

**Workforce Development Institute 2024: Bridges  
Draft Schedule**

**Tuesday, January 23**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Preconference Session: Initiating a Workforce Leader in 2024</b>            New to workforce development and/or want to sharpen your skills? Join this session to learn with AACC about critical issues and relevant resources. Speakers will include representatives from some of the most influential national, regional, industry-specific, and demographically relevant organizations nationally. Anticipate coming away with direct contacts as well as partnership opportunities. This session will have three additional online meetings from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, Eastern: May 8, 2024; August 7, 2024; November 13, 2024</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration            Cost: \$750</p>
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Preconference Session: Rural Economic Development and Workforce Planning</b>            Join this session to learn essential partnership strategies that are most useful in rural and remote settings. Best practices from colleges that operated and thrived in smaller markets will be showcased. Successful practices for data use, particularly for fundraising and program implementation when your communities are small, geographically remote, or bound by single-industry economies will be highlighted. Anticipate receiving publications, practical contact lists, and one-on-one time with AACC leadership.</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration            Cost: \$150</p>
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Preconference Session: The Entrepreneurial Mindset of a Workforce Professional</b>            Join this session to learn how to partner and think out-of-the box about design and implementation related to small business supports for the student and community, as well as leaders within the college itself.</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration            Cost: \$150</p>
12:00-4:00 p.m.	AACC Affiliate Council Board Meetings and/or Aligned Project Meetings
3:00-3:45 p.m.	<p><b>New to WDI Attendees Forum</b>            New to WDI is a 45-minute in-person event for first-time WDI attendees. Sponsorship of the New to WDI meetup will allow the sponsor to present a welcome message together with the AACC workforce and economic development team.</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration            Cost: \$0.00</p>

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4:30-6:00 p.m.	<b>Opening Plenary Session</b>
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Networking Reception for All Attendees
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Potential Sponsored Private Dinner 1 WDI 2024 Attendees interested in being considered for these dinners with AACC and sponsors will have the option to click a box during their registration. Dinners will have limited attendance (approximately 20 individuals) and will only occur if sponsored.
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Potential Sponsored Private Dinner 2 WDI 2024 Attendees interested in being considered for these dinners with AACC and sponsors will have the option to click a box during their registration. Dinners will have limited attendance (approximately 20 individuals) and will only occur if sponsored.

**Wednesday, January 24**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00-9:00 a.m.	<b>Morning Plenary Session</b>
9:05-9:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Innovations in Allied Health</b> Allied health careers continue to provide stackable and latticed credentials that lead to family sustaining wage jobs. Join this session to explore innovation in these critical programs as well as partners for success in 2024 and beyond.
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>It Takes a Village to Develop a Workforce</b> Community colleges working in partnership with community-based organizations, chambers of commerce, workforce boards, and other partners are well positioned to meet the complex needs of students seeking to re-skill and upskill. This session will explore partnerships that are thriving in this work.
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Blended and Braided Investments</b> This session will highlight colleges that effectively leverage multiple funding streams for student success and sustainability of critical programs. Funders that support such efforts will present.
9:35-10:50 a.m.	To Be Announced

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10:55 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	<b>Youth and Pre-Apprenticeship Models of Success</b> Determining where to focus a college's investments (staff time and employer partner discussions) in service to growing registered apprenticeship programming is easier with a clearer understanding of the nuances between these groups. This session will unpack those key points with experts from the field.
10:55 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	<b>Employer Interests</b> This session will highlight the employer's perspective on the need for a comprehensive talent pool on behalf of the company's success. Effective models to recruit, elevate, and best utilize talent will be discussed.
10:55 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	<b>Manufacturing 2030</b> The Industrial Internet of Things, Industry 4.0 and 5.0 all reflect the fact that manufacturing is evolving at an unprecedented pace. This session will highlight some of the recent developments and the strategies colleges are using to respond.
10:55 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	To Be Announced
12:15-1:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch Plenary Session</b>
1:50-2:15 p.m.	Coffee Break
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Beyond the Joint Services Transcript: Serving Service Members and Their Families</b> Service members and their families face a myriad of choices as they transition from their service into civilian life. While the Joint Services Transcript provides some direction in helping service members receive credit for skills and knowledge attainment, community colleges can do more to support this transition. This session will highlight promising practices from the field.
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>New Models in Rapid Skilling, Micro-credentialing, and Pathways to Employment</b> Rapid skilling and micro-credentialing can move people into entry level jobs within as little as eight weeks, with a clear path to advancement and continued skills acquisition. This session will showcase successful rapid skilling programs.
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Traditional Trade Opportunities and Partners</b> Traditional trade programs at community colleges have evolved along with critical networks. Join this session to learn from some of the key industry partners and associations on their 2024 innovations. Exemplary colleges will be showcased.
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Faculty Shortages in High Tech Fields</b> This session will showcase models of engaging, recruiting and retaining subject matter experts to augment existing faculty in service to ever-evolving high tech fields.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Data Driven Workforce Development</b> Labor market information, economic projections, sector strategies, even capital budgets for community colleges all depend on accurate and timely data. This session will explore data sources and reliability in order to conduct relevant and responsive workforce development.

