

MAY 2026 THEME: NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

TEAM CAPTAIN OF THE MONTH



Lydia Perez-Kavanagh
Project Coordinator Everyday Entrepreneur,
NACCE



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

Join us in celebrating Lydia Perez-Kavanagh as NACCE's Team Member of the Month! As a Project Coordinator, Lydia plays a key role in supporting the **Everyday Entrepreneur Program** and serves as the host and main point of contact for many of our webinars and masterclasses. This May is **National Small Business Month** at NACCE, and we're excited to offer a variety of opportunities to support entrepreneurs, including a session on navigating the NACCE Institute, AI credentials, and \$10K grants, and a "Start Your Own Food Business" webinar in partnership with the Food Venture Accelerator. Be sure to visit [nacce.com](https://www.nacce.com) and follow us on social media to stay up to date on everything happening this month!

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.



[Click here](#)

Institute NACCE Education

NACCE CEO CORNER



Forward with NACCE Podcast Highlight | Featuring Wendy Coulter of Hummingbird Creative Group

In honor of **National Small Business Month**, this inspiring episode of **Forward with NACCE** features entrepreneur Wendy Coulter, who shares how resilience, her self-proclaimed superpower, carried her from near-bankruptcy to 28+ years of business success.

135+ episodes

Listeners in 1,100+ American cities

65+ countries

If you're an entrepreneur, aspiring business owner, or simply need a reminder that setbacks are part of the journey, this episode is a must-listen!



Listen to Forward with NACCE

EVENTS CORNER

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY
A Workforce, Maker & Advancement Summit
June 23-25 Cleveland, OH

CONNECTIONS SPARK INNOVATION

Save your spot

Learn more

2026 Pathways To Prosperity

June 23-25 • Cleveland, OH

The best networking opportunity of the summer

Tri-C Corporate College East

Register TODAY!

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 - May 2026

Build Your ENTR. Program: Navigating the NACCE Institute, AI Credentials, and \$10k Grants

May 14 • 1-2 PM ET

Free

SkillPointe Pipeline:- Bridging Community to College to Open Positions Webinar

May 19 • 4-5 PM ET

Free

Start Smart: What It Really Takes to Launch a Food Business

May 21 • 2-3 PM ET

Free

Intellectual Property for Educators: Teaching Ownership, Innovation, and Creative Work Across Disciplines - Michelson Institute for IP Master Class

May 26-28 • 3-5 PM ET

Paid

Register for events here

Welcome to NACCE Events Corner!

We can't wait to see you in Cleveland for the **Pathways To Prosperity Summit**, June 23-25, 2026 — 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 if you have any questions and want to learn more.

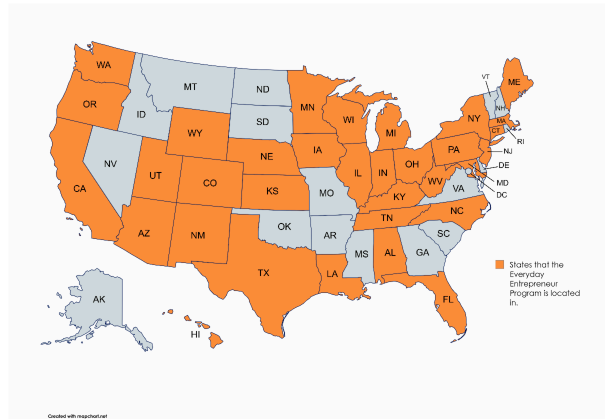
-Dr. Darcie Tumey, Director of Events and Programs, NACCE

EVERYDAY ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM

33 States

and growing nationwide

Recently onboarded:
New Mexico, Kentucky & Washington



Success Spotlight: College of DuPage's Big IDEA Pitch Contest

The College of DuPage's annual Big IDEA Pitch Contest brought together some of the Midwest's most promising student entrepreneurs, showcasing innovative ideas and emerging talent from across the region. With cash prizes, mentorship opportunities, and support from NACCE's Everyday Entrepreneurship program, the event continues to create meaningful opportunities for the next generation of innovators. [READ MORE.](#)

[Everyday Entrepreneur Program](#)

SKILLPOINTE CORNER



2030 and Beyond: The Four Pillars

High earning potential, in-demand skills, low training investment, and the opportunity to be helpful to humanity are the foundational pillars crucial for bridging the gap in the skilled trades.

