

AGENDA

**Subject to change*

September 24 - 26, 2024

Chicago, IL

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

- 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Optional Private Boat Architecture Tour**
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
CDA Restaurant and Terrace
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Welcome Dinner | Defining Your Leadership Legacy Keynote**
Grand Ballroom
- Opening Remarks: Anna Fontus, Program Officer, ECMC Foundation
 - Keynote Speaker: Will Collins, Chief External Affairs Officer, Surge Institute

This session will focus on how leaders can align their personal and professional lives through authenticity, thoughtful leadership and adaptability, grounded in the Japanese concept of ****Ikigai****—the intersection of passion, skills and the world’s needs.

Attendees will come away with five key leadership lessons, emphasizing the importance of building meaningful relationships, leading with vision and leaving a lasting legacy. The speech will inspire attendees to reflect on their purpose and how they can elevate their leadership profile while making a broader impact.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet**
Grand Ballroom Foyer
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks & Keynote**
Grand Ballroom
- Opening Remarks: Jacob Fraire, President, ECMC Foundation
 - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jeff Strohl, Director, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
- 9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. **Individual Fellowship Time**
- 10:50 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. **Breakout Sessions: CTE Focused Block One (6 simultaneous sessions)**
- Up-to-Date with DATE: CTE Data Collection under Perkins V**
- Adam Flynn-Tabloff, Chief, Program Administration and Accountability, U.S. Department of Education - OCTAE

Perkins V is one of the most prominent funding mechanisms that support and govern postsecondary CTE from the national level.

Participants will learn about proposed changes to measurement approaches for CTE concentrator performance under Perkins V. implications for States and local Perkins recipients will be discussed. Adam will also present the latest Perkins data report. Attendees will leave with how upcoming changes may take shape on the local level, and understand how to engage and anticipate future change cycles.

Impact of Postsecondary CTE on Under Resourced Communities: Understanding Challenges and Opportunities

- Dr. Lorenzo Baber, Professor of Higher Education and Director of Office of Community College Research and Leadership, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Changing workforce demands, including the increasing emphasis on postsecondary credentials for entry-level positions, underscore the linked disparities in access to education and high-wage, high-demand jobs for those in under-resourced communities. These challenges are crucial for career and technical education (CTE) programs, particularly those at community colleges, in bridging skill gaps in the labor market while offering pathways to economic mobility. However, a critical question remains: Are these programs providing equitable opportunities for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds? This session presents research and data on the current state of postsecondary CTE programs with specific attention to challenges and opportunities for creating an inclusive workforce that meets the needs of a rapidly changing economy while empowering marginalized communities.

How CTE Programs can be Strengthened and Remain Resilient in the AI Era

- Cameron Sublett, Associate Professor and Director, The University of Tennessee Knoxville, Education Research & Opportunity Center

The focus of this session is on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), workforce automation and CTE. The discussion will summarize recent and projected developments in AI and how experts expect these developments to impact labor markets corresponding to CTE areas of study. Dr. Cameron Sublett will also share some of his recent research on the subject, including his review of existing AI workforce automation frameworks and his application of these frameworks to student-level community and technical college data from Tennessee to assess the degree to which CTE pipelines currently sort students into at-risk occupations. Attendees will walk away with a greater understanding of the potential impacts of AI on occupations aligned with CTE pathways and ideas for how researchers, practitioners and policymakers can build AI-resilient CTE courses and programs.

How Credit for Prior Learning Opens Opportunities for CTE Students

- Beth Doyle, Senior Vice President, CAEL

Millions of students enroll in and complete CTE programs. CTE programs are effective means for students to quickly enter the workforce and acquire in-demand skills (I was one of those students). However, the pathway beyond that first job in the field is not as clear, and silos that exist between CTE, for-credit programs, associates degrees, and transfer to four-year degrees and colleges make that path cumbersome. This exacerbates inequities that already exist in education and forces students most in need of economic mobility to take more courses, more training, and more credits to get to the same destination as a traditional college student with more resources. These silos are hard to break down, especially if you are a practitioner with little opportunity to change state or institutional policy. Credit for Prior Learning can help you make an impact, no matter what your sphere of influence.

