

JUNE 2026 THEME: PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

TEAM CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH



**Dr. Trenton Hightower**

Executive Director of Membership & Workforce Development, NACCE



Trenton shares this month's theme highlights and where to find opportunities on [nacce.com](https://www.nacce.com)

Join us in celebrating Dr. Trenton Hightower as NACCE's Team Member of the Month during our Pathway To Prosperity Month!

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) continues to advance its mission of fostering entrepreneurial thinking and innovative action through the Pathways to Prosperity Summit in Cleveland, OH, Tuesday, June 23, 2026, to Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Tri-C Corporate College. The event brings together leaders from higher education, workforce development, industry, philanthropy, and government to explore solutions that strengthen communities and create economic opportunities for students.

The summit focuses on collaboration, workforce innovation, and building partnerships that address evolving industry needs. Through engaging sessions and networking opportunities, participants gain practical strategies to support student success, workforce readiness, and regional economic growth.

Pathways To Prosperity also highlights the important role community colleges play as engines of innovation and mobility. From entrepreneurship programs to industry-aligned training initiatives, colleges are helping learners gain the skills needed for today's workforce while supporting local economies.

By connecting educators and community leaders, NACCE's summit reflects its broader vision of uplifting communities by elevating prosperity. The event continues to serve as a platform for sharing ideas, developing partnerships, and creating pathways to long-term success for students and communities nationwide.

-Dr. Trenton Hightower

Executive Director of Membership & Workforce Development, NACCE

**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.

**verizon**  
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**Institute**  
→ NACCE Education

[Click here](#)

## Institute NACCE Education



### NACCE CEO CORNER



#### Forward with NACCE Podcast Highlight | Featuring Kathy Deacon

In honor of **Pathways To Prosperity Ecosystem Building**, this inspiring episode of **Forward with NACCE** features entrepreneur Kathy Deacon, a change agent who is making a remarkable impact. Discover Kathy's inspiring journey from international development to local communities, driven by a passion for opening up opportunities for entrepreneurs

135+ episodes

Listeners in 1,100+ American cities

65+ countries

Tune in to hear Kathy Deacon's inspiring story and discover how entrepreneurship is creating opportunity and impact in communities across the country.

[Listen to Forward with NACCE](#)



### EVENTS CORNER



[Register Today!](#)

#### 2026 Pathways To Prosperity

June 23-25 • Cleveland, OH

The best networking opportunity of the summer

Tri-C Corporate College East

**Register TODAY!**



[Learn more](#)

#### 2026 NACCE Annual Conference

November 1-4 • Boston, MA

Proposals open Apr 13 and close Jul 17.

**Submit your breakout session idea!**

[Upcoming NACCE Virtual Events - June 2026](#)

## Ratcliffe Recap Pitch Review

🕒 June 11 • 2-3 PM ET

Free

## 2026 Pathways To Prosperity

🕒 June 23-25 • 4-5 PM ET

Paid

## AI, IP, and the Classroom: Giving Students Agency Over Their Ideas Webinar

🕒 June 30 • 2-3 PM ET

Free

[Register for events here](#)

### Welcome to NACCE Events Corner!

TWO WEEKS TO GO UNTIL SUMMIT TIME!

We are prepping at NACCE's HQ to ship our event supplies to Cleveland, OH, for our [Pathways To Prosperity Summit](#), June 23-25, 2026. This is a chance to connect, learn, and carry the mainstage conversations straight into powerful breakout sessions.

This year's summit dives into the topics shaping our campuses, communities, and workforce:

**Track 1: The Talent Engine** — Career exploration, upskilling, and employment solutions

**Track 2: The Action Agenda** — Entrepreneurial mindset and innovative action

**Track 3: The Human-AI Hybrid** — High-tech tools paired with human connection

**Track 4: The Resilient Leader** — Leadership best practices in an age of disruption

We're excited to learn with you, build with you, and spark new ideas together in Cleveland.

Let's make this summit unforgettable.

Please check out our [agenda](#) to learn more about the full event. And contact [tumey@nacce.com](mailto:tumey@nacce.com) if you have any questions and want to learn more.

*-Dr. Darcie Tumey, Director of Events and Programs, NACCE*



## EVERYDAY ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM

## 34 States

and growing nationwide

Recently onboarded:

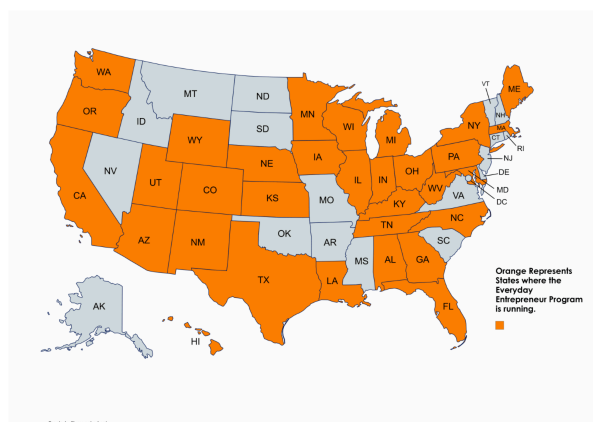
**Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (GA)**

**Florida A&M University**

**Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG)(OH) Kennebec**

**Valley CC (ME)**

**TSBDC at Pellissippi State CC (TN)**



THE ACADEMY AWARDS™ FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

Join us for our  
12th-year  
Celebration, Reunion,  
and Acknowledgement  
of our students and graduates,  
and those who teach them,  
who work with them,  
and hire them.