A report from the **Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce**, published in 2025, highlights a **shortage of workers for middle-skill jobs** that offer high earning potential. The report identifies several industries expected to be significantly affected by these shortages, including **healthcare, management and professional office positions, protective services, blue-collar jobs, and STEM fields**.

The gap in each of these industries not only affects individual careers but also impacts small businesses that may cease to exist. As demand for services grows and the current workforce age increases, many business owners will retire, creating opportunities for others to **start their own entrepreneurial ventures or acquire existing businesses**. This situation presents numerous opportunities in various fields for individuals to consider pursuing skilled trades as a way to secure their futures and contribute to the future of society.

Each of the Four Pillars plays a crucial role not only in the **Skilled Trades industry** as a whole but also in the **future of economic mobility**. When in-demand opportunities offer high earning potential with low training investment, this benefits humanity; this also supports the community where workers live, play, and work.

Explore [SkillPointe.com](https://www.skillpointe.com) today!

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

Q1 2026 SkillPointe Data Highlights

Social Media - LinkedIn

+2,288

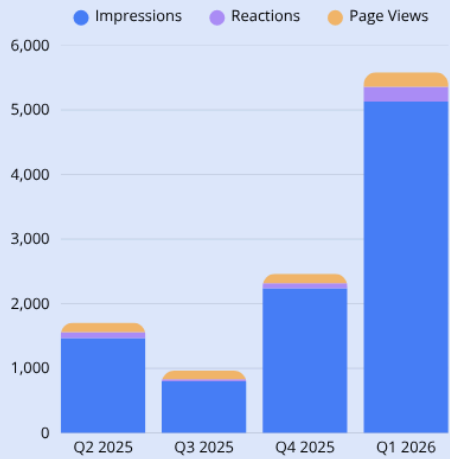
Impressions

+152

Reactions

+80

Page Views



Website Analytics

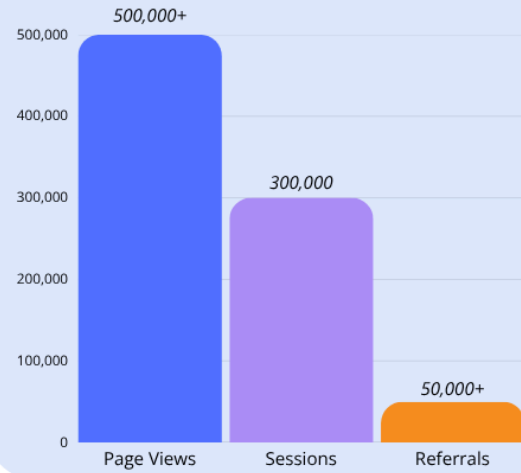
4.3M+

Traffic

1M+

Events

226K+

Visual Quiz
Engagement

Top 5 clicks per week



Top 5 clicks per week



Q1 2026 SkillPointe data highlights growing engagement across digital channels, with strong performance in social media and LinkedIn activity, steady website traffic, and consistent weekly click engagement.



NACCE TEAM OUT AND ABOUT

📍 Dr. Rebecca Corbin

San Antonio, TX - Baker Hill R / S E Conference

Pictured L to R: Dirk Soma, Director of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems at Baker Hill, Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE, and Andy Ivankovich, CEO of Baker Hill



📍 Dr. Rebecca Corbin

San Antonio, TX — Alamo College PFEP Signing

Pictured L to R: Chancellor Mike Flores, Alamo College District, and Dr. Rebecca Corbin, President & CEO of NACCE



📍 Dr. Trenton Hightower

Florida A&M University — Small Business Pitch

Pictured: Dr. Trenton Hightower, Executive Director of Membership & Workforce, and Tangela Lofton, Regional Director at Florida SBDC



☀️ MEMBERSHIP

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
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*Project Coordinator
Membership and Workforce
Development*



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

Dr. Trenton Hightower
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*Executive Director of
Membership and Workforce
Development*



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

Trish Truitt
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Senior Member Specialist



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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