How College Practitioners Can Leverage Data to Drive Institutional Change

- Kathy Booth, Director, Center for Economic Mobility, WestEd

Increasingly, colleges have access to information about the employment outcomes of students, which has been critical in making the case for CTE pathways. However, having access to information is just the starting place for changing postsecondary practices. This session will provide a framework for understanding how the types of information found in accountability reports relates to college planning processes; share an example of how a college leveraged information to strengthen adult learner pathways; and provide an opportunity to practice looking at data in new ways.

Evolving Attitudes Around Equity - What This Means for CTE

- Brittany Brady, CEO, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

Engage in courageous discussion around the evolving nature of equity work and the impact it is having on postsecondary CTE. This conversation will embrace a posture of hope while grounding participants in the realities of what equity does and does not do.

12:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Programmed Lunch | Postsecondary Higher Education Policy in an Election Year

- Dr. Lorenzo Baber, Professor of Higher Education and Director of Office of Community College Research and Leadership, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

During this critical election year, the future direction of the U.S. postsecondary education system will be reshaped at the national, state and local levels. The current election cycle coincides with significant change, including a projected sharp decline in high school graduates over the next decade, rising demand for a highly educated workforce in key industries and ongoing challenges related to college access and affordability. In this session,

we present research and analysis to offer insight and context on these issues, highlighting key areas that higher education leaders should understand as they consider potential future direction.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions: CTE Focused Block Two (5 simultaneous sessions)

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Accreditation and Quality Assurance: An Overview of Key Considerations and Process

- Eric V. Martin, Executive Vice President, Higher Learning Commission
- Dr. Linnea Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

This session will overview the foundational elements of institutional (formerly “regional”) accreditation in service to quality assurance. The speakers will describe the efforts by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to balance regulatory requirements with its broader commitments to quality improvement and innovation across an expansive institutional membership. Participants will come away with an understanding of HLC’s expectations and processes for program approval and review, and how they differ from programmatic accreditation. Ample time will be allotted for audience engagement, and a discussion about implications for postsecondary CTE.

Grantee Meeting

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Workshops: Skill Building / Changemaker Block One (6 simultaneous sessions)

Staying Steady: Managing Your Team Through Smooth and Rough Waters

- Hanna Campbell, Trainer and Facilitator, Circles & Letters

In this workshop, you'll learn practical strategies to lead your team effectively, no matter the circumstances. We'll explore tools for setting clear goals by leveraging your team's strengths and identifying growth opportunities, as well as a proven approach to delegating tasks in a way that keeps everyone engaged and accountable. Whether you're navigating challenges or enjoying steady progress, these methods will help you manage

your team with confidence and clarity, leading to positive impact and success.

Burnout Prevention and Well-Being Practices for CTE Changemakers

- Marissa Badgely, Founder & CEO, Reloveution

Feeling stressed, exhausted or even burnt out? Curious about boundaries or creating more sustainable professional habits? Yearning for support and community? In this interactive session, we will explore the science of burnout and compassion fatigue and the art of healthy boundary setting. We will also offer concrete strategies for preventing chronic stress, healing from burnout and actively cultivating well-being. This space is a place for you to come as you are and to practice emotional honesty. We will leverage knowledge sharing, personal reflection, community discussion and group activities to build awareness and move us toward meaningful action as individuals, leaders and organizations.

Elevating Your Leadership Profile and Personal Brand

- Victor Felix, Brand Strategist for Community Leadership

Many professionals complete their education only to find that they're not crossing the finish line; they're not getting the recognition or opportunities they deserve. Often, they don't realize that "selling" themselves is crucial, not just for achieving success but for sustaining the programs and initiatives in which they've invested. This session will reveal how storytelling can be the missing link in bridging the gap between what you know and the opportunities waiting for you.

We'll explore why branding isn't just for accomplished experts—it's about identifying and sharing what's special about you right now. You'll learn how to carve out your own unique story that showcases your strengths, aligns with your goals and opens doors to economic opportunities that can transform your career.

By the end of this session, you'll understand how embracing storytelling today can propel you toward greater recognition, longevity in your work and economic growth.

Charting Success as a Faculty Member: Roles, Tenure, Salary and the Start-Up Package

- James Bartlett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Workforce and Human Resource Education, Old Dominion University
- Michelle Bartlett, Old Dominion University
- Gresham D. Collom, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota

This session explores the essential components that shape a successful academic career. It provides a comprehensive overview of the critical factors influencing faculty success, including faculty members' roles and responsibilities, the tenure process and the importance of negotiating competitive salaries and start-up packages. Attendees will discuss elements

that impact obtaining a faculty job, including research experience, postdoctoral experiences, career progression, job satisfaction and long-term professional growth. By highlighting strategies for navigating these critical areas, this presentation guides new and aspiring faculty members in effectively managing their academic careers and achieving their professional goals.

