

The background of the central section is a close-up of a laptop keyboard. Overlaid on the keyboard is a large, glowing blue globe. To the left of the globe, there are three icons: a red house icon labeled 'Home', a blue globe icon labeled 'Inter', and a blue laptop icon labeled 'Laptop Pro'.

ASGA 

American Student Government Association

Virtual

S P R I N G

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Training

CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 6, 2026



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

February 6, 2026 - All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. — Zoom Room Open for Networking

10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. — Conference Kick-Off

- **Butch Oxendine**, Emcee

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. — Training Block 1



- A** *The 25 Mistakes That Could Sink Your Student Government (And How to Fix Them)* – Butch Oxendine



- B** **NEW WORKSHOP** *Connection is the Work: Building Trust, Clarity, and Accountability in Student Government* – Andria Donnenwerth, M.Ed.

12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. — Networking Break

12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. — Training Block 2



- C** *Boosting Your Student Government's Web & Social Media Presence* – Butch Oxendine



- D** **NEW WORKSHOP** *Money Matters: Managing Budgets and Funding Student Activities* – Kat Klawes, M.A.

1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Networking Break

WORKSHOP HANDOUTS

Download all available workshop handouts prior to the conference!

<https://bit.ly/SPRINGVIRTUAL>

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. — Training Block 3



- E** ***Make Students Actually Care: The Power of SG Signature Programs***
– Butch Oxendine



- F** **FOR ADVISORS** ***Be an Uncle M.I.K.E. (Mentor-Inspire-Knowledge-Encourage)*** – Michael A. Cadore, Sr., Ed.D.

2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. — Networking Break

2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. — Training Block 4



- G** ***What Are Your SG's Superpowers? What SG Can (And Can't) Do***
– Butch Oxendine



- H** **NEW WORKSHOP** ***Lead Without Losing Yourself in Student Government***
– Kimberly Jones, Ph.D.

3:45 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. — Networking Break

3:50 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. — Wrap-Up & Raffle

- ***The Importance of Your Student Government*** – Butch Oxendine
- ***Ultimate Connectors Raffle*** (return your evaluation form to enter)

4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. — BONUS SESSION

- I** ***Learn More About ASGA and Member & Training Resources*** – Butch Oxendine

WORKSHOP HANDOUTS

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



ASGA's Virtual Student Government Training Conference features practical, interactive, and fun workshops led by our talented team of presenters. You can choose which workshops to attend based on their descriptions below.

February 6th • 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. • Training Block I

A. The 25 Mistakes That Could Sink Your Student Government (And How to Fix Them) – *Butch Oxendine*

Many SGs make the same mistakes over and over, never learning from the past. In this workshop, you'll discover the most common SG missteps, and most importantly, how to avoid these pitfalls during your term of office.

Delivery Format: Because of the significant amount of information provided in this session, it is presented in a lecture format. The presenter welcomes and encourages feedback through direct questions as well as fielding impromptu questions throughout. The presenter uses volunteers to illustrate key points.

Presentation Resources: The session utilizes Microsoft PowerPoint, as well as printed handouts.

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 4

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand the importance of learning from the mistakes of others
- Brainstorm your own list of mistakes to avoid at your institution



B. NEW WORKSHOP • Connection is the Work: Building Trust, Clarity, and Accountability in Student Government – *Andria Sonnenwerth, M.Ed.*

Communication is more than information—it's the foundation of trust and connection in student government. Whether you're leading on a physical campus or across virtual platforms, clarity, follow-through, and collaboration are essential. In this session, student leaders will explore how to lead with intention by creating communication systems that students can rely on. From honoring deadlines to partnering with clubs and departments, attendees will gain strategies for building credibility, consistency, and community. Together, we'll reframe communication as a leadership practice—not just a task.

Presentation Resources: This session uses Microsoft PowerPoint, real-life SG scenarios, and downloadable templates for communication planning and deadline tracking.

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 3.5

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Recognize common communication breakdowns and their impact on student trust
- Learn practical tools for improving message clarity and deadline accountability
- Explore strategies for cross-campus collaboration to enhance SG visibility and reach
- Reflect on how intentional communication builds a stronger, more connected team
- Apply values-driven communication practices to everyday leadership decisions



12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. • Training Block 2

C. Boosting Your Student Government's Web & Social Media Presence – *Butch Oxendine*

The times we live in have exposed a major weakness for most student governments: our web sites are outdated, inaccurate, and just plain bad. Also, our social networks are drastically underutilized. This workshop will provide tangible instructions on how to improve our entire web presence.

Presentation Resources: This session utilizes the internet.

