



2026 Next-Gen Campus Dining Session

Education & EPPS Programs

ECRM's educational sessions provide EPPS attendees with the opportunity to learn from thought leaders and category experts on a variety of topics aimed at their professional development. These sessions include presentations, moderated panel discussions, special events, workshops, and roundtable discussions focused on category insights and trends, as well as hands-on workshops to help buyers and sellers enhance the effectiveness of their meetings during an EPPS.

Sunday, September 27, 2026

University Buyer Roundtable

60 minutes

Exclusive Round Table Discussion for University Buyers

This is a unique opportunity for university buyers to come together in an intimate, collaborative setting to share insights, tackle industry challenges, and explore the latest trends shaping the future of our sector. Engage in meaningful conversations with peers, network with key industry players, and gain valuable perspectives that can help you stay ahead of the curve.

Note: This round table is exclusively for university buyer attendees.

1. The Evolving Student Dining Experience

- How are student expectations changing?
- What dining concepts, menu trends, or service models are driving engagement?
- What are students asking for that wasn't on your radar a few years ago?

2. Budget Pressures & Operational Challenges

- Managing rising food and labor costs.
- Balancing value, quality, and participation.
- Creative ways campuses are improving efficiency without sacrificing the student experience.

3. Product Innovation & Supplier Partnerships

- What makes a new product worth testing?
- How do you identify suppliers that truly bring value?
- What product categories are you actively looking for over the next 12 months?

4. Technology, AI & The Future of Campus Dining

- Where is AI making an impact today?
- Mobile ordering, robotics, forecasting, and inventory management.
- What technologies are worth the investment, and which aren't?

5. Looking Ahead: What's Next for Campus Dining?

- What challenges and opportunities do you see over the next 3-5 years?
- How are student demographics, wellness, sustainability, and campus operations influencing your strategy?
- What advice would you share with your peers?