



Purposeful Leadership Means Evidencing Excellence

Presenter



Dietrich von Biedenfeld serves as the Chief Procurement Officer for Houston City College where he leads procurement strategy, compliance, and operations across the system in support of more than 100,000 students, faculty, and staff. He is also an assistant professor of business, law, and supply chain management at the University of Houston-Downtown. He is an experienced public servant, educator, and procurement leader based in Greater Houston. His background combines higher education, law, public policy, and local government service. In addition to legal education Dr. von Biedenfeld studied sociology and political science, which has been exceptionally helpful in understanding and directing organizational behavior. In addition to his academic and procurement work, he has been active in civic leadership, and his work is built on themes of integrity, excellence, and innovation.

Summary:

Procurement is being reshaped by AI, cloud systems, blockchain, and virtual collaboration, but the profession still operates under enduring legal and policy



constraints. This session uses stare decisis as a framing device to show how procurement leaders can embrace innovation without abandoning precedent, governance, or public accountability. Participants will explore the promise and limits of agentic and generative AI, the continuing importance of human judgment, and the dangers of “garbage in, garbage out” when data, instructions, or oversight are weak. The session will also address how trade rules, sanctions, and state procurement restrictions continue to influence purchasing decisions, reinforcing the need for disciplined leadership in a changing environment. Innovation moves fast; procurement must move wisely.