

Attendee Know Before You Go
Coalition for Workforce Development Through CTE Summit
December 8-9, 2025
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center | Nashville, TN

Thank you for registering to attend ACTE’s Coalition for Workforce Development Through CTE Summit. This year’s Summit theme *is CTE Partnerships at Work: Building Skills, Shaping Futures*.

This document includes key logistical information for all attendees. Please read through this entire document prior to arriving on Monday, December 8. All times listed are CST.

Day 1 programming for this year’s event is being delivered in partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning. ACTE and the Coalition would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jenn Edge, Paula Chaon and Cheryl Carrier for their collaboration.

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Day 1 Agenda

Monday, December 8, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Volunteer Mezzanine 3-5

7:00 – 7:30 AM **Check in open; Grab-n-go breakfast provided**

7:30 – 7:45 AM **Check in closes at 7:30 am**

Load bus

7:45 -8:30 AM *Travel to John Overton High School*

John Overton High School

4820 Franklin Rd.

Nashville, TN 37220

8:30 – 8:45 AM *Building entry*

Please note that all attendees will participate in a screening process upon entering the building. Please leave large and bulky items at the hotel to ensure quick entry. You are also encouraged to leave your laptop in your hotel room.

8:45 – 9:45 AM **Welcome & Continental Breakfast** sponsored by **ADVANCE**

Mezzanine

9:45 – 10:55 AM **Rotation 1**

- Group A – Teaching Through the Career Lens Simulation
- Group B – Classroom Observations and Moderated Student Panel

10:55 – 11:10 AM *Morning Break*

Mezzanine

11:10 – 12:20 PM **Rotation 2**

- Group A – Classroom Observations and Moderated Student Panel
- Group B – Teaching Through the Career Lens Simulation

12:20 – 1:00 PM *Networking Lunch* sponsored by **Pearson**

1:00 – 2:15 PM **Business Partner Roundtables**

Participants will join roundtables comprised of educators, business partners, district leaders and community organizations from the metro Nashville area to discuss what makes business–school partnerships effective, sustainable, and scalable.

2:15 – 3:30 PM **Closing Moves**

Reflection and Action Planning

3:30 – 3:45 PM

Load bus

3:45 – 4:30 PM

Travel to Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Volunteer Mezzanine 3-5

4:30 – 6:00 PM

Networking Reception sponsored by **NAHB** and **zSpace**

Day 2 Agenda

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Volunteer Mezzanine 3-5

7:30 AM

Check in opens

7:45 – 8:15 AM

Breakfast sponsored by **ACTE's Work-based Learning Division**

8:15 – 8:30 AM

Welcome from ACTE

- Michael Connet, Associate Deputy Executive Director of Outreach & Partner Development, ACTE
- Robert “Bobby” Torres, President, ACTE
- LeAnn Curry, Executive Director, ACTE

8:30 – 9:30 AM

CTSO Roundtable Presentations

Representatives from seven of the nine national Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) will share information about their organizations in a roundtable format. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in two roundtable discussions during this session.

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Credential Committee Playbooks Feedback Session

The Coalition's Credential Committee has developed two playbooks; one for Industry Organizations to Engage with State CTE Departments and a second for Industry Organizations to Engage with Local CTE Departments. During this interactive session, attendees will review one of the two playbooks and give live feedback. Tables will report out, and further action will be taken after the Summit.

10:30 – 11:15 AM

ACTE Policy Update

With a look ahead at key issues for 2026, Government Relations Manager, Jimmy Koch, will provide an update on the state of federal CTE funding and ACTE's federal policy advocacy work.

11:15 – 11:30 AM

Thank You and Closing

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Key Contributors



ACTE's Work-Based
Learning Division

Summit Advocates



ACTE's Engineering &
Technology Education
Division

Monday - Building Entry at John Overton High School

The majority of Monday's program will be held at John Overton High School, part of Metro Nashville Public Schools and the Academies of Nashville (AoN). School will be in session, and attendees will be screened upon entering the building. To ensure a smooth screening process, please remove laptops, eyeglass cases, umbrellas, and binders from bags when entering. Print materials will be provided for all attendees, so *laptops are not needed for Monday.*

Address

John Overton High School
4820 Franklin Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220

Meeting Room: Mezzanine

Early/Late Arrival

Attendees should plan to ride the provided chartered bus to John Overton HS. If you need to make other travel arrangements, please note the following:

- The school building opens to visitors starting at 6:45 am. Students will be arriving between 6:30 – 7:05 am.
- If you arrive before or after the bus, you will be asked to complete the full entry process, which requires you to present and scan an ID card.
- If you plan to arrive directly from the airport and have luggage with you, the luggage is subject to search by school staff.
- The front entrance faces Lambert Dr. Look for the flagpole and gray concrete balls to know you are at the correct entrance.

You can contact Laura Scott (lscott@acteononline.org; 703-819-5755) with any questions.

Event Materials

Attendees will receive a packet of print materials on Day 1 of the Summit. Supplemental materials are available online.