GlobalMindED  
2026

EXCEPTIONAL LEADER AWARDS

EDUCATION	AI	EDUCATION	HEALTH & WELLNESS	INNOVATION & FINANCE	EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY	EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
 Michelle King Chief Executive Officer Vice President of the University of North Carolina System	 Juan Claudio Bizarra President and CEO Orange County Public Schools	 Dr. Freeman Robinson II Senior Professor University of North Carolina Eastern Campus	 Danae Lynn, DPH Chief Executive Officer Carter Health	 Mike Lally Co-Chairman, Director Academic Performance Northampton Regional Board	 Tina McQuar CEO, Dr. John Piro Manufacturing Programs Covault Biotech	 Rui Lopez President American U.S.
TECHNOLOGY	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	MENTOR & LEADERSHIP	EDUCATION & FINANCE	EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY	EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY	EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
 Erin Fahren Chief Executive Officer Cleveland Technology Innovation	 Shari Robinson Founder Meridia Entrepreneur Fund	 Sergey Pecherkin, Ed.D. Chairman POLC Foundation	 Danae Lynn Chief Executive Officer Carter Health	 Dr. John Robinson President and CEO W.A. Riddick Foundation	 Michael Carter Vice President International Business Group	 Mark Singer Senior Manager Global Operations American U.S.

Celebrate these tremendous luminaries with us at GlobalMindED 2026

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 RECEPTION 5:00-7:00 DINNER 7:00-9:00

**Celebrating Leadership: Stuart Weismiller to Receive Entrepreneurship Award Today!**  
 Congratulations to Stuart Weismiller, co-founder of Everyday Entrepreneur (EE), on receiving the Entrepreneurship Award at the GlobalMindED Conference in Denver, Colorado. Stuart will celebrate this honor alongside fellow EE co-founder Chip Weismiller and NACCE President and CEO Dr. Rebecca Corbin.

Everyday Entrepreneur Program



 **SKILLPOINTE CORNER**



**The Era of AI, Women, and Skilled Trades**

The skilled trades are entering a pivotal moment as artificial intelligence (AI) becomes a practical tool within the industry and among the workers themselves. Women are steadily increasing their representation in both skilled trades careers and businesses. This trend can help address a persistent challenge: building a resilient workforce while enhancing access in high-mobility industries.

SkillPointe's engagement data reveals strong momentum among women exploring career pathways in skilled trades. According to the Q4 2025 data, women accounted for over 7,000 sessions on the platform, while men just peaked 6,000 sessions (data is based on visitors with known gender). Women also led in quiz engagements, with 1,663 compared to men's 867. This indicates that women are not just visiting the platform; they are actively taking steps to plan their careers.

In Q1 2026, this trend continued, with women again leading sessions by 7%, and their quiz engagements increasing by an impressive 51%. Across both quarters, the largest age segment of users was the 18–24 year age group. This reinforces the idea that early-career women are utilizing SkillPointe to explore their future options.

With "Technology" ranking as the top interest category in both Q4 2025 and Q1 2026, it's clear that female learners are engaging in tech-forward exploration. This proactive mindset will be crucial as AI becomes integrated into the tools and methods that individuals, including women, use to work, learn, and advance in the trades.

Explore SkillPointe.com today!

-Dr. Kevin Logan, Chief Innovation Technology Officer, SkillPointe, NACCE

📍 Congratulations to Sara Beth Webb of NACCE Member **Kansas City Kansas Community College**, who was featured on KCTV for the upcoming KCKCC **Baker Hill CEED** Workshop, to be held in partnership with Arvest Bank.



Reach out to Elizabeth Anderson at [anderson@nacce.com](mailto:anderson@nacce.com) if you would like to learn more about the Baker Hill CEED Initiative.

[View the Story Here](#)

## 📍 NACCE TEAM OUT AND ABOUT

📍 **Dr. Trenton Hightower**  
*Jacksonville, FL - Florida State College at Jacksonville*



📍 **Dr. Trenton Hightower**  
*Asheville, NC — Community Colleges of Appalachia Conference*  
Pictured: L to R, Dr. Torie Jackson, WVU-Parkersburg President & NACCE Board Member, and Dr. Trenton Hightower, NACCE Executive Director of Membership & Workforce



📍 **Dr. Darcie Tumey & Amber Hicks**  
*Cary, NC — NACCE Headquarters*  
Pictured: L to R, Dr. Darcie Tumey, Director of Events and Programs, NACCE, and Amber Hicks, Senior Coordinator, NACCE, packing up for Pathways To Prosperity Summit!



If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our NACCE Membership Team!



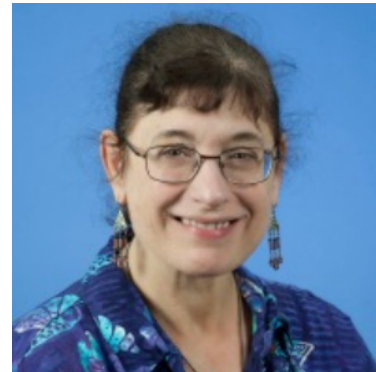
**Expertise:** Membership renewal and scheduling appointments with Dr. Trenton Hightower.

**Mia Martin**  
[martin@nacce.com](mailto:martin@nacce.com)  
*Project Coordinator  
Membership and Workforce  
Development*



**Expertise:** Membership, executive and professional development, state system partnerships, and ecosystem building.

**Dr. Trenton Hightower**  
[hightower@nacce.com](mailto:hightower@nacce.com)  
*Executive Director of  
Membership and Workforce  
Development*



**Expertise:** New NACCE memberships, technical support, member benefit resources, and general questions.

**Trish Truitt**  
[truitt@nacce.com](mailto:truitt@nacce.com)  
*Senior Member Specialist*



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