

SUMMER 2025

COBEC CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

July 16 - 18, 2025

BRIEF AGENDA:

- Wednesday, July 16th - COBEC Conference Sessions & Activities
- Thursday, July 17th - COBEC Conference Sessions & Activities
- Friday, July 19th - COBEC Business Meeting and Optional Activities



COBEC

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH

- 7:30 – 8:30** Breakfast at Hotel
- 8:30** Shuttle Pick up at Hotel
- 9:00 – 9:30** Registration, Coffee and tea @ Engineering Physics 1303
- 9:30** Opening Remarks @ Engineering Physics 1303
Steven Guns, US Co-Chair COBEC
Dr. Vincent Palacio, Belize Co-Chair COBEC
- 10:00 – 10:40** Explore Campus Stop #1 – CyberSecurity @ Collins IT Building Rm 231
Michael Ramage & Carlos Lopez
- 10:45 – 11:30** Explore Campus Stop #2 – Nursing @ Blackburn 228
Carlos Lopez Jr.
- 11:30 – 12:30** Lunch – Burrito Shack Catering @ Blackburn 228
- 12:45 – 1:30** Explore Campus Stop #3 – Engineering @ Engineering Physics
Jamie Rogers
- 1:30 – 2:30** Campus Tours/Networking
- 2:30** Shuttle Departs Engineering Physics BLDG for West Farm
- 2:45 – 3:45** West Farm Visit – Veterinary Sciences, Horse/Swine, Facility Tour, Racer
One photo op!
Shea Porr
- 3:45** Shuttle Departs West Farm for Hotel
- 4:30** Shuttle Departs Murray State Campus/Hotel for Dinner
- 5:30** Dinner @ Cypress Springs Resort
Hosted by Calloway County Tourism
- 8:00** Shuttle Return to Hotel



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THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

- 7:00 – 7:45** BREAKFAST AT HOTEL
- 7:45** Shuttle pick up from Hotel
- 8:00** Registration @ Engineering Physics 1303
- 8:30** Welcome from the Conference Committee
Belize & USA National Anthems
- 8:45** COBEC Summer Conference 2025 Keynote – *Reaching New Heights: Drones and the Agriculture Revolution*
Blake Kennedy, Professor of Agriculture and Unmanned Aerial Systems
- 10:00** Shuttle to Arboretum
- 10:15** Nature time at the Doran Arboretum
- 11:45** Shuttle to Lunch @ Hall of Benefactors in Heritage Hall
- 12:00 – 1:15** Lunch, Welcome from Murray State President
Dr. Ron Patterson
- Lunch Session – History of COBEC and Murray State
Dr. Bonnie Higginson, Murray State Provost Emeritus
- 1:15** Shuttle to Afternoon Sessions at Engineering Physics 1303
- 1:30** Breakout Session 1 – *AI & Outcome-Based Education: Teaching Smarter in the Age of Generative AI*
Jason Owen, Professor of Computer Science
- 2:15** Breakout Session 2 – *Behind the Screen: The Ethics and Dangers of AI in Students' Lives*
Miguel Gomez, Professor of Middle School Education
- 3:00** Breakout Session 3 – *Increasing Mental Health Awareness with the Green Bandana Program*
Angie Trzepacz, Director of MSU Counseling Services
- 3:45** Q&A for all Breakout Presenters
- 4:00** Belizean Student Alumni Panel Presentation:
Delmi Lopez, Sharmayne Saunders, Mark Mallory, and Whitney York
- 4:00** Shuttle to Hotel to get ready for dinner
- 6:00** Shuttle to Dinner
- 6:00–9:00** Conference Dinner at The Quarter Room
Hosted by Community Visitor's Bureau of Murray
- 9:00** Shuttle pick up for transportation back to the hotel

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH

- 7:00 – 9:30 Breakfast at the Hotel; Murray Donuts provided by Murray CVB
- 9:00 COBEC Business Meeting
- 11:45 Conference Closes and Conference Evaluation
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Shuttle Departs for Afternoon Excursion in Paducah, including the Quilt Museum and shopping.
- 4:30 Shuttle Departs Paducah for return to Murray

SUGGESTIONS FOR SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

ON YOUR OWN – ASK US FOR DETAILS

MURRAY DOWNTOWN FARMER'S MARKET – 7AM – NOON
ELK & BISON PRAIRIE – LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & BIOS

KEYNOTE REACHING NEW HEIGHTS: DRONES AND THE AGRICULTURE REVOLUTION

Blake Kennedy - jkennedy13@murraystate.edu

In this keynote, Blake Kennedy explores how drone technology is revolutionizing modern agriculture—from precision crop management to real-time data collection. Drawing on hands-on experience and real-world applications, this session highlights innovative ways unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are helping producers increase efficiency, reduce inputs, and make smarter decisions. Join us to discover how agriculture is quite literally reaching new heights.

AI & OUTCOME-BASED EDUCATION: TEACHING SMARTER IN THE AGE OF GENERATIVE AI

Dr. Jason T. Owen - jowen22@murraystate.edu

Join Dr. Owen—AI futurist, computer scientist, educator, and theologian—as he explores how emerging AI tools like CoPilot, ClassCompanion, and NotebookLM are revolutionizing learning, assessment, and instruction. Discover how to streamline your teaching, personalize student learning, uphold academic integrity and streamline your administrative processes in an AI-driven world. This isn't the future—it's happening now.