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3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Being Purposeful with Earn and Learn Models</b> National workforce shortages have highlighted the need for employers to recruit and retain employees at a faster rate than some of the traditional AA degree programs produce. Their urgency blended with the college's reality of what students truly know and can do to perform a craft is continuously being investigated. This session will identify promising models.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Cybersecurity and Workforce Development</b> High quality cybersecurity programs are thriving at colleges large and small. This session will provide strategies and innovations in cybersecurity programming from leading colleges who are offering cybersecurity instruction both as a standalone discipline and as a critical cross-cutting workforce skill.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Transportation: The New Frontier</b> Electric vehicles continue to grow in popularity and demand, and the demand for a skilled workforce to support both the vehicles, an EV infrastructure, and battery production is growing. This session will address current work and new opportunities in the transportation field.
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Potential Sponsored Private Dinner 3 WDI 2024 Attendees interested in being considered for these dinners with AACC and sponsors will have the option to click a box during their registration. Dinners will have limited attendance (approximately 20 individuals) and will only occur if sponsored.
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Potential Sponsored Private Dinner 4 WDI 2024 Attendees interested in being considered for these dinners with AACC and sponsors will have the option to click a box during their registration. Dinners will have limited attendance (approximately 20 individuals) and will only occur if sponsored.

**Thursday, January 25**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00-9:0 a.m.	<b>Morning Plenary Session</b>
9:05-9:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Prioritizing Workforce: The Executive's Perspective</b> The degree to which a college prioritizes workforce programming is largely aligned with the executive's vision and values, informed by local needs. This session will give voice to present and past executives with this mindset.
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Preparing the Nursing Talent Pipeline</b> The demand for nursing professionals remains high and community college capacity is often limited by the availability of clinical sites, a shortage of qualified faculty, and concurrent program capacity limitations. This session will explore opportunities for training to better address the acute demand.

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9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Construction Opportunities</b> The skilled trades, especially in construction, represent a pathway to family sustaining wages and a middle-class job that does not require a degree. As employers in commercial and residential construction search for skilled employees, community colleges programs will be key to their success.
9:35-10:50 a.m.	<b>Part 1 of Federal Speed Dating</b>
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	<b>Part 2 of Federal Speed Dating</b>
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	<b>Justice-Involved Students</b> Join this session to learn promising practices to engage, support persistence, and the completion of justice-involved students in technical programs for employment. Strategies to destigmatize the experience for students, families, and employer partners will be discussed.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	<b>Can We Do This Program vs Should We Do This Program?</b> As colleges are increasingly expected to produce students that can feel financially secure, choices must be made about the end results. From employment prospects to wage expectations, if a student can make a living or family-sustaining wage, and if, when, and how they might lose their benefits all impact the decisions colleges must make.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	<b>Converting Dual Enrollment Students Into College Students</b> Community college are successful at early exposure to college through high school partnerships. Join this session to learn strategies to increase conversion rates of dually enrolled students.
12:15-1:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary Lunch</b>
1:50-2:15 p.m.	Coffee Break
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence</b> Artificial intelligence and Cybersecurity on their own have each exhibited strong growth. The intersection point of these two represents potential new opportunities for employers, and for the workforce. Join this session to learn more about this topic.
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Building a Fully Optimized Workforce Pipeline</b> Employers across the spectrum are reporting an inability to hire qualified candidates due an excess in demand over supply. To mee this demands, a fully optimized workforce pipeline is critical. Join this session to learn about innovative approaches to this challenge.
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Part 3 of Federal Speed Dating</b>
2:20-3:35 p.m.	<b>Ethical AI</b> Artificial intelligence has exploded in the public consciousness, and the ability to use it in a workforce development setting continues to develop. With that development comes a need for a clear understanding of the ethical implications and constraints necessary. This session will explore the ethics of AI implementation as a teaching tool, for student support, as well as in the use and misuse of large data sets.

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3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Unmanned Aircraft Systems</b> Drone piloting programs are taking off around the country as the demand for FAA licensed pilots grow. Whether short term certificates or full degrees, these programs prepare completers for a new and challenging career. This session will highlight new UAS programs from around the country.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>The Solar Workforce</b> Innovations in solar energy have led to new and more employment opportunities in this emerging field. As colleges prepare for future investments, join this session to gain updates on environmental careers and recent reports outlining the skills and competencies needed to fill these jobs.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Dual Enrollment Opportunities in CTE</b> Dual enrollment programs in CTE offer employers a skilled pipeline of job seekers and offer students an opportunity to enter the workforce earlier, with valuable, portable credentials. This session will highlight working models with high success rates.
3:40-4:55 p.m.	<b>Credentials of Value</b> What if we offered a credential and no one cared? This session will explore how employers, students, and community colleges determine which credentials to offer, and why they matter.
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Networking Reception for All Attendees
6:00-7:15 p.m.	College President, CEO, and Chancellor Reception

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**Friday, January 26**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
7:30-8:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Open
7:00-7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
7:45-9:00 a.m.	<b>Closing Plenary Session</b>
9:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  (Joint 11:30 buffet lunch)	<p><b>Post-Conference Session: Workforce Policy Forum Deep-Dive</b> The ability of community colleges to deliver effective workforce development programs is deeply affected by legislation, regulations, and other policies at the local, state, and federal levels. This three-part session will examine the federal workforce development policy landscape from several perspectives, including those on Capitol Hill that will write the next iterations of key legislation such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Attendees will hear from key leaders across the workforce development policy landscape. Join this opportunity to make your voice heard about how policies affect your programs and institutions.</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration Cost: \$0.00</p>
12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.  (Joint 11:30 buffet lunch)	<p><b>Post-Conference Session: Elevating the Role of Community Colleges in the Semiconductor Ecosystem</b> As America’s community colleges seek to become nimble, affordable, and industry-relevant leaders in the semiconductor industry there will be a need for a general understanding of the microelectronics landscape, and comfort talking about the specialized skills students and instructors will need. Colleges will also need to be aware of the essential partnerships with and from industry and government that can support, build, and sustain the science, technology, and engineering workforce necessary to establish the United States as a world leader in innovation.</p> <p>Registration Required Separately from General Conference Registration Cost: \$0.00</p>