
Event Agenda

NAWB: The Forum 2026: Ignite. Innovate. Impact.

Monday, March 23, 2026

- 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **Equus Leadership Retreat**
Location: Brera 5
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** **Pre-Conference Sessions - Separate Registration Required**
- Turning Data into Action: Insights that Drive Workforce Board Impact**
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Brera 1
Speakers: Bob Isaacson, Sarah Edwards, Marty Romitti, Denise Kennedy, Chris Mullin
 - Mastering the Mega Trends: Shaping the Next Generation of Talent**
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Brera 2
Speaker: Mark Perna
 - Are You Ready? Board Contingency Planning**
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Brera 3
Speaker: MaryAnn Lawrence
 - From EV Hype to Workforce Strategy: Designing Apprenticeship-Ready Systems**
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Brera 6
- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM** **Partner Track: Allegiant Stadium Tour**
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM** **NAWB Board of Directors Meeting**
Location: Brera 4
- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM** **Board Chairs and Executive Directors' Session (Members Only, Registration Required)**
Location: Castalana 1
Speakers: Andrew Bercich, Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Christopher Laney, Geoff Smith, Josh Copus, Bob Isaacson
- 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM** **Newcomers Session**
Location: Brera 4
Speakers: Andrew Bercich, Jennifer Wilson, Connie Sharp
- 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM** **Future-Focused Workforce Board Insight and Design Lab (Invitation Only)**
Location: Brera 2
Speaker: Josh Copus
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM** **NCAWDB Meet and Greet**
Location: Gracia 5
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** **Welcome Reception in NAWB Town**
Location: Gracia Ballroom

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

- 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM** **Breakfast in NAWB Town**
Location: Gracia Ballroom

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Opening General Session: Silver State Showcase

Location: Theatre

Welcome Remarks from NAWB's Board Chair

8:30 AM - 8:35 AM

Updates from the CEO

8:35 AM - 8:45 AM

Speaker: Andrew Bercich

Silver State Showcase: Best Practices from our 36th State

8:45 AM - 9:50 AM

Speakers: Mary Beth Sewald, Danielle Casey, Christopher Sewell, Milt Stewart, Jon Ponder, Kelvin Watson, Jon Porter, Michael Naft, Mayor Michelle Romero, Joe Hardy, Mayor Shelley Berkley

NAWB Award Presentation

9:50 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Networking Break in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy 101: Building Your Advocacy Toolbox

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Castalana 1

Speaker: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied

The Leadership Skills That Matter Now: A Strategic Conversation for Workforce Boards

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Castalana 2

Speakers: Ron Painter, Johnnie-Lynn Crosby

Fueling the Future: Scaling Apprenticeship Innovation from Vision to Action

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 1

Speakers: Dina Igoe, Montez King, James Disbro, Leisa Rasmussen, Keely Schneider, Jan Bray

What AI ISN'T: Rethinking ChatGPT, Privacy, and Policy in Workforce Development

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 2

Speaker: Richard Acosta

From Convenings to Conversions: Turning Employer Engagement into Sustainable Sector Pipelines

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 3

Speaker: Sherri Mantanona

Beyond the Buzz: Is AI the next industrial revolution or a Bubble that's about to burst?

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 4

Speaker: Christopher Laney

Unlocking an Underutilized Workforce: Partnering with area Nonprofits for Disability Talent Pipelines

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 5

Speakers: Jon Porter, Ricardo Terrazas, Tracy Brown-May

Beyond the Blueprint: Co-Creating Clean Tech Apprenticeships with Industry to Ignite the Workforce of Tomorrow

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Brera 6

Speakers: Dr. Kimberly Moore, Milt Stewart, Maria Posey, Jamai Blivin, Taylor Stoker

The Experience Gap: Designing Talent Systems When Entry-Level Jobs Disappear

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Gracia 5

Speakers: Khaita Wasiyo, Dolores Estrada, Constance Wilson

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Networking Lunch in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

General Session II: Silver State Showcase II - A Talk with the Mayors

Location: Theatre

Welcome

1:00 PM - 1:05 PM

Silver State Showcase II: Local Elected Officials Fireside Chat

1:05 PM - 1:40 PM

Trust in the Age of AI

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

Speaker: Rebekah Dopp

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

2:10 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Theatre

NAWB Award Presentation: W.O Lawton Business Leadership Award

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Theatre

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Networking Break in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

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

2:30 PM - 7:00 PM

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

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions

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

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Castalana 1

Speakers: Robert Lucey, Scott Black, Lisa Cole

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

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Castalana 2

Bridging the Gap: Advancing Reentry Success and Workforce Pathways through Collaborative Partnerships.

