Education Attainment and Workforce Development Programming

New! 1-1 Consultation Opportunity
ACCE’s Education Attainment Division is pleased to offer 1-1 consultation opportunities to all convention attendees interested in education attainment and workforce development. Consultations are by appointment at various times throughout the convention week.

SUNDAY, July 16
Registration Opens, 2:00 p.m.
Don’t forget to pick up your credential ribbons on the table next to registration.

Welcome Party: Wildhorse Saloon, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Join your chamber peers to kick off Convention week at the ACCE Welcome Party!

MONDAY, July 17
Redefining Career Readiness
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Room 204
Hear how the Bowling Green Area Chamber, together with local school districts and industry leaders, is making a lasting impact on local workforce development with SCK LAUNCH. Get some tips on how you, too, can effectively support the cradle-to-career pipeline by identifying and building partnerships, providing early career and professional skill exposure, and developing programs that operate at the forefront of hard and soft skill development.
Speakers: Kim Phelps, Vice President of Communication and Public Policy, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce

Healthy Workforce, Healthy Community
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room 204
When chambers understand the connection between health and workforce development, they can better address the economic needs in their communities. Learn from the leaders of Healthy Monadnock 2020, a community initiative that has been at the nexus of innovative approaches to both economic development and community health, including living wage policies. Learn how to utilize data, identify potential partners, and unlock new strategies all toward the common goal of creating a healthy workforce.
Speakers: Phil Suter, President & CEO, Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce; Linda Rubin, MS, Healthy Monadnock 2020 Director; Kitty Jerome, Director of Coaching & Outreach, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; Shuma Panse, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Navigating Policy to Support Your Workforce
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Room 209A
Get practical advice for understanding and finding ways to support your community's local workforce systems. Gain a greater understanding of federal workforce policies, state and local partnerships and the complex networks of government, industry and nonprofit organizations working to support local workforces and economies.
Speakers: Donny Jones, COO, West Alabama Chamber; Jessie Hogg Leslie, National Network Director, National Skills Coalition
The Business Case for Corrections Reform
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Room 209A
If workforce development, transportation, or education is on your chamber's agenda, then criminal justice reform should also be on that list. State and local government spending on prisons and jails has increased about three times faster than spending on elementary and secondary education. Learn how chambers of commerce are promoting data-based strategies to control spending, reduce prison populations, and improve public safety.
Speakers: Roy Williams, President & CEO, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

Education Attainment Division Reception
5:00 – 6:30 p.m., OMNI Hotel Cumberland 2
Join your EAD peers to network and celebrate another year of education attainment and workforce development successes at your chambers! You are welcome to bring colleagues to this.

TUESDAY, July 18

Think Tank: Strengthening Higher Ed Ecosystems
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Room 208A
With the increasingly pressing need for workers to possess a postsecondary credential or degree, communities must find ways to collaborate and support their most vulnerable populations' education and training. The Kresge Foundation’s Higher Education Ecosystem model provides a set of recommendations for how chambers can activate systems and institutions to do just that. In this interactive session, you'll map your community's ecosystem model, identify partnership opportunities and understand strategies for postsecondary success.
Facilitators: Rebecca Villarreal and Bethany Miller, Education Program, The Kresge Foundation

Place Branding and the Battle for Talent
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Room 204
Chambers that are effective in telling a story about what it means to live and work in a community make it more enticing for workers of all ages to be a part of that story. Hear from a panel of chamber executives who have been successful in developing, curating, and marketing their communities’ brands to current and potential members of the workforce. Learn how to identify opportunities for branding for talent attraction, retention, and overall economic development.
Moderator: Dariel Curren, Senior Vice President, Development Counsellors International
Speakers: Adrienne Cole, President and CEO, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce; Caitlin Holland, Vice President of Investor Relations, Shoals Chamber of Commerce; Charles Wood, Vice President of Economic Development, Chattanooga Area Chamber

Special Session: Reconnecting the Volunteer State
11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Room 202C
At a time when postsecondary credentials and degrees are becoming increasingly necessary to be competitive and successful in the modern workplace, hear how the Nashville Area Chamber is helping to engage adult learners and military service members statewide, and put them on a path toward success with the state’s Tennessee Reconnect program. Learn new strategies for engaging with these populations and developing chamber programs that support their success as well as the talent needs of the business community.
Speakers: Mike Krause, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission; Nancy Eisenbrandt, Chief Workforce Officer and Laura Ward, Director of Tennessee Reconnect Community, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

The Big 5 – A 21st Century Community Leadership Model
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m., Room 204
Learn how a major metro chamber reinvigorated its position of civic leadership and how a small chamber became a rapidly growing, financially strong, community leader, both by doing the same thing - addressing their region's five biggest opportunities head on. This session, perfect for chambers of all sizes and with varying resources, will offer a road map with translatable, scalable skills and tools that empower a chamber to be the community leader necessary to
remain relevant.

Speakers: Katherine Morgan, President and CEO, Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce; Scott Hall, Senior Vice President of Civic and Community Initiatives, Kansas City Chamber

Think Tank: A Welcoming Approach to Workforce
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m., Room 208A

Chambers of commerce are leading initiatives to welcome immigrants because they bring new energy, ideas and talent to local economies. Learn more about efforts to boost regional prosperity through immigration and innovation.

Awards Ceremony: Announcement of Regional Innovation Award Winner, 6:00 p.m.
The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Greater Omaha Chamber, Nashville Area Chamber, and Allegheny Conference on Community Development are all finalists for this award that celebrates workforce development. Come cheer them on!

WEDNESDAY, July 19

Afterschool STEM Programs for Tomorrow's Future
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Room 208B

Chambers that support afterschool STEM programs in their communities will have an edge in meeting their members’ talent development needs by creating a workforce that is ready for the jobs of the future. Hear from chambers that work as partners and as practitioners in the movement to provide quality afterschool STEM opportunities for students.

Moderators: Kari Pardoe, Associate Program Officer, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Ron Ottinger, Director, STEM Next
Speakers: Alisha Benson, COO, Greater Spokane Incorporated; Eric Brown, Business Development Director; Salina Area Chamber of Commerce; Amy Donahoe, Director of Workforce Development, The Chamber of Greater Springfield; Lakeitha Givens, Program Director, YouthQuest, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce