

2026 CTE SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Tuesday, July 28

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Start your conference off right with a pre-conference workshop! Gain extra insight, deepen your knowledge of key topics, and start networking early. Sessions are tailored to the specific program areas noted below.

- **8:00 – 11:00 AM:** Teaching Nursery Landscape CDE: MCC
ID & Landscape Estimating Made Practical
- **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Teaching Floral Design without MCC
Breaking the Budget
- **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Be Pro Be Proud Fall 2026 Tour Stop MCC
Logistics Overview (Invite only)
- **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Core Content Integration MCC
Professional Learning Community (Invite only)
- **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Alabama Career Planning System MCC
Work-Based Learning Setup & Management Working
Session
- **2:00 – 6:00 PM:** ServSafe Session (Signup required) MCC

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

MCC Exhibit Hall Level

Be first in line and kick off the conference with ease! Pick up your event credentials, CTSO recruitment kit, and conference gift before the event for a smoother, faster check-in experience.

Wednesday, July 29

Morning

BREAKFAST

On Your Own

Attendees should enjoy breakfast on your own before arriving at the conference.

7:00 AM

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN & NETWORKING

MCC Exhibit Hall Level

Start the conference off right! Stop by to pick up your name badge, CTSO recruitment kit, and conference gift, connect with colleagues, and visit the conference information desk if you need assistance before the conference begins.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

MCC Concourse Level

The Exhibitor Showcase is a dynamic opportunity for attendees to explore the latest products, services, and innovations from leading CTE partners. This interactive space allows exhibitors to showcase their offerings through live demonstrations, product displays, and one-on-one consultations.

9:00 – 10:15 AM OPENING SESSION

MCC South Exhibit Hall

Kick off summer conference with this highly informative and engaging general session! Key highlights of the opening session include:

- *Inspiring message from Dr. Eric G. Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent of Education*
- *State of CTE in Alabama with Dodd Hawthorne, Assistant State Superintendent for CTE/Workforce Development for ALSDE*
- *National Board-Certified Teachers (NBCT) Recognition*
- *Platinum Sponsor Remarks: Alabama Career Planning System powered by Kuder*

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM HEADSHOT STUDIO

MCC Concourse Level

Take a new headshot to start the year off looking your best! A pop-up studio will be set up in the exhibitor area for all attendees to get a new, professional headshot. Photos will be shared with attendees after the event.

10:30 – 11:30 AM ALABAMA WORKFORCE PANEL

MCC South Exhibit Hall

Alabama Workforce showcases partnerships, programs, and innovations shaping the state's future workforce. Discover how education, business, and industry are working together to prepare students for high-demand careers while strengthening Alabama's economy through workforce development and career readiness initiatives. Panelists include:

- *Moderator: Shawn McDaniel, Dean of Instruction at Bevill State Community College*
- *Panelist: Anna Chappelle, Executive Director, Alabama Workforce Board*
- *Panelist: Tawanna Robinson, Assistant Director of the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship*
- *Panelist: Bradley Byrne, President & CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce*
- *Panelist: Ethan Mattocks, Director of Technical Learning & Early Careers at Airbus*
- *Panelist: Shernita Taylor, Workforce Development Manager at Austal USA*
- *Panelist: Brinkley Pierce, Structural Welding Training Instructor at Austal USA*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

MCC North Exhibit Hall

Take time to process the morning's programming while enjoying lunch on your own. Food vendors will be available inside the MCC, or you can venture out to a nearby spot.

1:00 – 2:15 PM LEARNING LABS

The afternoon learning labs are the moment to dive into a specific topic based on your specific role in the CTE ecosystem. This session will help you learn, grow, and expand your knowledge so you can lead out in your program area. Attendees should go to the breakout that best represents their role.

- **The Proven Process**
For New CTE Classroom Educators (0-3 Years)
- **Carved by Grace: A Teacher's Journey Back to Hope**
For Experienced CTE Classroom Educators (4+ Years)
- **How to Implement (Just About) Anything: Making Alabama's Workforce Pathways Stick**
For CTE Non-Classroom Educators (administrators, counselors, career coaches, WBL coordinators, etc.)

2:30 – 3:30 PM GENERAL SESSION

MCC South Exhibit Hall

Our final plenary session wraps up the day with a keynote message from workforce strategist, Andrew Brown. Learn more about key CTE initiatives and programs, hear a video message from your CTSO state presidents, and leave inspired!

- Educator Appreciation
- Career Cluster Spotlight Project Preview
- Platinum Sponsor Remarks: Learning Blade and iCEV
- Keynote Speaker: Andrew Brown

3:30 PM DESSERT SOCIAL

MCC North Exhibit Hall

Celebrate the first day of the summer conference while enjoying some sweet treats with peers! Recap the day, key learnings, and insights as you head into the rest of the conference.

3:45 PM ALACTE AFFILIATE BUSINESS MEETINGS MCC

Alabama Association for Career & Technical Education members are encouraged to attend their respective affiliate business meetings for important business of the organization.

Thursday, July 30

7:00 AM

BREAKFAST

All Locations

Begin your day with a light breakfast provided by the conference. Breakfast will be served outside all meeting room areas.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

All Locations

While breakout sessions have suggested audiences based on cluster, sessions are open to any educator. Pick and choose your sessions as you build a custom schedule. There will be more than 50 individual sessions to choose from. Sessions will vary in length from 45 minutes to 3 hours and will be released prior to the conference.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

MCC Concourse Level

Continue connecting with our wonderful exhibitors and partners.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

HEADSHOT STUDIO

MCC Concourse Level

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11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

MCC North Exhibit Hall

Food vendors will be available inside the MCC, or you can venture out to a nearby spot.

4:30 PM

**ALACTE BUSINESS MEETING
& AWARDS CEREMONY**

MCC

ALACTE members should plan to attend the business meeting and Awards Ceremony. Immediately following, a reception will be held at the Explorium for nominees and winners.

Friday, July 31

Morning

BREAKFAST

On Your Own

Attendees should enjoy breakfast on your own before arriving. Coffee will be provided.

8:00 – 9:15 AM

CAREER CLUSTER UPDATES

All Locations

Start your final day with key updates and the latest news about your respective Career Cluster® from ALSDE.



9:30 – 11:00 AM

CTSO UPDATES

All Locations

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are so integral to the CTE experience. End your conference hearing from your CTSO managers about the latest updates and what to look forward to in the year ahead.