

Conference Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

11:00 am		<p>Exhibitor set-up - <i>Grand Concourse</i> Moderator Training - <i>Dudley Room</i></p>
1:00 - 3:00 pm		<p>Lunch is served - <i>Grand Ballroom</i> Welcome: Local Dignitaries Cape Fear WDB Division of Workforce Solution NC Community College System General Session: Keep Your Fire Burning Even When You Want to Extinguish It! presented by Joy Jamerson</p> 
3:00 - 3:15 pm		<p>Break</p>
3:15 - 4:15 pm	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel the FIRE: Turning Purpose into Sustainable Action (Without Burning Out) presented by Joy Jamerson - <i>Merrick</i> From the Classroom to the Career: Building Workforce Pathways to AHS - The Power of Adult High School presented by Lynika Drye, Monica Miller, Melissa Morlock, Aja Winstead - <i>Harnett</i> NFJP in Action - Expanding Workforce Access for Farmworkers presented by Jacob Rogers - <i>Carolina</i> Beyond the Workforce: Integrating Wellness and Workforce Strategies for Sustainable Success presented by Dr. Norman Collins - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i>
4:15 - 5:15 pm	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Employment Strategies for Returning Citizens presented by Dennis Gaddy, Paul Stayert - <i>Carolina</i> The Human + AI Partnership: Enhancing Professional Output Without the Burnout presented by Dr. Lane Freeman - <i>Merrick</i> Keep it 100! Connecting More Than a Job - NC Partners and Participants presented by Ryan Phillips and Nikia Jefferies - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i> Internship and Work-Based Learning Done Right presented by Kristy Brinson - <i>Harnett</i>
5:15 - 5:30 pm		<p>Break</p>
5:30 - 6:00 pm		<p>Join us for the Regional Caucus Meetings & Board Elections for Western, Piedmont, and Eastern regions. This is your opportunity to vote in the NCETA 2026–2027 Board elections, engage in regional priorities, and help shape the direction of our association. We'll also welcome and orient new members—so come participate, connect, and make your voice heard! - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i></p> 

Dinner on your own in beautiful Wilmington!


Thursday, May 7, 2026

Agenda at a Glance

8:00 am		<p>Registration Open - <i>Lower Level</i> Exhibitor set-up - <i>Grand Concourse</i></p>
9:00 - 10:00 am	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reimagining Orientation: Paper Trails to Digital Paths presented by Dr. Kimberly Gregory, Veronica Powell - <i>Carolina</i> 2. Changing the Game with Apprenticeship: What the New WBL Guidance Means for YOU! presented by Sonja Godsey - <i>Merrick</i> 3. Leveraging myFutureNC Profiles and Local Partnerships to Strengthen Workforce Development presented by Toni Blount, Casey Sadler, Sarah Hardesty - <i>Harnett</i> 4. NC Career Launch- An Initiative to Align Systems, Braid Funding, and Expand Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities presented by Scott Panagrosso, Charlie Milling, and Ciera Tucker - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i>
10:00 - 10:30 am		<p>Break</p>
10:30 - 11:45 am	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veteran Resources and Services presented by Saul McCloyen - <i>Carolina</i> 2. Workforce Pell: Strengthening Systems and Collaboration with Community Colleges presented by Anne Bacon - <i>Merrick</i> 3. ADVISSSSSSIT like It's HOT presented by Felicia Gilmore - <i>Harnett</i> 4. Keep Your Fork at 50+, The Best is Yet to Come presented by Mark Smith - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i>
11:45 - 1:45 pm		<p>Lunch on Your Own</p>
1:45 - 2:45 pm	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligning WIOA Title II and Apprenticeship presented by Rebecca Loli, Linda Robinson, Carrie Russell, Matthew Brown - <i>Merrick</i> 2. Why Mindset Matters to Reentry presented by Dr. Crystal McIver - <i>Carolina</i> 3. Level Up: Using Games to Transform Workforce Engagement presented by Brandi Bragg - <i>Harnett</i> 4. Change is Hard at First, Messy in the Middle, But Rewarding in the End presented by Mark Smith - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i>
2:45 - 3:00 pm		<p>Break</p>
3:00 - 4:00 pm	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beyond the Acronyms: IET and IELCE That Make an Impact presented by Stephanie Reeder, Cindy Ho - <i>Merrick</i> 2. Future Ready: An End-to-End Framework for Employability Skills Training in 2026 and Beyond presented by Barbara Boyce - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i> 3. Building Better Workforce Leaders: Applying the EEL Framework to Strengthen Culture, Collaboration, and Outcomes presented by Ulric Hill - <i>Harnett</i> 4. The Making of an Employable Student presented by Angela Mobley, Jennifer Phelps - <i>Carolina</i>
5:30 - 11:00 pm		<p>Elevate & Celebrate Awards Dinner and Dance Event - <i>Merrick/Lillington/Caswell</i> Harold Smith Legacy Award Presentation / Speaker - Chinita Arceneaux - DES Dance to follow presentations - <i>Riverview Terrace</i></p> 

Agenda at a Glance

Friday, May 8, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 am		Breakfast Buffet Available
9:00 - 10:00 am	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Career Pivot Strategies: Leveraging Data to Identify Career Transitions presented by Anchal Gupta - <i>Carolina</i> 2. Tech Tactics: How More Than a Job Uses Innovation to Expand Workforce Impact presented by Ryan Phillips - <i>Merrick</i> 3. Pre-ETS: Connecting Students with Disabilities to Career Pathways presented by Scott Levine - <i>Lillington/Caswell</i> 4. Delivering High-Quality Business Services Employer Engagement Tools, Practical Strategies, and Field Best Practices presented by Glenda Morrow - <i>Harnett</i>
10:00 - 10:30 am		Break
10:30 - 11:45 am		<p>Closing Session -<i>Merrick/Lillington/Caswell</i> Closing Remarks - NCETA President, Malinda Marsh NCETA Board Election Results</p> <p>Why Workforce is <i>Still</i> the Game Changer presented by Solomon McAuley</p> 

Not a member of NCETA? Join today!
www.nceta.org



Thank you for being part of the North Carolina Employment & Training Association 2026 Spring Conference! Your engagement, insights, and commitment to strengthening North Carolina's workforce made this year's conference a success.

*Stay tuned for details on the 2027 Spring Conference—more information coming soon!
 Safe travels home, and we look forward to seeing you next year.*

We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and exhibitors whose partnership and investment help drive meaningful connections, innovation, and impact at the NCETA Spring Conference. We invite you to visit the Exhibitor Hall and participate in our Exhibitor Engagement BINGO for a dynamic networking experience.



**Empowering Potential.
Building Careers.**