Leadership Presence: Communicating for Influence and Impact Online and In-Person

- Salvatore Manzi, Coach & Facilitator, Leadership Communications

Discover powerful communication strategies that enhance your Leadership Presence to navigate diverse institutional dynamics, both online and in real-life interactions. This workshop, led by Communications Coach Salvatore Manzi, shares techniques to maintain a resonant leadership aura while facilitating policy implementation and educational reform. In this session, you will learn:

- Robust Confidence Tactics: Equip yourself with proven strategies to project confidence and agency in your role, essential for leading teams and driving forward institutional goals.
- Optimized Online Influence: Explore innovative methods to enhance your digital persona, making every virtual interaction impactful and memorable.
- Engaging Delivery Skills: Master delivery techniques designed to engage your audience, significantly boosting their interaction and information retention.

Join us for this dynamic and interactive session to elevate the leadership presence you convey, ensuring your ideas and messages resonate as you command attention, convey confidence and foster deep connections that drive educational and institutional success.

Mastering Salary Negotiation: Strategies for Advocating Your Value

- Ashley Rudolph, Coach, Reworkit

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4:10 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.

Breakout Workshops: Skill Building / Changemaker Block Two (6 simultaneous sessions)

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In this workshop, you'll learn practical strategies to lead your team effectively, no matter the circumstances. We'll explore tools for setting clear goals by leveraging your team's strengths and identifying growth opportunities, as well as a proven approach to delegating tasks in a way that keeps everyone engaged and accountable. Whether you're navigating challenges or enjoying steady progress, these methods will help you manage your team with confidence and clarity, leading to positive impact and success.

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Connected Conversations: Communication Strategies for Dialogues That Matter

- Salvatore Manzi, Coach & Facilitator, Leadership Communications

Harness the power of dialogue to drive meaningful change and deliver measurable results with our "Connected Conversations" workshop. This dynamic and interactive workshop will help transform your ability to engage in critical conversations while conveying vision and navigating complex institutional dynamics. In this session, you will learn:

- Consultative Conversation Techniques: Shift from ineffective back-and-forth to consultative conversations that deepen relationships within diverse groups and foster a collaborative environment.
- Handling Difficult Dialogues: Elevate your ability to manage challenging conversations with greater ease and confidence, crucial in navigating the complex dynamics of academic, corporate and bureaucratic settings.
- Influencing and Building Trust: Increase your effectiveness in building trust and authentically influencing others through strategic inquiry and adaptive communication styles, essential for leading diverse teams and driving strategic initiatives.

Join us for a dynamic session filled with practical exercises, personalized feedback and actionable insights. You will leave empowered to foster a culture of impactful communication that supports both personal and

organizational goals, enhancing decision-making processes and promoting a productive culture of feedback and cooperation.

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6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Offsite Reception & Dinner

Griffin Museum of Science & Industry

Wednesday, September 26, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Grand Ballroom Foyer

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Convening Closing Keynote

- David Tobenkin, Freelance Writer and Journalist
- Bich-Thuy Le, Founder & Managing Partner, LeLumin, LLC
- Anna Fontus, Program Officer, ECMC Foundation

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Small Group Conversations: Collective Action

- Anna Fontus, Program Officer, ECMC Foundation
- Salvatore Manzi, Coach & Facilitator, Leadership Communications

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Closing Reflections & Exciting Updates

- Anna Fontus, Program Officer, ECMC Foundation

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Transit for Site Visit

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Optional Site Visit: One Million Degrees

Harold Washington College

- Welcome + One Million Degrees Overview: Samantha Kyrkostas, Executive Director, Development, One Million Degrees
- One Million Degrees Earn and Learn Program Overview: Erika Ehmann, Director, Workforce Programs, One Million Degrees
- Workforce Panel Discussion:
 - Julia Hector, Sr. Manager, Workforce Programs, One Million Degrees
 - Jazmine Santos, Sr. Career Advancement Coordinator, Aon
 - Ben Scherr, Sr. Career Advancement Coordinator, Allstate