

# IGNITE. INNOVATE. IMPACT.

**NAWB: THE FORUM**  
MARCH 23-26, 2026 + LAS VEGAS

## Monday, March 23

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Equus Leadership Retreat**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Pre Conference Sessions**

- Mastering the Mega Trends: Shaping the Next Generation of Talent with **Mark Perna**
- Are You Ready? Board Contingency Planning with **MaryAnn Lawrence**
- From EV Hype to Workforce Strategy: Designing Apprenticeship-Ready Systems
- Turning Data into Action: Insights that Drive Workforce Board Impact with **Bob Isaacson, Sarah Edwards, Marty Romitti, Allison Forbes, Denise Kennedy** and **Chris Mullen**

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**NAWB Board of Directors Meeting**

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Board Chairs + Executive Directors Session**

(Members Only, Registration Required)

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**Partner Track: F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix Plaza**

(Registration Required)

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

**Newcomers Session**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**NCAWDB Meet and Greet**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Welcome Reception in NAWB Town**

**Tuesday, March 24**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

**Breakfast in NAWB Town**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Opening General Session:  
Silver State Showcase**

8:30 AM – 8:35 AM

Welcome Remarks from NAWB's Board Chair

8:35 AM – 8:45 AM

Updates from the CEO

8:45 AM – 9:50 AM

Silver State Showcase: Best Practices from our 36th State

9:50 AM – 10:00 AM

NAWB Award Presentation

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

**Networking Break**

**Concurrent Sessions  
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM**

Advocacy 101: Building your Advocacy Toolbox with **Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied**

Beyond the Blueprint: Co-Creating Clean Tech Apprenticeships with Industry to Ignite the Workforce of Tomorrow with **Dr. Kimberly Moore, Milt Stewart, Caleb Cage, Maria Posey, and Jamai Blivin**

From Convening to Conversions: Turning Employer Engagement into Sustainable Sector Pipeline with **Ricardo Villalobos**

The Leadership Skills that Matter Now: A Strategic Conversions for Workforce Boards with **Ron Painter and Johnnie-Lynn Crosby**

Fueling the Future: Sustaining Apprenticeship Momentum with **Dina Igoe, Montez King, James Disbro, Leisa Rasmussen, Keely Schneider and Jan Bray**

**Tuesday, March 24**

Beyond the Buzz: Is AI the Next Industrial Revolution or a Bubble that's About to Burst? With **Dr. Christopher Laney**

Designing Resilient Funding Systems: A Hands-On Simulation for Joint Workforce Strategies with **Dr. Khaita Wasiyo and Dolores Estrada**

What AI ISN'T: Rethinking ChatGPT, Privacy, and Policy in Workforce Development with **Heather Alexander-Engelbrecht and Richard Acosta**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Partner Track: Allegiant Stadium Tour**

(registration required)

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

**Networking Lunch**

1:00 PM – 2:45PM

**General Session II**

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Welcome

1:05 PM – 1:40 PM

Silver State Showcase II: A Fireside Chat with the Mayors

1:40 PM – 2:10 PM

Trust in the Age of AI with **Rebekah Dopp**

2:10 PM – 2:15 PM

MOU Signing: NAWB and International Association of the Better Business Bureau

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM

NAWB Award Presentation

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**Networking Break**

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**Partner Track: F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix Plaza**  
(registration required)

**Tuesday, March 24**

**Concurrent Sessions  
3:00 PM – 4:15 PM**

All Politics are Local: Leveraging Your Network to Advocate at the State and Local Level

The Current State of AI in Workforce Development: The Good, The Bad, and What's Next with **Josh Davies**

Bold Collaborations, Bold Outcomes: Rethinking Adult Education and Workforce Board Partnerships with **Sharon Bonney**

Influence Meets Industry: Making Registered Apprenticeship a Household Name with **Kim Tesch-Vaught, Kendra Siler, PhD, Kevin Salzar and Erin Cyman**

Expanding Access to Logistics Training: Leveraging Public and Private Funding with **Rachael Berhe and Lynn Hoffman**

Bridging the Gap: Advancing Reentry Success and Workforce Pathways through Collaborative Partnerships with **Jon Ponder and Carolyn Willis**

Honoring Sovereignty, Expanding Opportunity: Nevadaworks and the Indian Workforce Development Advisory Council with **Alexandria Wright, Ph.D., Milt Stewart, Thurman Roberts**

Apprenticeship is a National Priority: Now What? With **Jan van der Hoop and Japman Bajaj**

Meeting Big Needs with Big Solutions: Pierce County Labor and the Machinists Institute Are Investing in Childcare for Trades Workers & Apprenticeships for Childcare Workers with **Nathe Lawver, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Marie Keller and Shana Peschek**

## Tuesday, March 24

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Listening Session  
(invite-only)**

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

**Connect and Collaborate in  
NAWB Town**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Nevada Day Reception  
(invite-only)**

## Wednesday, March 25

7:45 AM – 9:00 AM

**9:15 AM – 11:00 AM  
and Breakfast**

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

**Networking Break**

9:15 AM – 11:00 AM

**General Session III:  
Federal Policy Update**

9:15 AM – 9:20 AM

Welcome by NAWB CEO, **Andrew Bercich**

9:40 AM – 10:00 AM

Fireside Chat with Assistant Secretary **Nick Moore**, U.S. Dept. of Education – OCTAE

10:00 AM – 10:25 AM

Fireside Chat with Assistant Secretary **Henry Mack**, U.S. Dep. of Labor

10:25 AM – 10:45 AM

Policy Update with NAWB Policy Team with **Gail Silberglied, Chris Andresen** and **Steve Voytek**

