Workforce Development Institute 2025: Uncharted Courses

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Time	Title
7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	**Registration Desk Open**
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**Initiating a New Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Leader in 2025** Professionals that are new to workforce development and/or advanced manufacturing should 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 meetings in 2025: • Online on May 7, 2025, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm Eastern • In-person on August 6-7, 2025 (location to be determined. Please note, expenses for travel to this event must be provided by the institution and are not included in the registration fee. Attendees who cannot attend in person, will be given an alternative option.) • Online on November 6, 2025, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm Eastern
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**Artificial Intelligence in Rural Economic Development and Workforce Planning** As AI is embedded into all facets from campus operations to company expectations, attendees from rural or rural-serving areas should join this session to learn how it has been or is being effectively applied in rural and remote settings. Best practices from colleges that operate and thrive in smaller markets that are geographically remote or bound by a fixed number of industry partners will be highlighted. Anticipate receiving publications, practical content, and connections with potential partners for a successful 2025.
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**Tapping Talent Pipelines Earlier in Emerging Technology Fields** Career exploration and education continues to evolve as new methods for reaching and engaging students into career and technical education expand. This session will focus on early exposure for younger generations into career and technical education. Industry and association partnerships showcased will include those in emerging technology fields.
12:00-4:00 p.m.	**AACC Affiliate Council Meetings** AACC Affiliate Councils seeking to gather should communicate their requests to John Dyer at jdyer@aacc.nche.edu no later than November 15, 2024.
3:00-3:45 p.m.	**New to WDI Attendees Forum** Any first-time WDI attendees are encouraged to join this brief orientation to learn how to maximize their time at the event.
4:30-6:00 p.m.	**Opening Plenary: Coordinated Economic Development Strategies**
6:00-8:00 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Open**
6:00-8:00 p.m.	**Welcome Reception for All Attendees**

Time	Title
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.	**Exhibit Hall Breakfast**
8:00-9:00 a.m.	**Morning Plenary: Reengaging "Some College, No Credential" Students**
9:00-9:30 a.m.	**Exhibit Hall Coffee Break**
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 1: Pathways to Skilled Trades** An increasing number of students are foregoing traditional "4-year degree and beyond" career pathways and deciding to pursue the skilled trades and other CTE pathways. Discover how community colleges are developing promising pathways to these careers.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 2: Measuring What Matters** Community colleges have a wide range of missions and serve diverse student populations. This session will explore the context for defining when to use what measure and provide practical examples of a variety of approaches to measuring community college student progress and outcomes.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 3: Military Talent** Attendees will hear from successful community college and military organization partnerships to engage, grow, and constantly upskill military talent and families.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 4: New Models in Rapid Skilling** Prioritizing essential skills and certifications will be discussed in this session by industry and colleges looking to fast track talent into critical industry areas.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Listening Session 1: Come Share Your Dual Enrollment Strategies and Successes in a Collaborative Discussion with Other WDI 2025 Attendees**
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	**Apprenticeship Building America EV Hub Partner Meetup (by invitation)**
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 5: Electric Vehicle Innovations** Attendees should join this session to learn together with AACC's key partners about the Registered Apprenticeship Electric Vehicle Hub, a resource for all colleges on EV battery production, vehicle assembly, maintenance and repair, EV charging station maintenance and repair, as well as healthcare and safety.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 6: Prioritizing Workforce: The Executive's Perspective** The degree to which a college is focused on workforce development is largely aligned with the leadership's vision and values, which are in turn informed by local needs. This session will showcase executives with this mindset.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 7: Public Works Talent Strategies** Public workers are the backbone of many communities, operating and maintaining public utilities, water, transportation, emergency response, and other specialized services. Join to learn how to expand and deepen your community's talent.

10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 8: Growing Small Businesses with College Resources and Partners** From ideation to launch, community colleges can and should leverage their facilities and personnel as resources to support local entrepreneurs and business owners. This session will showcase models ranging from how to integrate business education courses with students who engage with physical resources (e.g. a Fab Lab) to co-locating with the Small Business Development Center or building a network of like-minded business owners with the Chamber of Commerce.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 9: Integrating Credit and Non-Credit** Industry needs skilled talent. Students merit recognition for upskilling. College staff deserve a smoother system to work within related to workforce and economic development. Attend to learn from institutions that are attempting to better coordinate their credit and non-credit efforts for efficiency and the benefit of all stakeholders.
12:15-2:00 p.m.	**Plenary Lunch: Artificial Intelligence Skilling**
2:00-2:30 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Coffee Break**
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 10: Anticipating Data Center Industry Needs** As new data centers are being built across the country, and they take their place as essential infrastructure resources, community colleges have great opportunities to place their degree and certificate holders within this growing sector.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 11: In Progress**
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 12: Critical Networks** Connect with nationally recognized workforce and economic development networks that can further your local relationships and effectiveness on behalf of students.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 13: Workforce Policies** AACC's legislative team and others providing campus perspectives will examine some of the potential policy changes that may be forthcoming with a new Presidential Administration and Congress.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 14: In Progress**
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 15: Not to be Reckless, but to be Responsive, We Must Work Faster** Attendees of this session will focus on college initiatives that skill workers in less than one year from college leaders aggressively attempting to meet industry demand while maintaining quality controls and public trust.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 16: Utilizing Cyber Ranges and Hackathons** This session will showcase successful cyber programs integrating real-world experiences into student training to better prepare future cyber professionals.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 17: Building Trades** Join this session to learn new partnership opportunities in established and consistently in-demand fields.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 18: In Progress**
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Listening Session 2: Come Share Creative Ways You Have Engaged With Your Workforce System in a Collaborative Discussion with Other WDI 2025 Attendees**
5:15-7:15 p.m.	**Networking Reception for All Attendees**

