

Summary Report of IUCEE 2025 Annual Leadership Summit

The IUCEE 2025 Annual Leadership Summit, held on July 11 and 12, 2025, at the International Center Goa, focused on the theme *“Improving Teaching and Learning Ecosystems at Institutional Level.”* Organized by the Indo Universal Collaboration for Engineering Education (IUCEE), the summit brought together institutional leaders, educators, and academic change-makers to explore strategies for enhancing the quality and sustainability of teaching and learning practices across higher education institutions. The serene environment of the International Center Goa provided an ideal setting for collaborative discussions, networking, and deep reflection on leadership in education.

Participants began arriving a day prior to the summit and those who checked in early enjoyed an informal welcome dinner at the ICG Dining Hall. This pre-summit gathering allowed attendees to connect in a relaxed environment and prepare for the intensive program that would follow.

The summit commenced with introductions by the IUCEE Team in Abolim Hall, setting a collaborative tone for the event. In the opening session titled *“Setting the Stage,”* Prof. Krishna Vedula and Ms. Kelly Ottman outlined the summit’s objectives and emphasized the critical role of leadership in shaping institutional teaching and learning ecosystems. This was followed by a general session on *“Understanding Engagement”* by Kelly Ottman, which explored multi-layered approaches to fostering student, faculty, and community engagement.

After the opening discussions, participants moved into their assigned breakout rooms for an interactive session, *“Engaging in Engagement,”* facilitated by the IUCEE Team. Divided into four groups across SAL, Mandovi, Zuari, and Abolim halls, attendees discussed real-world strategies for enhancing participation and collaboration in academic environments. A debrief session by Kelly Ottman summarized key points and set reflective activities before lunch.

In the afternoon, the program resumed with another breakout session on *“Leadership Image,”* which encouraged participants to examine their leadership personas and institutional reputations. This was followed by a debrief and mini-lesson from Kelly Ottman, and a general session on *“Effective Meetings”* that provided practical tools for making institutional meetings more purposeful and results-driven. Later, Prof. Sohum Sohoni presented the session *“Mentoring,”* highlighting best practices for mentoring faculty and students to build a strong academic community.

The day concluded with a review session led by Prof. Krishna Vedula, summarizing the day’s activities and outlining the agenda for the next day. Participants also engaged in an “Exit Ticket” review exercise to capture their reflections. Formal proceedings were followed by an informal

session for women participants, facilitated by Dr. Preeti Baligar in Mandovi Hall. The evening closed with a cocktail dinner for all summit participants in Abolim Hall, providing another opportunity for networking and informal discussions.

The second day began with a review of the previous day's outcomes and an introduction to the day's agenda by Prof. Krishna Vedula. The first general session, "*Best Practices of Teaching and Learning Centers*" in a Circle Talk format, was conducted by Kelly Ottman, encouraging participants to share successful models and experiences from their institutions. This was followed by another session from Kelly Ottman on "*Introducing SMART Goals*," aimed at helping leaders set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound objectives. Participants then moved into breakout sessions to work on "*Institutional Planning using SMART Goals*," applying the concepts to their own contexts in collaborative group discussions.

After lunch, the focus shifted to future planning. The IUCEE Team and GITAM Team presented reports for the upcoming ICTIEE 2026 conference, followed by a discussion on "*Integrating AI into ICTIEE 2026/IASF 2026*," which emphasized how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence could enhance event planning and academic collaboration. The day's final session, "*Institutional Plans*," utilized exit ticket reviews to consolidate action points and commitments from the summit.

The summit concluded with wrap-up remarks by Prof. Krishna Vedula, expressing gratitude to participants and summarizing the event's achievements. The gathering officially ended with a closing dinner for the IUCEE Team in the ICG Dining Hall.

Overall, the IUCEE 2025 Annual Leadership Summit succeeded in creating a vibrant platform for leaders to engage in meaningful discussions on improving teaching and learning ecosystems. Key takeaways included the adoption of engagement strategies, leadership development practices, effective meeting management techniques, mentoring frameworks, and the integration of SMART goals into institutional planning. Additionally, the collaborative planning for ICTIEE 2026 and discussions on AI integration highlighted IUCEE's forward-looking approach. The event fostered strong professional networks and reaffirmed the collective commitment to advancing educational quality and innovation across institutions.

Glimpses of IUCEE 2025 Annual Leadership Summit



Ms. Kelly Ottman