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

NAWB Award Presentation

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

**Networking Break**

**Concurrent Sessions  
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**

Beyond Efficiency: How AI is Freeing Staff to Do What Matters Most with **Marion Akers** and **Jeramey Harrison**

**Wednesday, March 25**

Veteran Friendly to Veteran Ready Communities with **Kelly Friend and Roy Martin, Vicki Thompson**

Creating a Culture of Performance: What EKCEP's Culture Journey Can Teach Us About Creating More Engagement Among Employees, Partners, Elected Officials and Communities with **Tony Coe, Bridget Back and Cris Ritchie**

Apprenticeship Beyond the Trades: Tackling Mental Health and Youth Workforce Challenges with **Kelly Middleton Banks, Bryson Gauff, Wayne Garcia**

Demystifying Congress: An Insider's Perspective with **Congressman Jon Porter**

Human at the Center: Building Trust and Talent through Competency-Based Models in the Age of AI with **Dannyelle Austin**

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Lunch in NAWBTown**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**General Session IV**  
Ignite.Innovate.Impact.

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM

Welcome

1:35 PM – 2:00 PM

Fireside chat with Craft Education with **Mallory Dwinal-Palisch** and **Andrew Bercich**

2:00 PM – 2:25 PM

Advancing Quality Signals and Mobility Pathways: How Philanthropy, Employer Demand, and Regional Ecosystems Are Operationalizing Alignment at Scale with **Julie Gehrki, Kevin Fudge** and **Allison Bajracharya**

2:25 PM – 2:45 PM

2035 Starts Now: AI and the Transformation and Trajectory of the Skilled Trades with **Roger Tadajewski, Tony Oran, Michael Hines, Jon-Michael Raymond** and **Brandon Gibbins**

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

NAWB Awards Presentation

2:30 PM – 11:00 PM

**Partner Track: Area 15**  
(registration required)

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Networking Break**

**Wednesday, March 25**

**Concurrent Sessions**  
**3:30 PM – 4:45 PM**

Advocacy 301: Creating the Policy and Legislation to Strengthen the Public Workforce System with **Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Mark Guthrie, Steve Voytek, Chris Andresen**

Building a Tech-Enabled Partnership Model for WIOA Service Delivery: A Practical Blueprint for Workforce Boards and **Tom Kavanagh, John Casella, Robert Merritt, Mark Greenburg, and Allison Braund-Harris**

Leadership in a Cup of Coffee: How Rural Boards Build Trust, Partnerships, and People with **Ty Cauthen Ed.D., Cory Blaylock, Tyane Dietz and Benjamin Mott**

Moving Beyond Panic to Progress in AI and Workforce with **Nick Beadle**

Beyond the Buzzwords: What It Really Takes to Align Education, Workforce, and Community with **Kristy Amy, Denise Reading, Crystal Keaton and Dan Leffingwell**

Work Matters: Creating a talent pipeline through probation, workforce, and trades alignment with **Hillary Lyle, Jesse McCree and Jay Jordan**

- Leveraging Industry Partnerships to Tool Up Tomorrow's Workforce with **Gina Caronna, Todd Wells and Michelle Cassarro**

Business Services Coordinator (A USDOL Registered Apprenticeship) with **Justin Arnold and Taylor Black**

**Wednesday, March 25**

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

**Meet and Mingle  
in Nawb Town**

**Thursday, March 26**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**Breakfast in NAWB Town**

**Concurrent Sessions  
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM**

Stronger Together – How to Mobilize Your State Association of Local Boards with **Justin Arnold and Brandon Butler**

Building Winning Board and Contractor Relationships with **Darrell “Coach D” Andrews**

Smarter Workflows, Stronger Results: Practical AI for Workforce Teams with **Jha Allen**

Building a Pipeline for Emerging Industries Through Apprenticeships and Incentives with **Jarvis Washington, Carlos Vazquez and Rick Beasley**

**Thursday, March 26**

The North Central Texas Accelerator Session Model:  
Driving Workforce, Education and Economic Development  
Outcomes from Insight to Action with **Phedra Redifer, Andy Eads,  
Jan Jungmann and George Mollick**

Policy Shift, System Response: Preparing Workforce  
Programs for Medicaid Work Requirements with **Bradley  
Williams, Jesse McCree, Bob Knight and Amanda Wagner**

From Pre-Apprentice to Apprentice: Building a Scalable  
Pipeline in the Central Valley with **Blake Konczal, Ashley  
Matthews, Becky Barabe and Chuck Riojas**

Shift Your Marketing and Own Your Brand  
with **David Olson, Kelly Moreno, Berenice Lopez and Jameson  
Cardenas**

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

10:45 AM – 11:05 AM

11:05 AM – 11:30 AM

11:30 AM – 11:55 AM

11:55 AM – 12:20 PM

**Networking Break**

**General Session VI:  
Ignite.Innovate.Impact.**

NAWB Award Presentation

Fireside Chat with **Greg Bianchi**,  
Microsoft Corp.

Amazon's Approach to Upskilling with  
**Tammy Thiemann**

Decision Skills for Workforce

Special Presentation Honoring NAWB  
Founder Robert Knight

**Thursday, March 26**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Post Conference Sessions**  
(registration required)

- Working Smarter With AI: Building an Ethical, AI-Literate Workforce with **Jonathan Liebert**
- From Employer Demand to System Design: Advancing Skills-Based Talent Strategies

**Friday, March 27**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Post Conference Session**  
Grant Writing: Go, Write, Win!

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

**Partner Track: Hoover Dam Tour**  
(registration required)

**IGNITE.  
INNOVATE.  
IMPACT.**

**NAWB: THE FORUM**  
MARCH 23-26, 2026 + LAS VEGAS