BEHIND THE SCREEN: ETHICS AND DANGERS OF AI IN STUDENTS' LIVES

Dr. Miguel Gomez - mgomez3@murraystate.edu

While AI tools can empower classrooms and support learning, not all applications of artificial intelligence are designed with students' best interests in mind. From deepfakes and nudify apps to algorithmic manipulation and academic dishonesty, this session explores the darker side of AI that students are already navigating; often without adult guidance. Through a series of real-world news stories, short videos, and examples pulled from today's digital landscape, we'll examine what students are encountering, what's at stake, and how educators can respond with awareness, empathy, and courage.

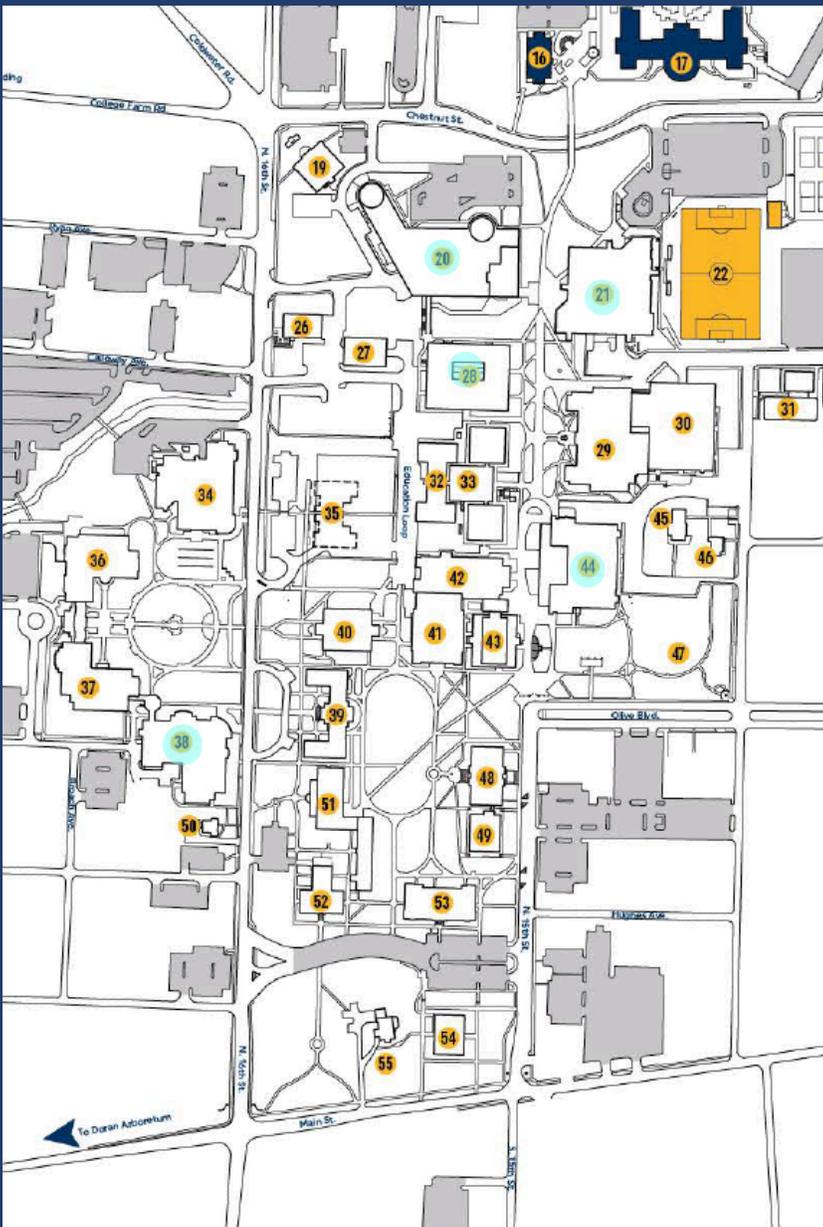
INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WITH THE GREEN BANDANA PROJECT

Dr. Angie Trzepacz - atrzepacz@murraystate.edu

Dr. Trzepacz will present information about the Green Bandana Project, a project aimed increasing student awareness of vital school-based mental health and suicide prevention resources and normalizes asking for help when they need it. This new initiative empowers students themselves to be mental health advocates for their peers; the training and advocacy is signaled by a green bandana.

COBEC-Relevant Buildings

- 19. Murray State Police Department
- 20. Collins Industry & Technology
- 21. Curris Center
 - Chick-Fil-A Open until 2pm
 - University Store
- 28. Blackburn Science Building
 - Education Abroad Office - Rm.117
- 34. Alexander Hall (Education Bldg)
- 35. Future Site of School of Nursing & Health Professions
- 38. School of Engineering
- 44. Waterfield Library



On behalf of COBEC and Murray State University, we'd like to thank the following individuals, offices, or organizations for their assistance and support for hosting COBEC at Murray State:

Conference Presenters: Blake Kennedy, Jason Owen, Miguel Gomez, and Angie Trzepacz, Jamie Rogers, Michael Ramage, Carlos Lopez Jr. Murray's Community Visitor's Bureau & Erin Carrico Calloway County Tourism & Jeremy Whitmore The Keg, Burrito Shack, Racer Dining by Sodexo, and Dumplins Carlos Lopez Murray State Academic Affairs Murray State Student Affairs Murray State Office of Development