

NACCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hilton Boston Park Plaza Hotel



AGENDA

Sunday, November 1, 2026

- 10:00am – 1:00pm **NACCE Board of Directors Annual Meeting & Luncheon** (Closed meeting)
- 11:00am – 12:15pm: **Ratcliffe Foundation Pitch Winner Meetup & Lunch**
- 11:45am – 2:00pm **Featured Pre-Conference: Smarter Enrollment, Stronger Student Success: Powered by AI (Ticketed experience with lunch included)**
Charlie Davis, Chief Visionary Officer, Crazy Think (FL)
Marcy Euler, CEO, Pima Community College Foundation (AZ)
Dr. Kevin Logan, Chief Innovation Technology Officer, SkillPointe (MD)
- 1:00pm – 2:30pm **Pre-Convening: Entrepreneurship Education in Action: Lessons from Babson College** (FREE Ticketed Experience)
Dr. Amir Reza, Dean, Babson Academy and Global Education
Nan Covert, Senior Director of Business Development, Babson College
- 3:00pm – 3:45pm: **New Attendee Networking Experience**
Dr. Trenton Hightower, Executive Director of Membership & Workforce Development, NACCE (FL)
Suzanne Ross, SBDC Director, Johnston Community College (NC)
- 4:00pm – 5:30pm: **Opening General Session**
Welcome from the NACCE Board Chair – Dr. Sharon Pierce
President of Minneapolis College (MN)
Welcome to Boston – The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston (Invited)
The Revolutionary Edge: Connecting Ideas, Innovating Futures
Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE (moderator)
Dr. Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College (MA) Mr.

Reza Jafari, Chair of Chesapeake College Board of Trustees (MD) Mr. Nate MacKinnon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MA)

Skills, Scalability, and Synergy: Driving the Future Workforce Forward

Acting Asst. Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor (Invited)

Woven Innovation: Effectuation Table Crazy Quilt Challenge

Facilitators:

Erik Coyne, JD – Chancellor, Ivy Tech Bloomington (IN)

Dr. Amy Diaz, President, GateWay Community College (AZ)

Dr. Torie Jackson, President, West Virginia University, Parkersburg (WV)

5:30pm – 7:00pm: **Reception & Music in Exhibit Hall** (Heavy hors d'oeuvres)

7:00pm – 8:30pm: **VIP Dinner** (*by invitation only*) – Founder & Lifetime Achievement Award Winners Honored

The Garden of Impact: Nurturing Change through Nonprofit, CSR and Business Leadership

Trimeka Benjamin, President & CEO of SWIM Digital Group

Rose Kirk, 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Monday, November 2, 2026

7:00am – 8:30am: **Breakfast & Exhibit Hall Open**

8:15am – 9:55am: **Opening Session: Anchored in Purpose, Driven by Change: The New Leadership Legacy | Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation**

Dr. Jermaine Ford, NACCE Treasurer

Cheryl Kiser, Founder, The Breakthrough Interactions Group;
Founding Executive Director, The Institute for Social Innovation,
Babson College (Ret.)

Rose Kirk, 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Donna Epps, Sr. Vice President and Chief Responsible Business Officer at Verizon

Global Horizons: Innovate, Connect, Scale

Dr. Lisa Avery, President, Linn-Benton Community College (OR)

Dr. Carol Carter, Founder, Global MindED
Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE (moderator)
Sara Dart, Senior Vice President, Education in Ireland (MA)
DuBois Jennings, Director of Engagement, Education New Zealand

**Accelerate Opportunity: The Blueprint for Middle-Skill Growth:
Insights from Upskilling Virginia**

Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE (moderator)
Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VA)
Craig Robinson, Senior Vice President of Quality Coaching, Strada Educational Foundation
NACCE/SkillPointe at the Richmond Speedway – Highlight Reel

AI Workforce Development Platform

Demo of new platform & engagement

Announcement of the 2026 Entrepreneurial President of the Year!

Presented by: Dr. Michael Baston, President of Tri-C in Cleveland, OH, the 2025 Entrepreneurial President of the Year

10:15am – 11:15am: **Breakout Sessions 1**

11:30am – 12:30pm: **Breakout Sessions 2**

10:15am – 12:15pm: **From Pathways to Policy: CEO Leadership for Economic Opportunity (by invitation only)**

Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO, NACCE (NC)
Jee Hang Lee, President & CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT – DC)
Nate MacKinnon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MA)
Dr. Joe Schaffer, President, Laramie County Community College (WY)

12:30pm – 1:00pm: **Lunch Buffet**

1:00pm – 2:30pm: **Lunch General Session**

12:50pm – 2:30pm **Opening Remarks: Dream Big, Lead Boldly: Navigating Purpose and Passion**

Dr. Michael Baston, President of Cuyahoga Community College (OH)

DRAFT as of 8/5/2026

\$150,000 Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation LIVE Pitch for the Skilled Trades Competition!

