTICAL SEL TOOLS FOR THE K-8 CLASSROOM (PV103)

Professor Angela Sotelo, Corban University Director of ESOL

Repeat from Session 1; see description on page 6.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 DESCRIPTIONS

TEACHING IN GOD'S CREATION: THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS (PV UPPER LEVEL COFFEE SHOP)

Professor Rebecca Alburn, Corban University Director of Undergraduate Education

Step outside with me and experience firsthand how teaching outdoors can transform teaching and learning. Discover how simple nature-based routines can boost well-being and engagement for both teachers and students.

MORE THAN A FIELD TRIP: THE LASTING IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL (PV108)

Sarah Reed, History Teacher and Europe Trip Director, Salem Academy

What if the world could become your classroom? Educational travel has the power to turn learning into memories that last a lifetime. I will share from 12 years of experience leading five customized European trips, including ways travel has enriched my teaching and impacted my students. Whether you are dreaming about leading your first trip or looking to enhance the trips you already lead, come discover practical ideas for planning, preparing, and creating meaningful travel experiences.

YOU CAN'T SPELL PRACTICAL WITHOUT AI (PV109)

Dr. Lance Villers, Director of Education at Valor Global Online, Corban University Assistant Professor of Education

This session will introduce practical uses of AI for administrators and teachers. It will also include time for participants to share the different ways that they use AI in their Christian school role.

CONVERSATION AMONGST SCHOOL LEADERS (RIADY BOARD ROOM)

Adam Kronberger, Head of School, Crosshill Christian School

Heads of Schools only.

Stay Connected!

FOLLOW CORBAN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Instagram: @corbanedu

Facebook: Corban EDU

Corban Alumni Resources

Stay connected by taking advantage of the many benefits and resources available as a Corban alum! Visit our alumni page, the ultimate resource for staying connected to the University, alumni benefits, and events, to learn more and to **make sure your contact info is current** so you don't miss out on alumni opportunities!

Alumni Homepage:
corban.edu/alumni



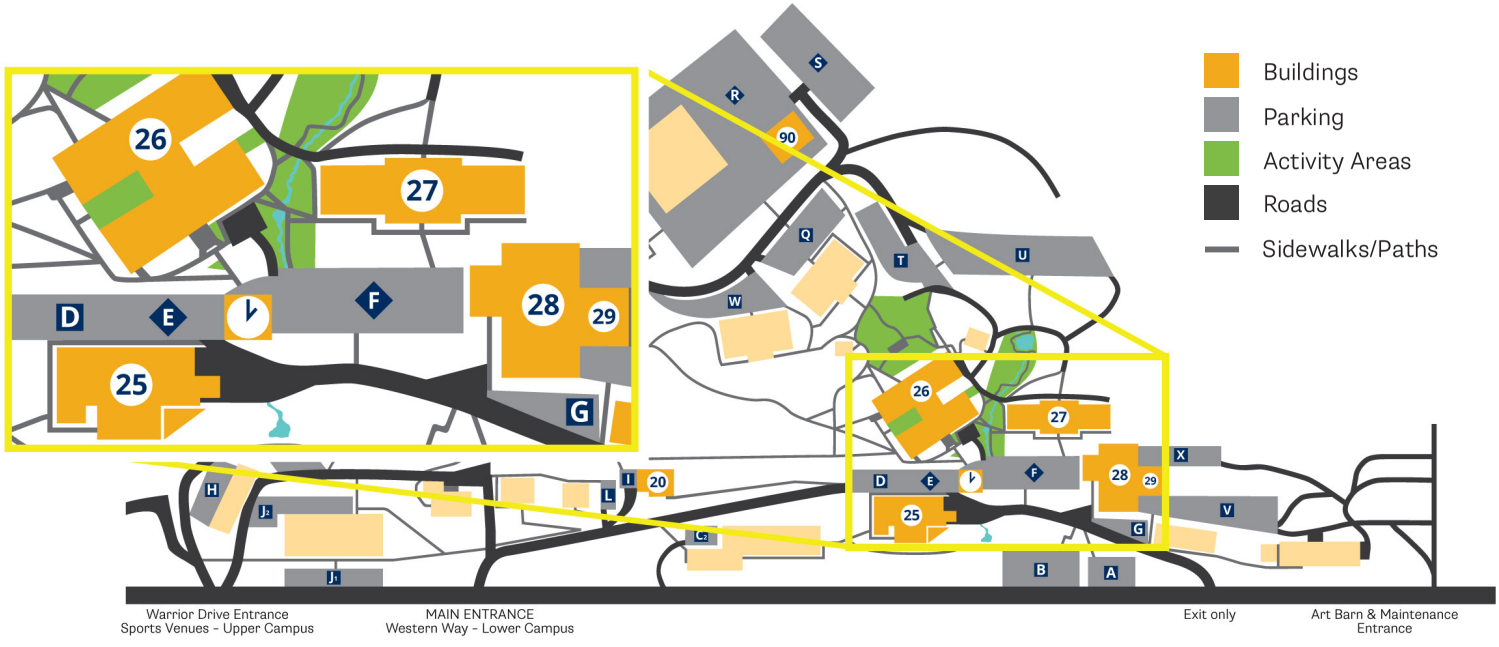



Become a Dual Credit Partner

Your high school juniors and seniors can earn college credit from Corban University through courses taught at your school, by your teachers, with support from Corban faculty.

Any student who graduates from a Corban University dual credit partner school will also get **50% of tuition (or more!) covered by Corban scholarships** when they enroll at Corban after high school graduation!

Learn more:



20 – Younger Center
Riady Board Room

25 – Schimmel Hall (SC)
SC210 SC212

28 – Psalm Center

29 – PA 200

26 – Academic Center (AC)
AC3301 AC4420
AC3327 AC4422
AC4424

27 – Pavilion (PV)
PV101 PV108
PV102 PV109
PV103 Coffee Shop

90 – Caulkins (CA)
CA101 CA103
CA102 CA107