

PRECONFERENCE

Wednesday

10:00 AM–7:00 PM	Registration, Grand Ballroom Foyer, 5 th Floor
3:00 PM–6:00 PM	Preconference Sessions
6:00 PM–7:30 PM	Welcome Reception, Exhibit Hall, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5 th Floor

Preconference sessions are optional add-ons offered at an additional cost. Participants should register in advance when possible. On-site registration will be available with payment accepted at the registration desk.

PRECONFERENCE SESSIONS 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

(Room locations will be posted at the registration desk).

Embedding Employability Skills into Technical Programs: Tools, Strategies, and Employer Insights

Hope Cotner, President & CEO of the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD)
Marci Gale, Associate Professor and Program Head of Mechatronics and Electronics at Central Virginia Community College

Building Inclusive Career Pathways Through Strategic Partnerships

Jessica Morrison, Former Founding Executive Director of the Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative

Integrating Apprenticeships into Career Pathways: Strategies for Educators and Workforce Partners

Besa Sadiku, Manager of Workforce Initiatives, Harper College
Maria Coons, Ed.D., Senior Consultant, CORD; Former Provost and Vice President, Harper College

From Theory to Action: Implementing AI with Purpose and Workforce Alignment

Lane Freeman, Ed.D., Director of Online Learning, North Carolina Community College System
Trent Mohrbutter, Ed.D.

Leading Change & Influence Forum

Jennifer Jirous-Rapp, Ph.D., Vice President-Pathways and Partnerships, CORD
Lauren K Jones, NCC, CSCDA, LPCc, MCCCTE, Program Director for Special Populations, Counseling & Career Development, Colorado/Community College System

Thursday

7:30 AM-5:00 PM **Registration Open, Grand Ballroom Foyer, 5th Fl.**

7:30 AM-5:00 PM **Exhibits Open, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.**

7:30 AM–8:30 AM **Continental Breakfast, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Access to Achievement: Advancing Workforce Pathways for All**

Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Lindsay Tipton

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Building Rural Talent Pathways Through Trusted Partnerships in Colorado**

Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Ashley Maestas, Stefan Richarz

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **From Theory to Action: Implementing AI with Purpose and Workforce Alignment**

Location: Armstrong, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Lane Freeman, Trent Mohrbutter

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Mind Matters: Integrating Mental Wellness into Career Pathways for Student Success**

Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Sophie Manigo Fuller

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Recruitment That Works: A Theory-Informed Approach to Student Attraction**

Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Lana Rucks, Brianna Crumly-Goodwin

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **When Students Define Success: What Really Matters**

Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Diamond Dickerson, Jalarion Little

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Professional Development That Drives Change: Lessons from DeafTEC**

Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses

Speakers: Donna Lange, Theresa Johnson

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Responding to Our Aging Society: The Gerontology Program of Study**

Location: Endymion-Mid-City, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Jennifer Ellis-Gajda, PhD, HS-BCP, CPG

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Snack / Networking / Exhibits, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.**

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **AI in Action - Transforming Teaching and Learning in Community Colleges**

Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.

Speakers: John Sands, Jiri Jirik

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Entrepreneurial STEM**

Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Joseph Walsh, Molly Caplon, Amelia Harris, Natalie King, Ella Naebeck

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **PoWeRful Alphabet Soup: Career Clusters, Career Conversations, Career Advising and More**

Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Lauren Jones

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Semiconductor Pathways: Connecting K-12, College, and Industry Through Strategic Partnerships**

Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Rick Vaughn

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Scaling Student Support Programs**

Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Liesl Jones, Janice Zummo

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **AdvanceNC: A Collaborative Ecosystem Supporting the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Workforce**

Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Evelyn Brown

10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Building Technician Pathways: Recruitment and Industry Partnerships in Action**

Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Mark Iverson, Brooks Jacobsen, Steve Trautner

10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Building the Future: The Early Childhood Academy Model for Workforce Readiness Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl. Speaker: Katie Dowdle
11:15 AM-1:00 PM	GENERAL SESSION—BUFFET LUNCH How Partnerships Mature: The Power of We Location: Grand Ballroom C, 5th Fl.
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Cybersecurity Career Toolkit: Equipping Counselors to Guide Students Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl. Speaker: Kristine Christensen
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Implementing Workforce Pell: Federal Guidelines and North Carolina's Roadmap Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl. Speakers: Lindsay Tipton, Michelle Bauer
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Engaging Students Beyond the Bell: Strengthening Career Awareness Through Industry Collaboration Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl. Speakers: Rosa Grant, Shannon Latimer, Ericka Ashe Lane
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	From BACE to Beyond: Designing Stackable Credentials for Biotech Career Growth Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl. Speaker: Tamara Mandell
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Employer-Led, Multi-Department Internship Development: Lessons from the City of Westfield, Indiana Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl. Speakers: Kevin Fudge, Emily Rogers
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Multiple Generations in the Classroom Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl. Speaker: Marci Gale
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Building Career-Ready Students: Integrating Professional Skills into Every Classroom Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl. Speakers: Jessica Ruiz, Andrea Calhoun, Debbie Owen, Loni Tamez, Irma Espinoza
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	Empowering Access: Scaling Direct Admission through Integrated Learner Supports Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl. Speakers: Patrick Neuendorf, Kaitlyn Gessert
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Building Apprenticeship Pathways for Learners and Employers Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl. Speakers: Noel Parish, Anne Kelley-Kemple
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Preparing Students for Career Success - Hear from the Experts Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl. Speaker: Reecie Stagnolia
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	From Silos to Synergy: Building a Career Pathways Ecosystem That Lasts Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl. Speaker: Brandi Bragg
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Empower Yourself! Building Professional Credibility Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl. Speaker: Sheila Simon
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	The Resilient Future Framework: Equipping Learners and Ecosystems for a Resilient Future Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl. Speaker: Dr. Tammie Wilson
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Community Partnerships That Work: Embracing the Power of We Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl. Speakers: Hope Cotner, Maria Coons, Annette Parker
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Turning Employer Demand into Sustainable Pathways Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl. Speaker: Alisa Deck
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Innovative Career Pathways in Texas Adult Education: From Intake to Employment Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl. Speakers: Glenda Rose, Olga Escamilla
3:30 PM-4:00 PM	Snack / Networking / Exhibits, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.

- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Innovative State Approaches to Developing, Scaling and Funding Quality Non-degree Credential Programs**
Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.
Speakers: Marc Goldberg, Dan Belyea, Kate Kinder, Adam Mennig
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Strengthening Manufacturing Talent Pipelines Through National Collaboration**
Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.
Speaker: Ashley Powell, Dr. Johnathan Woodward, Dr. Adam Palacios, Willie Thompson
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Leveraging Data: Uncovering Purpose and Job Satisfaction for Enhanced Labor Market Outcomes**
Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.
Speaker: Solomon Tention
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Workforce-Aligned, Student-Centered Healthcare Pathways: Lessons from the Colorado Health Careers Academy**
Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.
Speaker: Nafeesa Lynn
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Designing an Effective IET**
Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.
Speaker: Ronald Cruz
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **Guidance, Grit, and Hurdles: Understanding Real-World Pathway Choices**
Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl.
Speaker: Betsy Tessler
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **EXPOSE, PREPARE, CONNECT: Helping Students Bridge the Gap and Imagine the Possibilities**
Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl.
Speakers: Amy Alexander, Dee Coleman, Erica Golden
- 4:00 PM-5:00 PM** **From Pilots to Pathways: Scaling Digital Advising Tool Adoption Across 300+ Schools**
Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl.
Speakers: Kristen Harris, Robyn Phillips, Jon Quintanilla, Rhina Torres

Friday

7:30 AM–9:30 AM Registration, Grand Ballroom Foyer, 5th Fl.

7:30 AM–11:15 AM Exhibits Open, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Continental Breakfast, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Build Your Future: A Career Pathway with Endless Possibilities**

Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.

Speaker: LTC Nicolas James

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Hands-On Web Based Mechatronics Credit Courses for High Schools and Industry**

Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Doug Pauley

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Big Flex Zone: Flex Learning Strategies for Retention**

Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Jennifer Hills, Krystal Hills

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Building Sustainable IET Programs: Integrating Mentorship to Strengthen Adult Learner Success**

Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Vertricia Harris

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Equitable On-Ramps: Communication Strategies for Dual Credit Success**

Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Nereida Macias, Kate DePaolis, Frank Smith, Hunter Sunitsch

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Redefining Quality in Career Pathways: A CORD Aligned Framework for States**

Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Thomas Hartman, Jennifer Jirous-Rapp

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Ensuring Equitable Work-Based Learning: Framework Development, Implementation, and Outcomes**

Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Danene Brown, Kevin McMackine, Benjamin Gamboa

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Grant Writing Strategies for National Science Foundation ATE Proposals**

Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl.

Speakers: Greg Kepner, Mel Cossette

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Innovative Approach to Meeting Workforce Talent Needs**

Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Dan Belyea

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Entrepreneurship As a Model for Access to Career Pathways in Rural Communities**

Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Jessica Morrison

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **HSEs, IETs, & Degrees: Elevating Skills, Confidence, & Opportunities for Adult Learners**

Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Tracey Fleniken, Sarina Lirette

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Advancing Career Pathways with AR/VR: Funding, Alignment, Credentials, and Skills and Access**

Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Brenda Berube, Jeff Arnott

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Igniting Creative Resilience: Helping Students Discover Passion in the Skilled Trades**

Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Jon Kapel

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Energy & Natural Resources Education Ecosystem**

Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Kristie Kelley

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Let's Talk Careers - Working with Justice Impacted Individuals**

Location: Bacchus/Iris/Muses, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Jeffrey Abramowitz

9:45 AM-10:45 AM **Adult Education and Workforce Relationship with Contextualized Learning**

Location: Endymion//Mid-City, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Kate Dust

10:45 AM-11:15 AM

Snack / Networking / Exhibits, EXHIBIT HALL, Grand Ballroom A&B, 5th Fl.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Pathways That Pay: Rapid Credentials, Real Jobs, Recognized Credit

Location: Grand Ballroom D, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Kimberly Lea, Mildred Coyne

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Leveraging the BILT Model to Develop Industry-Responsive Programs

Location: Grand Ballroom E, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Hope Cotner, Maria Coons

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Designing CTE for the Real World

Location: Grand Couteau, 5th Fl.

Speaker: Kimberly Eckert

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

No Cost & Maximum Impact for Schools: ASVAB Career Exploration Program

Location: Grand Chenier, 5th Fl.

Speakers: Keacha Simmons, Temeka Franklin

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Camp Careers...from Summer Camp to a Career!

Location: Orpheus, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Frankye Boone

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Building Sustainable Adult Education Pathways: Credentials, IET, Upskilling, Corrections & Reentry

Location: Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Fl.

Speaker: Jonathan Smith