

Agenda for website

October 5th | Welcome

The 2026 BootUp Summit kicks off with a welcome reception at The Study at the University of Chicago.

Agenda

3:00 PM	Registration opens	<i>Lobby</i>
6:00 PM	Welcome Reception and Exhibitor Showcase	<i>Winter Garden</i>

October 6th | Building Hope, Shared Purpose, & Systemic Understanding

A full day at the Obama Presidential Center focused on developing a shared vision, examining systems-level challenges, and strengthening coalitions across sectors. The day concludes with a special Teacher Leader Recognition Reception to celebrate educators transforming classrooms in Chicago Public Schools.

Agenda

8:00 AM	Networking and Breakfast	<i>The Home Court</i>
9:00 AM	Welcome: Why this Moment Matters Lien Diaz, CEO, BootUp PD	
9:20 AM	Opening Keynote Brenda Darden Wilkerson, President and CEO, AnitaB.org	
10:30 AM	Panel Discussion: What should elementary students actually be learning in the age of AI? • Amy Stephens, Director of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine • Jake Baskin, Executive Director, Computer Science Teachers Association • Christina Gardner McCune, Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Florida and co-chair of AI4All	

- 11:20 AM Panel Discussion: Levers for change: How do we strengthen Elementary CS education through policy?
- Shana White, Director of CS Equity Initiatives, Kapor Foundation
 - Lavita Williams, Computer Science Program Specialist, Georgia Department of Education
 - Brett Tanaka, CS Education Specialist, Hawaii Department of Education
 - Jaci McCune, Deputy Director, ECEP Alliance
 - Josh Childs, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy
- 12:00 PM Lunch and Networking
- 1:30 PM Panel Discussion: Who Benefits, Who Builds, Who Leads? Creating an Inclusive AI Future
- Victor Hicks, Founder & CEO, Coding with Culture
 - Susan Arnold Christian, Senior Director, Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers
 - Aurora Dreger, Project Lead, Educating All Learners Alliance
 - Allyson Kennedy, Chief Partnerships Officer, BootUp PD
- 2:00 PM Flash talks: Community-Centered Research
- Sofía De Jesus, CS Strategy Specialist, The University of Texas at Austin
 - Emi Iwatani, Principal Researcher, Digital Promise
 - Katie Rich, Principal Research, American Institutes for Research
- 3:00 PM *Session to be announced soon!*
- 4:00 PM Perspectives from the Classroom: Chicago Public Schools
- *Speakers announced soon!*
- 6:00 PM Chicago Educator Celebration Reception and Showcase
- Special Exhibits Gallery*

A half-day at The Study at the University of Chicago featuring hands-on, workshop-style sessions designed to turn insights into practical strategies for advancing CS and AI education in schools and communities nationwide. Key outputs from The Chicago Conversations will be published and shared to support broader field-building efforts beyond the Summit.

Agenda

8:00 AM	Breakfast and networking	<i>Winter Garden</i>
9:00 AM	Morning synthesis and framing	<i>Winter Garden</i>
10:00 AM	The Chicago Conversations ● Conversation A: Practice ● Conversation B: Research ● Conversation C: Systems Change	<i>Drafting rooms 1, 2, 3</i>
11:30 AM	Collective Action Session: What Will We Build Together?	<i>Winter Garden</i>
12:00 PM	Final reflections and takeaway lunch	<i>Winter Garden</i>
1:00 PM	Adjourn	