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 1

Speakers: Jon Ponder, Dr. Carolyn Willis, Jon Porter

Influence Meets Industry: Making Registered Apprenticeship a Household Name

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 2

Speakers: Kim Tesch-Vaught, Kendra Siler, Erin Cyman, Kevin Salzer

Meeting Big Needs with Big Solutions: Pierce County Labor and the Machinists Institute Are Investing in Childcare for Trades Workers & Apprenticeships for Childcare Workers

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 3

Speakers: Nathe Lawver, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Marie Keller, Shana Peschek

Expanding Access to Logistics Training: Leveraging Public and Private Funding

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 4

Speakers: Rachael Berhe, Lynn Hoffman

Connecting the Dots: Integrating Apprenticeships with Workforce Systems + Plans for the City of LA's Apprenticeship Hub

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 5

Speakers: Kassandra Aguilera, Jorge Marquez, Hannah Lee, Gabriela Goetz, Jill Armington

Honoring Sovereignty, Expanding Opportunity: Nevadaworks and the Indian Workforce Development Advisory Council.

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Brera 6

Speakers: Alexandria Wright, Milt Stewart, Thurman Roberts

Apprenticeship is a National Priority. Now What?

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Gracia 5

Speakers: Jan van der Hoop, Natasha Sherwood, Laura Ward, John Colborn, Harry Leech

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Listening Session (invitation only)

Location: Gracia 5

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Connect and Collaborate in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hosted Reception (invitation only)

Nevada Day Reception

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Theatre

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Regional Convenings and Breakfast

Region 1 (Northeast)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 1

Region 2 (Mid-Atlantic)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 4

Region 3 (Southeast)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 3

Region 4 (Mountain Plains)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 6

Region 5 (Midwest)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 2

Region 6 (West)

7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Brera 5

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Break

9:15 AM - 11:00 AM

General Session III: Federal Policy Updates

Location: Theatre

Speakers: Andrew Bercich, Taylor Stockton, Michael Ioffe, Henry Mack, Nick Moore, Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Steve Voytek, Chris Andresen

Welcome by NAWB CEO

9:15 AM - 9:20 AM
Speaker: Andrew Bercich

Fireside Chat with Assistant Secretary Nick Moore, US Dept of Education - OCTAE

9:40 AM - 10:00 AM
Speaker: Nick Moore

Fireside Chat with Assistant Secretary Henry Mack, USDOL

10:00 AM - 10:25 AM
Speaker: Henry Mack

Policy Update with NAWB Policy Team

10:25 AM - 10:45 AM
Speakers: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Steve Voytek

NAWB Award Presentation: WIOA Trailblazer Award

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Break

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Demystifying Congress: An Insider's Perspective with Congressman Porter

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Castalana 1
Speaker: Jon Porter

Ignite Success: The Denver Model for Integrated Funding and a "No Wrong Door" Ecosystem

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Castalana 2
Speakers: Todd Nielsen, Bret Walker, Chris Berthiaume, Shonta Trotman

Beyond Efficiency: How AI Is Freeing Staff To Do What Matters Most

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 1
Speakers: Marion Akers, Jeramey Harrison, Ann Cooper, Priscilla M. Zuniga

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

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 2
Speaker: Dannyelle Austin

Apprenticeship Beyond the Trades: Tackling Mental Health and Youth Workforce Challenges

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 3
Speakers: Kelly Middleton Banks, James Humphries, Janice Gates

Veteran Friendly to Veteran Ready Communities

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 4
Speakers: Kelly Friend, 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

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 5
Speakers: Tony Coe, Bridget Back, Cris Ritchie

From Scattered Spreadsheets to Smart Decisions: AI-Powered Data Modernization for Workforce Boards (AWS)

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Brera 6
Speakers: Danny Lee, Jennifer Phillips, Annalisa Matri

Sponsor Session: BuildWithin

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Gracia 5
Speaker: Lillian Speranza

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

General Session IV: Ignite. Innovate. Impact.

