

NORFOLK

September 8, 2026

ACHE CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER #4

QUICK REMINDERS

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- ✓ [Register](#) for the conference.
- ✓ Book your [hotel](#) accommodations.
- ✓ Plan your travel to Norfolk.
- ✓ Review the [conference agenda](#) and plan your time in Norfolk.
- ✓ [Register](#) for the Scholarship Sunset Cruise.
- ✓ [Download](#) the Whova App

NETWORKING EVENTS

Connect with fellow ACHE attendees beyond the conference sessions:

- **Welcome Reception (Monday Evening):** Reconnect with colleagues and meet new attendees.
- **Feel the Love (Tuesday):** Build connections across the ACHE community.
- **Scholarship Cruise (Tuesday Evening):** Network on the Norfolk waterfront while supporting ACHE scholarships.



*Navigating Uncharted Waters:
Leadership, Resilience & Renewal*



DISCOVER THE HILTON NORFOLK



Enjoy the modern *Norfolk Hilton* located on the Elizabeth River by creating a memorable experience by engaging your five senses. Taste delicious food from 3 onsite restaurants: The Saltine (seafood), Varia (Italian trattoria) and Grain (rooftop beer garden). Feel the soft ocean breeze when walking along the river. Hear the clanging of ships at the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin. See the historic 1899 *Slover Library*. Smell sweet and savory candles at the *Norfolk Candle Co*. Your special experience is waiting!

ACHE Conference Team

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 PARTNERS!

ed2go • AAPC • Kennedy & Co. • Center for Legal Studies by BARBRI (CLS) • Coursera •
Acadeum • Modern Campus • Center for Academic Innovation • I4E • East Tennessee State
University • University of Tennessee at Chattanooga • California State University, Chico •
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Military Ready: A gateway to CPL



Dr. Dallas Kratzer

Dr. Dallas Kratzer is Senior Partner with the Center for Academic Innovation (CAI), where he helps institutions expand educational access through military credit for prior learning (CPL) and workforce-focused initiatives. He led Kentucky's statewide effort to increase CPL adoption, evaluated military training for college credit with the American Council on Education (ACE), and provided CPL consulting to colleges and universities across the country. A retired U.S. Air Force leader with 35+ years of experience, Dr. Kratzer brings expertise in translating military learning and experience into academic pathways. His keynote, Military Ready: A Gateway to CPL, will offer practical strategies for institutions seeking to better serve all adult learners.

GET TO KNOW VIRGINIA!

Virginia earned the unofficial nickname of "Old Dominion" because it was established in 1607 as the first permanent English colony in the New World. It is also known as the "Mother of Presidents" as 8 commanders-in-chief's began their lives there including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, William Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor and Woodrow Wilson.

Here are flora and fauna that represent Virginia:

- State flower and tree: [American Dogwood](#).
- Bird: [Northern Cardinal](#)
- Insect: [Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly](#)
- Fresh Water Fish: [Brook Trout](#)
- Dog: [American Foxhound](#)
- Bat: [Virginia Big-Eared Bat](#)

Keep an eye out for these special symbols!

FEEL THE LOVE

Tuesday, October 27, 3:15-4:00p.m.

Join your ACHE Professional Family for the "Feel the Love" in-person conference social event to connect in a fun atmosphere of music, games, networking and laughter. Give yourself a needed break and brain boost with an entertaining 45-minutes of friendship and engagement. Hosted by Bryan Best, University of La Verne; Clayton Mack, North Carolina Central University; and Patti Spaniola, University of West Florida. You won't want to miss it!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

➤ AS A FIRST-TIME ACHE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT, HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY EXPERIENCE?

- Download the Whova App for conference details and networking.
- Attend First-Timer Events to connect with newcomers. Details coming soon!
- Make Your Badge Your Own by choosing fun ribbons at the registration desk!
- Plan Your Experience by exploring the agenda and building your schedule in advance.

Share your stories, big or small, and let's inspire each other at **#ACHEcon26**.