- [Event materials](#)
- [Event sponsor materials](#)

Venues

Headquarters Location

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
P: 615-889-1000

Meeting Room: Level M, Volunteer Mezzanine 3-5

Monday School Visit (8:45 AM – 3:30 PM)

John Overton High School
4820 Franklin Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220

Meeting Room: Mezzanine

Nearest Airport

Nashville International Airport

One Terminal Drive
Nashville, TN 37214

The Nashville airport is a 15–20-minute drive from the Gaylord Opryland and a 15–35-minute drive during rush hour to John Overton High School.

Hotel

The headquarters hotel for the Summit and ACTE's CareerTech VISION is the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Address

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214

Phone Number

615-889-1000

Due to overwhelming demand, ACTE's reserved block of rooms at the Gaylord Opryland is fully sold out.

If you still need a hotel, ACTE has a special deal: book the Marriott Nashville Airport and receive a \$25 UBER voucher at check-in:

[Marriott Nashville Airport](#)

2200 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
Rate \$159

Parking

The Gaylord Opryland offers on-site parking. Guests staying at the Gaylord will receive in and out privileges.

- Self- Park Daily Rate: \$37.00
- Valet Daily Rate: \$55.00

Weather

Average temperatures for December in Nashville are highs in the low- to mid-50s and lows in the mid-30s. The current forecast predicts sun on Tuesday and Wednesday of the event week with highs in the 40s and lows in the low 30s. Please consult local weather for updates as conditions may change.

Attire

The attire for this event is business casual. Please be sure to wear comfortable shoes as the school visit will require walking.

ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2025

Registration

Summit attendees who are registered for CareerTech VISION or EXPO need to pick up their badges at either the attendee registration or exhibitor registration booths, which will be located as follows:

Attendee Registration Booth - Delta Foyer

Exhibitor Registration Booth - Ryman Foyer

The booths will be open as follows:

- Monday, Dec. 8 | 2:00 - 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 11 | 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Session Highlights

Summit attendees who are staying for VISION are encouraged to attend the following concurrent sessions:

Friday, Dec. 12 | 8:30 - 9:15 AM

Building Powerful Partnerships: How Educators Can Leverage Local Industry Associations (Like NAHB) for Work-Based Learning Success

Presenters: Jenn Edge and Greg Zick

Location: Delta Mezzanine 3, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Want stronger, more sustainable work-based learning partnerships? Start with your local industry association—and a system that helps make those partnerships last.

This session introduces educators to a new national playbook from the **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)** and the system-building framework of **Ford Next Generation Learning (Ford NGL)**. Together, these partners offer a powerful combination: practical tools from the field and a proven approach to creating scalable, student-centered, and workforce-aligned partnerships.

Learn how to use the NAHB playbook to spark meaningful conversations with your local HBA—or similar trade group—and how Ford NGL's *Powerful Partnership* system can help you structure and sustain those relationships. You'll walk away with:

- A framework for launching or deepening partnerships with local industry associations
- Practical tools and templates to co-design engagement activities (guest speakers, jobsite tours, mentorship, etc.)
- Tips for clarifying roles, aligning outcomes, and embedding partnerships into your WBL strategy
- Real-world examples from communities building high-impact education-industry collaboration

Let's connect the dots between classrooms and careers—together.

Friday, Dec. 12 | 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Conversations with Business & Industry

Presenter: Frank Gerdeman

Location: Davidson Ballroom E, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

This interactive roundtable session will mark the fourth consecutive year of bringing members of the Coalition for Workforce Development Through CTE together with educators and administrators for meaningful and insightful conversations. Too often business and industry reps sit in one room while educators sit in another and both groups talk about each other. This interactive session will bring the groups together to talk about current issues and opportunities at the national, state and local levels.

To view the full list of meetings and concurrent sessions happening at ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2025, visit: https://www.careertechvision.com/2025/program_schedule.cfm.

Presenter Directory

Presenters are listed in alphabetical order by organization name.

Organization Name	Presenter Name
ACTE	Jimmy Koch , Government Relations Manager
ACTE	Laura Scott , Director of Strategic Partnerships
American Allied Health	Esther Raley , Vice President Operations
Business Professionals of America	Kristina Kerns , Director of Development and Marketing
Business Professionals of America	Patrick Shultz , Executive Director
Business Professionals of America	Kelly Williams , Director of Education and Professional Learning
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.	Abigail Lee , Development and Communications Director
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.	Sandy Spavone , Chief Executive Officer
Ford Next Generation Learning	Paula Chaon , Community & Partnership Coach
Ford Next Generation Learning	Jenn Edge , Strategic Projects Lead
Ford Next Generation Learning	Marc Hill , Project Director
Future Business Leaders of America	Jen Staley , Senior Director Education & Learning
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	Cindy Beck, Immediate Past Chair, HOSA Inc. Board of Directors
National FFA Organization	Travis Park , National FFA Advisor and Board Chair
National FFA Organization	Scott Stump , CEO
National FFA Organization	Ambra Tannery , Director, Educational Development Programs
National Professional Agriculture Students Organization	Brad Driskill , Executive Director
National Professional Agriculture Students Organization	Kevin Butt, National Career Program Area Coordinator
Northern Kane Regional Vocational System	Todd Stirn , Work Based Learning Specialist
Northern Kane Regional Vocational System	Terry Stroh, Director
SkillsUSA	Brandon Hudson , Director, Workforce Development
SkillsUSA	Ricardo Romanillos , Chief Impact Officer
SkillsUSA	Chelle Travis , Executive Director