Location: Theatre

Welcome

1:30 PM - 1:35 PM

Fireside Chat with Craft Education

1:35 PM - 2:00 PM
Speaker: Mallory Dwinal-Palisch

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

2:00 PM - 2:25 PM
Speakers: Andrew Bercich, Allison Bajracharya, Kevin Fudge, Julie Gehrki

2035 Starts Now: AI and the Transformation and Trajectory of the Skilled Trades

2:25 PM - 2:45 PM
Speakers: Roger Tadajewski, Tony Oran, Michael Hines, Jon-Michael Raymond, Brandon Gibbins

NAWB Awards Presentation: Workforce Boards and the Community Colleges Excellence in Partnership Award

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

2:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Partner Track: Area 15 (registration required)

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Networking Break in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Advocacy 301: Creating the Policies and Legislation to Strengthen the Public Workforce System

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Castalana 1

Speakers: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Mark Guthrie, Steve Voytek

Building a Tech-Enabled Partnership Model for WIOA Service Delivery: A Practical Blueprint for Workforce Boards

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Castalana 2

Speakers: Tom Kavanagh, John Casella, Robert Merritt, Mark Greenburg, Allison Braund-Harris

Leadership in a Cup of Coffee: How Rural Boards Build Trust, Partnerships, and People

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 1

Speakers: Ty Cauthen, Cory Blaylock, Benjamin Mott

Leveraging Industry Partnerships to Tool Up Tomorrow's Workforce

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 2

Speakers: Gina Caronna, Todd Wells, Michelle Cassarro

Moving Beyond Panic to Progress in AI and Workforce

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 3

Speaker: Nick Beadle

Business Services Coordinator (A USDOL Registered Apprenticeship)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 4

Speakers: Justin Arnold, Taylor Black

Work Matters: Creating a Talent Pipeline Through Probation, Workforce, and Trades Alignment

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 5

Speakers: Hillary Lyle, Jay Jordan, Jesse McCree

Beyond the Buzzwords: What It Really Takes to Align Education, Workforce, and Community

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Brera 6

Speakers: Kristy Amy, Denise Reading, Crystal Keaton, Dan Leffingwell

Transforming Workforce Strategic Impact: Scaling Industry-Validated Skills Across Regional Economies

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Location: Gracia 5

Speakers: Roger Tadjewski, Tony Oran, Michael Hines, Jon-Michael Raymond, Brandon Gibbins, Bill Willetts

4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

Meet and Mingle in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

Thursday, March 26, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Breakfast in NAWB Town

Location: Gracia Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Stronger Together – How to Mobilize Your State Association of Local Boards

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Castalana 1
Speakers: Justin Arnold, Brandon Butler

Building Winning Board and Contractor Relationships!

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Castalana 2
Speaker: Darrell Andrews

Smarter Workflows, Stronger Results: Practical AI for Workforce Teams

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 1
Speaker: Jha Allen

Building a Pipeline for Emerging Industries Through Apprenticeships and Incentives

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 2
Speakers: Jarvis Washington, Carlos Vazquez

The North Central Texas Accelerator Session Model: Driving Workforce, Education and Economic Development Outcomes from Insight to Action

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 3
Speakers: Phedra Redifer, Andy Eads, Jan Jungmann, George Mollick

From Pre-Apprentice to Apprentice: Building a Scalable Pipeline in the Central Valley

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 4
Speakers: Blake Konczal, Ashley Matthews, Becky Barabe, Chuck Riojas

Shift Your Marketing and Own Your Brand

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 5
Speakers: Kelly Moreno, Berenice Lopez, Jameson Cardenas

Bold Collaborations, Bold Outcomes: Rethinking Adult Education and Workforce Board Partnerships

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Brera 6
Speaker: Sharon Bonney

Policy Shift, System Response: Preparing Workforce Programs for Medicaid Work Requirements

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Location: Gracia 5
Speakers: Bradley Williams, Jesse McCree, Amanda Wagner, Robert Knight

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

Break

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

General Session V: Ignite. Innovate. Impact

Location: Theatre

NAWB Award Presentation: Laurie Moran Partnership Award

10:30 AM - 10:40 AM

Fireside Chat with Greg Bianchi, Microsoft Corp.

10:40 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazon's Approach to Upskilling

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM
Speaker: Tammy Thieman

Building Skills for America's Ship Building Workforce

11:20 AM - 11:45 AM
Speakers: Shawn Avery, H. Patrick Clancy, Michael Garamoni

Decision Skills for the Workforce

11:45 AM - 12:10 PM

Special Presentation Honoring NAWB founder Robert (Bob) Knight

12:10 PM - 12:25 PM

Closing Reflections

12:25 PM - 12:30 PM

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Post Conference Sessions (Registration required)

Working Smarter With AI: Building an Ethical, AI-Literate Workforce

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Brera 1

From Employer Demand to System Design: Advancing Skills-Based Talent Strategies

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Brera 2