

eNews from NACCE

THE IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

April 2026 Theme: Community & Service Month

We are excited to feature **Amber Hicks**, NACCE Senior Coordinator, as our NACCE Team Captain of the Month!



Amber kicks things off with a quick intro, dives into this month's theme highlights, and shows you exactly where to uncover exciting opportunities on the NACCE website. Don't miss it!



This month's focus is **Service and Community**, a core part of NACCE's mission. From workforce initiatives and professional development to programs like the President's for Entrepreneurship Pledge, NACCE supports educators, entrepreneurs, and their communities while creating opportunities to connect and grow throughout 2026.

Did you know? NACCE member colleges have access to the white-labeled NACCE Institute Education platform, powered by Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, making it easy to integrate free resources, courses, and certifications into entrepreneurship instruction.

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NACCE CEO Corner: Podcast Highlight

Much to my surprise and delight, I encountered the Poetry Fox at a community gathering at the Art Museum in Raleigh in the summer of 2024.

Spotlight on Community & Service: The Artistic Entrepreneur

April is Community and Service Month, a time to strengthen ties by giving back. At NACCE, our mission is to provide leadership and resources that foster entrepreneurial thinking and innovative action. By volunteering in your community, you are practicing the empathy and problem-solving at the heart of the entrepreneurial mindset.

Community service often leads to unexpected connections with everyday entrepreneurs like the **Poetry Fox**, an artist who uses a manual typewriter and a fox costume to inspire communities through on-demand poetry. It was a joy for me to read on this podcast the poem he wrote for me, inspired by the word “entrepreneur”.

To continue sharing these inspiring stories that we have collected over the past several years, we are excited to feature an episode of our podcast, **Forward with NACCE**, in this and future issues of eNEWS. Here are a few milestones we’re celebrating:

- 100+ Episodes recorded, more than 100 episodes sharing lessons from leaders who uplift their communities.
- Global Impact: Over 10,000 episodes have been downloaded by listeners in over 65 countries.
- This Week’s Feature: Relive the journey of Chris Vitiello (The Poetry Fox) and discover **how a fox costume inspired an entrepreneurial journey.**

Events Corner



Pathways To Prosperity 2026
June 23–25, 2026

Cuyahoga Community College
(Tri-C) – Corporate College
East

The Best Networking Opportunity of
the Summer!



As we continue to spotlight our **2026 Pathways To Prosperity** presenters, we’re excited to build on last week’s announcement by highlighting another inspiring leader joining us at the Pathways to Prosperity Summit.

Join NACCE for the 2026 Pathways To Prosperity Summit near Cleveland, OH!

Come and enrich your knowledge about leadership and workforce development, along with how to build bank-ready entrepreneurs.

While you are in town, explore Cleveland!

[Visit our Website](#)



NACCE 2026 Annual Conference
November 1-4, 2026, in Boston,
MA

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Proposals to present a breakout session at NACCE's 2026 Annual Conference open Monday, April 13th, and close on Friday, July 17th.

More to come...

Charles Davis will be presenting during one of our Pre-Summit Workshops: *Smarter Enrollment, Stronger Student Success: Powered by AI*

Stay tuned as we continue to unveil more dynamic voices shaping innovation and opportunity nationwide.

Miss the Know Before You Go Webinar? Watch the recording to get helpful tips before heading to Cleveland!



Know Before You Go Webinar Recording

A blue banner with a white speech bubble shape in the center. Inside the bubble, the text "NACCE Connects" is written in white. The word "NACCE" is in a smaller font above "Connects". Below the bubble, the text "Engaging Members with Free Webinars" is written in white. The entire banner has a white border.

