

# 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

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 – 4:00 PM

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

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 – 8:45 AM

**Welcome Remarks from NAWB's Board Chair**

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

**Updates from the CEO**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**Opening Plenary**

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**

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

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, Jose Velazquez 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**

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

**Networking Lunch**

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**General Session II**

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

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**

**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 **Ricardo Villalobos, 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

**Regional Convenings  
and Breakfast**

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

**Networking Break**

9:15 AM – 11:00 AM

**General Session III:  
Federal Policy Update with  
Dep. Sec. Sonderling, Assist.  
Sec. Mack and Assist. Sec.  
Moore**

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, Rudy Racine, Jeramey Harrison and Tarik Chakrellah**

**Wednesday, March 25**

Ignite Success: The Denver Model for Integrated Funding and a “No Wrong Door” Ecosystem with **Todd Nielsen, Bret Walker, Chris Berthiaume and Shonta Trotman**

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 **Andrew Bercich, Tony Coe, Bridget Back and Cris Ritchie**

Apprenticeship Beyond the Trades: Tackling Mental Health and Youth Workforce Challenges with **Daria Earley, 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

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Advancing Quality Signals and Mobility Pathways:  
How Philanthropy, Employer Demand, and Regional  
Ecosystems Are Operationalizing Alignment at Scale

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  
3:00 PM – 4:15 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**

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

Leveraging Industry Partnerships to Tool Up Tomorrow's Workforce with **Gina Caronna, Todd Wells, David Boulay, 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

**Networking Break**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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

10:30 AM – 10:35 AM

Welcome

10:35 AM – 11:00 AM

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

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Decision Skills for Workforce

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

NAWB Award Presentation:

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Special Presentation Honoring NAWB  
Founder Robert Knight

**Thursday, March 26**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Post Conference Sessions**  
(registration required)

- Grant Writing: Go, Write, Win! With **Tressa Dorsey**
- 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