Paul T. Francis
Executive director, Council of Presidents, State of Washington

Since 2013, Francis has served as executive director of the Council of Presidents, or COP, a voluntary association based in Olympia that represents Washington’s six public baccalaureate degree-granting colleges and universities. Francis leads COP in advocating for public baccalaureate education with policymakers, state and community leaders, and others; fostering sector-wide coordination and collaboration by facilitating discussions with a number of inter-institutional groups; and working in partnership with COP’s many educational partners to improve student access and success. Prior to joining the Council of Presidents, Francis worked for the Washington State House Democratic Caucus for five years on higher education policy and general government fiscal issues.