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 2

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand what should be included at our SG web site
- Learn how to utilize social media to engage our student body
- Recognize the importance of focusing on web/social media



D. NEW WORKSHOP • Money Matters: Managing Budgets and Funding Student Activities – *Kat Klawes, M.A.*

Student government treasurers and finance leaders play a crucial role in enabling student activities, events, and initiatives. Effectively managing and allocating funds requires strategic planning, clear processes, and transparency. Join this session, led by a Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional (CNAP), former Student Government President, and higher education consultant, to master essential financial leadership skills. Learn how to create and manage clear budgets, responsibly allocate resources, secure additional funding, and communicate financial decisions transparently to the student body and campus community.

Presentation Resources: Interactive budgeting exercises, scenario-based simulations, and group discussions

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 4

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Develop and maintain transparent, sustainable budgets for student government
- Create effective and equitable funding allocation processes
- Identify and pursue additional funding opportunities, including fundraising strategies
- Clearly and effectively communicate financial decisions and updates to students and campus stakeholders
- Evaluate financial activities to align spending with the organization's mission and goals



1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. • Training Block 3

E. Make Students Actually Care: The Power of SG Signature Programs – *Butch Oxendine*

Your SG must do something real that matters to fellow students if you ever want to be respected and appreciated. This workshop will give real examples of innovative and exciting “signature programs” that are being used by SGs nationwide to get the attention of students and administrators. These programs will make your SG much-admired and “relevant,” and will help you with everything from member recruiting to voter turnout to relations with administrators.

Delivery Format: Because of the significant amount of information provided, it is presented in a lecture format. The presenter welcomes and encourages feedback through direct questions as well as fielding impromptu questions throughout.

Presentation Resources: The session utilizes Microsoft PowerPoint, printed handouts, and props

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 4

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Be aware of the 800 programs you could bring to your campus
- Understand what makes a “signature program” and how do you find one that will work for you
- Understand which signature programs are best



F. FOR ADVISORS • Be an Uncle M.I.K.E. (Mentor-Inspire-Knowledge-Encourage) – *Michael A. Cadore, Sr., Ed.D.*

“Keep in mind it’s not about you but student success.” This discussion opens dialogue with Advisors peers to discuss experiences and the importance of Multicultural Competency, Empathy, Flexibility, and Self-Awareness. This also includes an overview and the importance of Policy & Procedures. “What you know gets hired. What you do can get your fired.”

Delivery format: This 60-minute discussion allows advisors to share experiences, and discuss effective ways to promote, engage and achieve student success.

Presentation Resources: PowerPoint; handouts

Level of interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 3

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand the importance of student success as it pertains to Multicultural Competency, Empathy, Flexibility, and Self-Awareness
- Understand and Respect the differences of all students and your advisor colleagues
- Learn the implications and consequences of institutional Policy & Procedure



2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. • Training Block 4

G. What Are Your SG’s Superpowers? What SG Can (And Can’t) Do – *Butch Oxendine*

We all like to think our SG can change the world, but the reality is more brutal. Even the greatest SGs in America are limited in their authority, “power,” and influence. Can you really stop tuition increases, get more financial aid from the federal government, and build a new parking garage? This brutally frank session tells the truth about which projects, issues, and programs you can take on successfully—and which ones are doomed to fail.

Delivery Format: Because of the significant amount of information provided in this session, it is presented in a lecture format. However, half of the workshop is an interactive exercise that includes all participants working in small groups. The presenter welcomes and encourages feedback through direct questions as well as fielding impromptu questions throughout.

Presentation Resources: The session utilizes Microsoft PowerPoint, as well as printed handouts.

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 4

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand which issues are impossible, possible, and probable to make a difference
- Understand how to prioritize your work on issues that are realistic
- Determine how much time to spend on lobbying



H. NEW WORKSHOP • Lead Without Losing Yourself in Student Government – *Kimberly Jones, Ph.D.*

Student government leadership is rewarding and intense. You show up for others, but this session helps you focus on how to show up for yourself. Learn how to create a culture of care, build trust in your team, and stay grounded through the demands of the year. This session provides practical strategies for preventing burnout, improving your team’s dynamic, and leading with clarity. Expect honest reflection and peer connection. Walk away with a care plan that supports you and your team through real stress and pressure.

Level of Interactivity (from 1 to 5 being very interactive): 3

Learning Outcomes. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Recognize signs of burnout in student government roles
- Identify ways to strengthen support and trust within your SGA team
- Build a care plan that supports sustainable and collaborative leadership



WORKSHOP HANDOUTS

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GUIDE TO ASGA WORKSHOPS

2026 SPRING VIRTUAL SG TRAINING CONFERENCE

How do you choose which workshops to attend? Look for these icons on the conference schedule to decide which workshops will best meet your needs.