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7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	**Registration Desk Open**
7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Open**
7:00-8:00 a.m.	**Exhibit Hall Breakfast**
8:00-9:00 a.m.	**Morning Plenary: The Energy Workforce**
9:00-9:30 a.m.	**Exhibit Hall Coffee Break**
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 18: Successful Strategies for Micro-credentialing** Learn with peers who have focused on recognizing skills, knowledge and achievements through short, and often competency-based, efforts.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 19: Faculty Shortages in High-Tech Fields** Attendees will learn from colleges that have utilized varying pricing strategies and structures to engage and retain talent.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 20: Coordinated Communities: Chambers and Colleges** join this session to learn promising models involving Chambers of Commerce, colleges, and community-based organizations from across the country as they seek to support coordinated economic development and mobilization of untapped talent to meet local workforce needs.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Workshop 21: In Progress**
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**Listening Session 3: Come Share How You Pipeline Your Own CTE Talent From Your Training Programs Into Your Own College in a Collaborative Discussion with Other WDI 2025 Attendees**
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 22: Increasing Students to and Through Healthcare Clinicals and Licensure** This session will showcase models across the country that aim to increase the numbers of students entering, and completing, clinical experiences and licensure exams.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 23: Cyber as a New Fundamental Skill** Employers across all occupational areas now expect familiarity and comfort using cyber skills. This session will showcase a broad range of innovative integration efforts at community colleges and their recommendations for supporting your programs with cyber resources, funding, and partners.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 24: The Customer Service Mindset in Higher Education** Workforce programs balance student supports with industry demand. This session will focus on proactive solutions for students, as well as employer engagement.
10:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 25: Streamlining Untapped Talent into Industry** Colleges seeking existing strategies and solutions to connect community college student talent with employers should attend this session. Priority will be placed on examples that expand talent pools.

Time	Session
10:55 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	**Workshop 26: AI Competencies in Workforce Training** As AI tools are deployed across every sector, community colleges need to integrate appropriate AI awareness and skills into existing programming.
12:15- 2:00 p.m.	**Plenary Lunch: The New Look of Supports for Workforce Success**
2:00-2:30 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Coffee Break**
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 27: Building Blocks for a Heat Stress Prevention Training Program** This session is highly encouraged for colleges delivering programs for professionals who will work in high-risk and exposed occupations. New tools designed by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Training Program to reduce the risk of heat stress for workers will be showcased and builds on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) resources.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 28: Workforce and Economic Development Tools and Technology** Community college workforce and economic development professionals avail themselves of a variety of tools, technologies, and strategies that serve to streamline and focus college workforce training efforts. Join this session to learn what your peers are using to keep up and excel.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 29: Transportation Infrastructure** The energy grid and charging station access have permeated conversations from urban communities to national parks. Join this session to learn of quality partners looking to support your college's understanding and future efforts.
2:30-3:45 p.m.	**Workshop 30: Finding Your Organization's Best Fit with Registered Apprenticeship** Colleges looking to position talent and potential funding streams for Registered Apprenticeship in their communities should join to learn from successful peers and partners.
2:30-5:00 p.m.	**Appalachian Regional Commission's Cyber ACCESSS Grant Meetup (by invitation)**
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 31: Student Housing Strategies for Persistence in Workforce Programs** From concrete slabs for trailer supports to mini-houses and innovative lending programs, join this session to learn models how housing students can support their persistence in workforce programs and future employment success.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 32: Skills-Based Hiring: Implications for Community Colleges** Employers are increasingly seeking employees with skills, not just degrees or credentials. How do we best position ourselves to meet this demand? Resources, beneficial partnership opportunities, and showcased sites will be presented.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 33: Organizing Economic Development at the Local Level** Workforce credentials must align with industry-related technical training for local and regional economic development. This session will showcase college leaders who have prioritized career and technical pathway alignment within their state's economic development plans. Join to learn how you can support your campus do the same.
3:55-5:10 p.m.	**Workshop 34: Maintaining Workforce Continuity During a Leadership Transition** From planned retirements to sudden departures, college efforts cannot stop in service to college students and company partners. Join to learn strategies to keep continuity on

	critical economic development efforts from planned transitioning of leaders to staff reacting to unanticipated changes.
6:00-7:15 p.m.	**College President, Chancellor, and CEO Reception (by invitation)**

Friday, January 31, 2025

Time	Title
7:30-8:00 a.m.	**Registration Desk Open**
7:45-9:00 a.m.	**Closing Plenary: The Future of Simulation and Modeling Training**
9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	**Aligned Workforce Initiative Meeting 1**
9:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**Aligned Workforce Initiative Meeting 2**
9:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**Aligned Workforce Initiative Meeting 3**