

2026 ACCA CONFERENCE

NOV 8-10, 2026

MONTGOMERY RENAISSANCE HOTEL AND SPA MONTGOMERY, AL



Registration is open for all attendees until Nov. 1

WORKFORCE

Stackable from the Start: How the NCRC Anchors Community College Career Credentialing

Mon, Nov 9 | Session I | 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Susan Bartlett - Account Executive, ACT
Participants will understand how the NCRC can serve as a foundational, portable credential that validates core workplace skills (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, Workplace Documents) before students enter technical coursework - reducing early attrition and remediation needs in career pathway programs

Cultivating Industry Partnerships: Growing Workforce Talent Through Collaboration

Mon, Nov 9 | Session I | 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Chad Sutton - Associate Dean of Workforce Development & Strategic Initiatives, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Attendees will explore how LBW community college, ATN, and industry partners collaborate to address employer needs, expand workforce training, share resources, and strengthen partnerships that support Alabama’s workforce and economic development.

Human + Machine: Teaching Soft Skills in a High Tech Workplace

Mon, Nov 9 | Session I | 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Grace Trevino - Project Engineer - LMD, ATN
1) Understand the importance of humans and machines in our workforce. 2) Examine the current workforce skills gap 3) Analyze the challenges of teaching soft skills 4) Discuss practical approaches to training these skills

Building the Bridge: Creating a Sustainable Healthcare Workforce Pipeline Through Dual Enrollment

Mon, Nov 9 | Session II | 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Jamekia Richardson - Student Success / Career Coordinator, Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Attendees will leave with practical strategies for strengthening partnerships among secondary education, community colleges, and employers and for transforming dual enrollment from an early-college opportunity into an intentional workforce development strategy.

Fast Track to the Future: A Mobile Fast-Track Training Model for Rapid Workforce Impact

Mon, Nov 9 | Session II | 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Jim Fugate - Energy Infrastructure Training Manager, Alabama Power Company
By addressing the three issues outlined in our proposal, access, affordability, and speed to employment, attendees will gain an understanding of the programs offered, the responsibilities of college partners, and how to translate local employer demand into deployable short-term training solutions.

More Than a Second Chance: Building Pathways to Skills, Careers, and a Future

Mon, Nov 9 | Session II | 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Julie Frizzell - Chief of Operations, AL Community College System Innovation Center
Explore how a community college, the ACCS Innovation Center, Adult Education, and community-based organizations combine resources to meet learners where they are and create pathways to skills, high-demand careers, self-sufficiency, and long-term success.

IET Career Plus: Building Pathways from Basic Skills to Careers

Mon, Nov 9 | Session III | 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Nicholas Moore - State Director of Adult Education, Alabama Community College System
Explore IET Career Plus, a model connecting adult education, workforce preparation, short-term training, credentials, and paid work-based learning. Learn to coordinate partner roles, funding, supportive services, and employer engagement around a learner’s path to employment.

Beyond the Business Card: Establishing Professional Authority through Books, Podcasts and Content Creation

Mon, Nov 9 | Session III | 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Robert McWilliams - Psychology Instructor, Bishop State Community College
Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to identify and apply strategies for establishing professional authority by creating and sharing valuable, targeted content across various digital platforms.

More Than Credits: Building Students Who Can Compete, Communicate, and Contribute

Mon, Nov 9 | Session IV | 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Sophia Downs - Founder, Certified Career Coach, and Workforce Development Strategist, Brighter Horizons Career & Development Services / North County Youth Development & Training Center
Participants will identify practical strategies to strengthen student workforce readiness by connecting soft skills, career confidence, support services, employer expectations, and community partnerships.

Breaking Barriers Behind Bars: Turning Incarceration into Workforce Opportunity

Mon, Nov 9 | Session IV | 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Joseph Metz - Workforce Development, Coastal Alabama Community College
Participants will learn to build correctional training partnerships, overcome security and instructional barriers, and connect industry-recognized credentials to education, reentry services, and employment opportunities.

FIX\$™: Putting Community Colleges in the Economic Development Room

Mon, Nov 9 | Session IV | 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Gregory Anderson - STAR Tutor, Calhoun Community College
Participants will learn how FIX\$™ can position community colleges as regional economic development partners by connecting work-based learning, employers, technology, and economic data to build workforce skills, strengthen businesses, and increase community impact.

Being the Brand and the Person: Leadership, Identity, and Consistency Beyond the Workplace

Mon, Nov 9 | Session V | 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Ebony Bradley - Dean of Students, Reid State Community College
Participants will leave with a stronger understanding of how leadership identity is developed, perceived, and sustained, along with practical reflection tools for aligning personal values with professional influence and institutional culture.

Beyond Technical Skills: Developing the Total Professional for Sustainable Career Success

Mon, Nov 9 | Session V | 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Bertha Robinson Little - Instructor/Adviser, Drake State Community and Technical College
Participants will identify gaps between technical skills and professional readiness, explain how the five P.O.W.E.R. To Lead domains support professional identity, and apply practical strategies that strengthen workforce preparation, career advancement, and sustainable career success.

More Than Training: Building Workforce Solutions That Transform Communities

Tue, Nov 10 | Session VI | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Julie Frizzell - Chief of Operations, AL Community College System Innovation Center
Gain a clear understanding of the ACCS Innovation Center, Skills for Success, Navigate, and available statewide resources, and how your college can use them to expand opportunities for participants, meet workforce needs, and strengthen your community.

Talent Pipelines Through Dual Enrollment and Strategic Partnerships

Tue, Nov 10 | Session VI | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Tiffany Bain - Dean of Health Sciences, Calhoun Community College
Examine how intentional school-college partnerships create career pathways, increase credential attainment, and address regional workforce needs in healthcare, technology, and other high-demand industries.