Carlene Cassidy, CEO, Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation (MD)

Dr. Darcie Tumey, Director of Events & Programs, NACCE (NC)

The Tapestry of Belonging: Creating Spaces Where Everyone Thrives & Common Thread Table Activity

Alicia Sams, Student Support Counselor, Kaua'i Community College (HI)

Julie Stein, Director of Program Development, Florida State College Jacksonville (FL)

Closing Remarks: Leading with Purpose, Growing through Belonging

Dr. Byron Breland, Chancellor, North Orange County Community College District (CA) and NACCE Board Member

2:30pm – 3:15pm: **Dessert & Networking in Exhibit Hall**

3:30pm – 4:30pm: **Breakout Sessions 3**

4:45pm – 7:00pm: **Cheers Tribute Reception: Where Everybody Knows Your Name**

An evening of great conversation, a beer tasting, and a welcoming atmosphere. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. Feel free to dress for the occasion and come in your favorite *Cheers*-inspired costume or attire!

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

7:00am – 8:30am: **Breakfast & Exhibit Hall Open**

8:15am – 10:00am: **Morning General Session**

Innovation in Action: San Francisco City College's Blueprint for Creating a Workforce Innovation Labs

Dr. Monte Perez, President, East Los Angeles Community College (CA)

Xavier Nazario, Co-Founder, Workforce Innovation Labs

Shaping the Shift: AI Policy, Cutting Edge Tools, and Future Workforce Impact

Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE (moderator)

Dr. Lee Lambert, Chancellor of Foothill-DeAnza Community College District (CA)

Dr. Casey Sacks, Acting Assistant Secretary of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Sebastian Wowra, Founder, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of MyUnicBrain (Switzerland)

The Agility Advantage: How the College of DuPage and NCCET Forms the Future of Work Fireside Chat

Dr. Joe Cassidy, Vice President of Workforce Innovation and Community Education at College of DuPage and President of NCCET (IL)

Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, President of the College of DuPage (IL)

Digital Readiness with SpringBoard

Verizon Small Business Digital Ready (VSBDR)

Oliver Chan, Manager, Verizon

The Guardrails of Progress: Innovation, AI, and Academic Oversight

Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE (moderator)

Karen Moore, Founder & CEO of the Moore Agency and Trustee on the District Board of Tallahassee State College (FL)

Dr. Heather Perfetti, President & CEO of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

The “Standing Order” High-Five Activity: Ecosystems Can’t be Built Alone

10:15am – 11:15am: **Breakout Sessions 4**

11:30am – 12:30pm: **Breakout Sessions 5**

12:30pm – 1:00pm: **Lunch Buffet**

1:00pm – 2:30pm: **Lunch General Session & Pitch for the Skilled Trades Winners Announced!**

Welcome: The Energy Thermostat Exercise

Dr. Trenton Hightower, Executive Director of Membership & Workforce Development, NACCE (FL)

Dr. Kevin Logan, Chief Innovation & Technology Officer for SkillPointe, NACCE (MD)

Announcement of the Ratcliffe Foundation \$150,000 Pitch for the Skilled Trades Winners!

Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation (MD)

Collaborate to Capitalize: Community & Bank Ready

Andy Ivankovich, CEO of Baker Hill

Parts of the Whole: Assembling Your Team, Your Tech, Your Future

Sam Thevanayagam, Founder and CEO of Parts Life

Special Partnership Announcement!

The Everyday Entrepreneur 2026 Showcase & Announcement of the 2026 Entrepreneurial College of the Year!

Stuart & Chip Weismiller, Co-Founders of EEVF

2:30pm – 3:15pm: **Dessert & Networking in Exhibit Hall**

3:30pm – 4:30pm: **Breakout Sessions 6**

4:45pm – 6:00pm: **Reception** (Heavy hors d'oeuvres)

7:00pm – 9:00pm: **Film Screening of “Multiple Choice”** by Ted Dintersmith with popcorn and snacks

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

7:30am – 8:45am: **Breakfast**

8:30am – 11:00am: **Closing General Session: Ignite and Achieve: Sustaining Our Legacy, Shaping Tomorrow**

Welcome & Reflection

Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO, NACCE

CEO from MA Competitive Partnership Member

Opening Keynote: The Wayfinder's Compass: Navigating the Next Horizon of Workforce Innovation

Dr. Betty Young, President of Hocking College (OH)

Founders Awards and Reflections moving into NACCE's 25th Year Celebration

Honorees:

Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Ratcliffe Foundation (MD)

Dr. Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College (MA)

Dr. Barbara Kavalier, President of St. Charles Community College (MO)

Dr. Christine Pigsley, Professor of Applied Leadership and Program Director, Minnesota State Mankato (MN)

Dr. Steve Spinelli, President of Babson College (MA)

Moderator: Dr. Joe Saulustio, Chief of Industry Engagement, Ellucian

***Announcement of 25th Anniversary NACCE Festivities:**

Elizabeth Anderson, Manager of Communications & Special Projects, NACCE

10:00am – 10:15am **BREAK**

The Lemonade Pivot Activity!

Live AI-Powered Conversation Intelligence Event: Legacy, Celebration and Future Planning

Closing Thoughts & Actions

11:20am – noon **Breakout Sessions 7**