

2026 EDUCAUSE Top 10

Making Connections



The **2026 EDUCAUSE Top 10** highlights how higher education technology and data leaders can foster *a collective will* and support *individual capabilities*—two deeply connected actions that will help institutions thrive in the year ahead.

INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES



1 Collaborative Cybersecurity

Building a cybersecurity culture of shared responsibility, end-user awareness and training, and improved access to security services and supports



2 The Human Edge of AI

Empowering students, faculty, and staff to engage with artificial intelligence tools critically, creatively, and safely



7 Technology Literacy for the Future Workforce

Supporting discipline-specific technology training and education to enhance student success with in-demand technology skills



9 AI-Enabled Efficiencies and Growth

Using artificial intelligence, robotic process automation, and other analytics capabilities to reduce operational costs, streamline processes, and improve strategic and business decision-making



10 Decision-Maker Data Skills and Literacy

Enhancing the value of institutional data by training and equipping decision-makers to use and interpret it properly

A COLLECTIVE WILL



3 Data Analytics for Operational and Financial Insights

Leveraging data analytics to provide insights into spending patterns, enrollment trends, and areas for cost savings and operational efficiencies



4 Building a Data-Centric Culture Across the Institution

Expanding and improving data access and unlocking the full potential of data as a strategic asset



5 Knowledge Management for Safer AI

Mitigating the risks of artificial intelligence by integrating knowledge management into data governance, privacy, and ethics programs



6 Measured Approaches to New Technologies

Making better technology investment decisions (or choosing not to invest) through clear cost, ROI, and legacy systems assessments



8 From Reactive to Proactive

Using data for scenario modeling, forecasting, and prediction to strengthen institutional agility and planning



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