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TECHEX 2026

Community Challenge

Shaping What's Next – Together

Wednesday, October 28 • 8:00–9:50 am • Symphony Ballroom

Attendees from every conference track are welcome.

A New Kind of TechEX Conversation

Join us for an extended, interactive conversation about what is changing across R&E, and what we can make possible together. **Come ready to think out loud and contribute to the future we're building together.**

What's Happening

The last 18 months have seen incredible change. AI is opening new possibilities in research, teaching, and everyday work while raising questions about security and governance. Research and collaborations form quickly across organizational boundaries. Institutions share infrastructure, services, and staff, extending access to resources and expertise beyond what any one organization could provide alone.

At the same time, uncertain research funding, enrollment pressures, identity fraud, and tighter budgets are forcing difficult choices. Security expectations are rising, IAM expertise is stretched, and decisions that shape access are increasingly being made outside central IT — in procurement, legal, risk, and individual departments.

All of this is asking our trust and access management systems to handle more and different demands.

These pressures are real.
So are the opportunities.

What We'll Work Through Together

No single institution can navigate these shifts in isolation. Together, we can work through what they require, and where shared effort can help. We've designed the Community Challenge session for this.

We will put real challenges and opportunities on the table across teaching and learning, administration, research, infrastructure, and collaboration: where current approaches are holding up and where they are falling short.

Then we will focus on what it will take:
what needs to change, who needs to be involved, and what we need from one another - in technology and architecture, leadership, shared models, practical guidance, and peer support.

What You'll Leave With

Something practical to build on and knowing that you are not carrying this work alone.

InCommon® Forward together.