Leading Through AI: Institutional Strategies for the Modern Workforce

April 9, 2026, 2 p.m. ET

NACCE Membership Benefits

April 14, 2026, 3 p.m. ET

Epixego Webinar

April 16, 2026, 2 p.m. ET

SkillPointe Panel Webinar-Soft Skills Business

April 21, 2026, 4 p.m. ET

AI Summative Panel Discussion

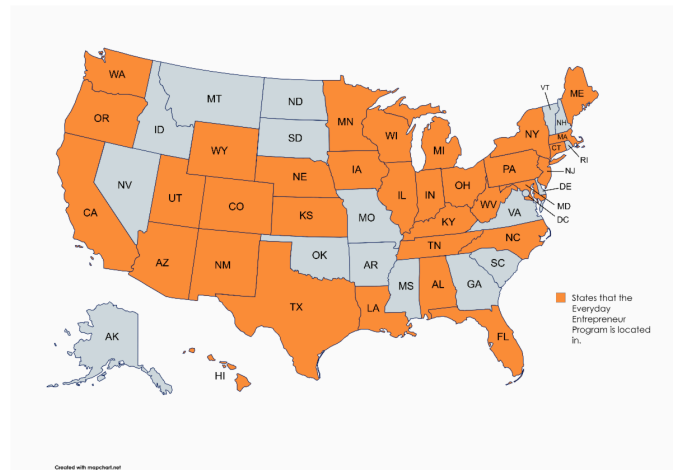
April 23, 2026, 2 p.m. ET

[Click here to register for any of these free webinars now!](#)



Did you know that the Everyday Entrepreneur Program is located in **33 states?**

Recently, we have onboarded **New Mexico, Kentucky, and Washington.**



Learn how to bring the Everyday Entrepreneur Program to your college!

Everyday Entrepreneur Program

Everyday Entrepreneur Success at Northwest State Community College, OH!

Northwest State Community College is investing \$20,000 into the small business community across five northwest Ohio counties through its 12th annual Entrepreneurship Forum on April 30, 2026, a free event that supports aspiring entrepreneurs with funding opportunities, expert feedback, and networking. Backed by a \$10,000 grant from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE)'s Everyday Entrepreneur Program and additional contributions



The press release also highlights the program's strong partnerships and impact, including a quote from **NACCE Project Coordinator Lydia Perez-Kavanagh**, who commended Northwest State's leadership and the continued

from local economic development offices, the program helps address barriers like limited access to startup capital while offering participants the chance to pitch ideas and compete for additional awards.

success of the Everyday Entrepreneur program.

[Read the Press Release](#)

SkillPointe

NACCE
THE IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SkillPointe Corner: *Planning Your Trades Day Activities*

Planning Your Trades Day Activities - Summer

Summer presents the perfect season to energize students and communities through a Skilled Trades focused Trades Day. With warmer weather, flexible schedules, and increased interest in career exploration, summer events offer a unique opportunity for engagement, hands-on learning, and meaningful community connections.

SkillPointe makes it easy to design an impactful Trades Day experiences aligned to both current and future careers. Through SkillPointe's platform, learners can explore 10 Industries, 10 Training Programs, and 75+ Careers, along with pathways to business ownership and entrepreneurship opportunities all within high-demand skilled trades sectors.

To incorporate Skilled Trades into your Trades Day, consider the following:

1. Have rotating hands-on skill stations
2. Have live demonstrations with local employers
3. Create interactive challenges tied to real-world problems
4. Design guided explorations using SkillPointe's career discovery tool
5. Invite industry partners, apprentices, and entrepreneurs to share & tell real-world journeys
6. Showcase how technical skills translate into long-term career success

All of these are viable approaches, whether you bring the program to your students or take a field trip to their location. Implementing some, all, or other strategies will create a fun-filled, engaging experience.

By connecting Trades Day activities to current careers, workforce needs, and industry requirements; educators, companies, and communities can spark curiosity, build confidence, and connect learners to the next steps and future paths.

Start planning today with SkillPointe at <https://skillpointe.com>.

[Explore SkillPointe](#)

Discover how you can make tomorrow and every day a step toward a brighter, bigger future. We are always interested in new ideas and suggested stories. Please send them to logan@nacce.com with the subject "The SkillPointe Corner."

NACCE Team Out and About.....



Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President and CEO of NACCE, joined Dr. Kevin Logan, Director of SkillPointe, and Dr. Trenton Hightower, Executive Director of Membership and Workforce Development, at an entrepreneur pitch competition hosted by NACCE member Wake Tech Community College at its Cary, NC campus. The event showcased innovative ideas from emerging student entrepreneurs and highlighted the critical role community colleges play in fostering talent and strengthening local economies.

Entrepreneurs Shine at Business Pitch Competition!

-Wake Tech Community College, NC



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