

AIRI 2026 Annual Meeting - Program at a Glance

September 20-22, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, UT

Draft schedule - subject to change. Speakers/panelists to be confirmed where noted.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Time	Session	Track(s)
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Pre-Conference Registration Open	
9:00 - 11:00 AM	Pre-Conference Workshops (concurrent - educational format)	
	1. Team Workflows, Tools, and AI: Building the Modern Communications Operating System	Comms/Dev
	2. Government Relations 101 on a Shoestring Budget	Fin/Proc
	3. Collaboration Across the Research Enterprise	HR/Legal
	4. NSF SECURE Center: Research Security in a Box	SP/Ops
	5. AI Cost Control in 2 Hours	IT
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch on Own	
12:00 - 5:00 PM	General Registration Open	
1:00 - 2:15 PM	Focus Groups A (concurrent - interactive discussion)	
	1. Smarter Tools, Stronger Relationships: A Practical Framework for AI in Fundraising	Comms/Dev
	2. Financial Risk Mitigation Through KPIs and Business Intelligence	Fin/Ops/IT
	3. Retaining Employees at Small Organizations	HR/Legal
	4. Policies for AI Tool Use in Your Organization	Legal/IT/HR
	5. Structure Meets Strategy: Reengineering Infrastructure for Change	Ops
	6. Federal Disclosure Requirements: Challenges, Practices, and Perspectives	SP/Ops/HR/Fin
2:30 - 3:45 PM	Focus Groups B (concurrent - interactive discussion)	
	1. Owning the Narrative: Building Institutional Visibility in a Shifting Landscape	Comms/Dev
	2. Recharging Research Cores: Recovery, Sustainability, and Growth	Fin/Ops
	3. Doing More With Less	SP/Ops
	4. Compute at Scale: How Are Independent Research Institutes Tackling HPC	IT/Ops
	5. Federal Policy in Transition: Institutional Impacts and Shared Strategies	SP/Ops
	6. AI & People Processes	HR + Cybersecurity/IT/SP/Ops
4:00 - 5:00 PM	AIRI Business Meeting	
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Welcome Reception - Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City Terrace	

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Time	Session	Track(s)
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast / Networking - Expo Hall	
8:00 - 9:15 AM	General Session: Washington Update (Lewis Burke Associates) and Incoming AIRI President Message (Adam Cohen)	
9:30 - 10:45 AM	Breakout Session A (concurrent)	
	1. The ERP Implementation Journey: Planning, Pitfalls, and Lessons Learned	IT/Finance/HR
	2. Making the Case: How to Position F&A Costs as Mission-Critical Infrastructure	Fin/SP/Ops/Comms
	3. NSF SECURE: Global Partnerships, Local Responsibilities	SP/Ops/HR/Legal
	4. Measuring Space Utilization in Research Institutions (Ops/Facility)	SP/Ops/IT/Finance
	5. Building a Secure Research Environment on AWS	IT
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	General Session: Beyond the Federal Horizon - Philanthropy, Partnership and the Future of Science Funding	
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Networking Lunch - Speaker to be confirmed	
1:45 - 3:00 PM	Breakout Session B (concurrent)	
	1. Build, Buy, or Partner: Rethinking Research Infrastructure in the Age of AI	IT/ Fin/ SP/ Ops
	2. Navigating Change: IDC, JAG & Cost Accounting	Finance / SP/Ops /Legal
	3. AIRI Compensation Survey Findings	HR
	4. Building the Modern Research Institute Brand: Visibility, Trust, and Strategic Growth	Comms/ HR/ SP/ Ops
	5. Hot Topics / NIH Topics	Sp/Ops/Legal

AIRI 2026 Annual Meeting - Program at a Glance

September 20-22, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, UT

Draft schedule - subject to change. Speakers/panelists to be confirmed where noted.

3:15 - 4:30 PM	Breakout Session C (concurrent - presentation/Q&A)	
	1. Did the AI Do That? Real-World Agentic AI at Independent Research Institutes	IT/ Fin/Comms/ SP /Ops
	2. Institutional Systems Benchmarking: Insights & Best Practices	Finance / IT / HR
	3. Uniform Guidance Reconstruction: Proposed (OMB)	SP/ Ops/ Fin/ HR
	4. Fix It, Fund It, Save Energy: Turning RCx Findings into Funded Projects	Ops
	5. Gold Sponsor Presentation	
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Evening Reception - Clark Planetarium	

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Time	Session	Track(s)
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast / Networking - Expo Hall	
8:00 - 9:15 AM	General Session: Enabling Science with AI - How Research Institutions Are Building the Infrastructure, Governance, and Workflows to Make It Work	
9:30 - 10:45 AM	Breakout Session D (concurrent)	
	1. Cybersecurity in Practice: Protecting Controlled Research Data at Independent Research Institutes	IT/SP/Ops/HR
	2. Beyond the Buzz: AI That Delivers in Finance	IT/Fin/SP/Ops
	3. NSF SECURE Center: Overview & Tools	SP/Ops/IT/HR
	4. Partnering with Research Leadership to Develop the Modern Scientist	Legal/HR/Comms
	5. The Rising Tide: Collaborative Fundraising Strategies for an Increasingly Competitive Landscape	Comms/Dev
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	General Session: Communicating for Growth - How Storytelling Fuels Fundraising, Partnerships, and Institutional Resilience	
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Networking Lunch	
1:30 PM	Meeting Adjourns	