Goal-Setting Techniques

Often our SG sets goals at the beginning of the term, but by mid-term we have lost our way; not made the kind of progress we wanted; or, found that we cannot achieve what we set out to do. Sometimes it is the loftiness of our expectations that were a problem from the start. Other times, we just did not operationalize the goals with action plans. These sessions are designed to provide your SG with techniques for realizing your full potential. If the outcome of your SG work does not measure up to the goals you established, then someone from your delegation should attend one of the sessions with this icon.

G *What Are Your SG's Superpowers? What SG Can (And Can't) Do – Butch Oxendine*



Organization Effectiveness

Whether you are a newly established, struggling, or high performing SG, organizational effectiveness is an essential aspect to your fulfilling your mission and established goals. These sessions are designed to set your SG up for success with tools. If your SG identifies this as a potential issue, do yourselves and your student body a favor – ensure that someone from your delegation attends any of the sessions with this icon.

A *The 25 Mistakes That Could Sink Your Student Government (And How to Fix Them) – Butch Oxendine*

B **NEW WORKSHOP** *Connection is the Work: Building Trust, Clarity, and Accountability in Student Government – Andria Donnenwerth, M.Ed.*

D **NEW WORKSHOP** *Money Matters: Managing Budgets and Funding Student Activities – Kat Klawes, M.A.*

E *Make Students Actually Care: The Power of SG Signature Programs – Butch Oxendine*



Personal Growth

No one is perfect! As leaders, we all have areas in which we can improve. These sessions are specifically designed to focus on SG members' individual leadership development. If you are working to try to enhance your own skill set, be sure you attend one of the sessions with this icon.

H **NEW WORKSHOP** *Lead Without Losing Yourself in Student Government – Kimberly Jones, Ph.D.*

Have a question about this Guide to ASGA Workshops? Please write info@asgaonline.com.



Advisor

ASGA recognizes the invaluable contributions advisors make to the overall productivity of their institution's SG which is why we have specially tailored sessions just for you. While all of our SG sessions have learning outcomes associated with them, these sessions provide advisors with tools for your toolbox. Whether you are new to advising, or just need to refresh, be sure to check out any of the sessions with this icon.

F **FOR ADVISORS** *Be an Uncle M.I.K.E. (Mentor-Inspire-Knowledge-Encourage)*
– Michael A. Cadore, Sr., Ed.D.



Public Relations

These sessions are designed to ensure your student government is well poised to gain exposure for your initiatives, programs and services. If your SG struggles with marketing and messaging, then we encourage you to ensure someone from your delegation attends any of the sessions with this icon.

C *Boosting Your Student Government's Web & Social Media Presence* – Butch Oxendine

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

ASGA's Virtual workshop leaders are among the nation's premier Student Government experts. In addition to being SG specialists who speak from personal experience, they're also skilled presenters who inject humor, enthusiasm, and passion into their workshops. They regularly consult with SGs and speak at major leadership conventions throughout the country, including all the top SG conferences.



Michael A. Cadore, Sr., Ed.D.

- President, Magnus Solutions, Inc. "Not just good ideas, but *Magnus* Solutions"
- Three decades of experience in higher education, law enforcement, leadership, mentorship, civic and community engagement
- Rockledge Florida City councilman Seat #1 (2019-Present)
- Learn more at www.magnussi.com
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Andria Donnenwerth, M.Ed.

- Director of Student Involvement & Philanthropic Engagement, WSU Global Campus
- Advisor to ASWSU Global Campus Student Government since 2019
- Leads campuswide initiatives supporting student leadership, alumni engagement, and virtual programming
- Passionate about inclusive leadership, values-driven communication, and empowering students to lead from wherever they are
- Graduate student in Adult and Higher Education at Western Washington University
- andria.donnenwerth@wsu.edu



Kimberly Jones, Ph.D.

- Professional speaker and trainer in student leadership development and student government
- Over 15 years of Student Affairs experience in Higher Education
- Certified True Colors facilitator, specializing in personality-based leadership
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Kat Klawes, M.A.

- Founder of the College Campus Oversight Advocates
- Former SGA President at Northern Michigan University
- Specializes in creating innovative programs, assessing programs, and driving systems change
- Works with universities, colleges, local governments, and state and federal agencies
- Experienced speaker, trainer, and coalition-builder working with over 75+ organizations each year
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W.H. Oxendine, Jr. (Butch)

- ASGA Executive Director and Founder
- Editor in Chief, *Student Leader* magazine
- Author, *So You Want to Be President...How to Get Elected on Your Campus*
- Professional Student Government consultant and frequent speaker at major Student Government conferences for more than 40 years
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