



27TH ANNUAL TEXAS WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

27th Annual Workforce Conference Schedule

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Opening Ceremony and Welcome – 1:00–1:15 p.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Opening Keynote Address –1:15–2:15 p.m.

Together, We Are Limitless

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Jeremy Poincenot

Break – 2:15–2:30 p.m.

Workshops – 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Empowering the Texas Workforce: Unity in Collaboration

Grapevine A, Level 3

Kendra Ball, Crosby Brito, Lynn Hoffman, Nellie Reyes, and Alba Silvas

Advancing Employment of People with Disabilities

Grapevine B, Level 3

Kevin McCloskey

Everyone Belongs—Supporting High-Quality Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Becky Elam and Jilian Smith

Building a Bridge Program to Apprenticeship

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Mahalia Baldini and Jodi Cobler

Conflict De-Escalation in the Workplace

Dallas 5–7, Level 3

Scott Bradford and Christopher Teske

Exhibitor Hours – 3:30–6:30 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Break – 3:30–4:00 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Refreshments will be served.

Sessions – 4:00–4:15 p.m.

Workforce Innovation Fund

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Commissioner Super Session, 4:15–5:00 p.m.

State of the Workforce with Bryan Daniel

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Bryan Daniel

Welcome Reception and Exhibitor Displays

5:00–6:30 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Breakfast – 7:30–8:30 a.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Exhibitor Hours – 7:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level

All-Star College Award – 8:30–8:45 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Sessions – 8:45–9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Super Session – Understanding Employment Experiences and Challenges for Foster Youth

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Alberto Treviño III, Valerie Hallam, Chloe Bruno, and Marlayna Gallegos

Break 9:30–10:00 a.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Refreshments will be served.

Workshops – 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Supporting the Child Care Workforce

Grapevine A, Level 3

Ayesha Boyd, Erin Doshier, Rhonda Leslie, Bethany McKee, and Grace Peninger

Partnering for Performance and Pipelines: Industry Sector Partnerships—How Boards, Higher Education, and Chambers of Commerce Can Take Workforce Development to the Next Level

Grapevine B, Level 3

Steven Bridges, Benjamin Magill, and Elizabeth Caudill McClain

Strategic Planning Reimagined: Interactive Tools for Local Workforce Development Boards

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Leigh Ann Arnold, Dr. Michelle Cantu-Wilson, and Juliet Stipeche

Strategic Solutions: Tools for Incumbent Worker Training

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Amber Warne

New Board Member Orientation

Dallas 5–7, Level 3

Mike Nolen and Les Trobman

Break 11:00-11:15 a.m.

Employer Awards Luncheon –11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Luncheon is for all conference attendees.

Photo Opportunity for Award Winners

12:45–1:30 p.m.

San Antonio 5–6, Level 3

Break – 12:45–1:30 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Afternoon Workshops –1:30–2:30 p.m.

Enhance Your Staffing Model for Success through the Integration of Project SEARCH at the Gaylord Texan

Grapevine A, Level 3

Nick Almendarez, Andrea Jones, MEd, and Scott Allyn Miller

Developing an Effective Workforce System: Strategies to Enhance Your Board's Success

Grapevine B, Level 3

Paul Fletcher, Susan Kamas, Phedra Redifer, Juliet Stipeche, and Mary York

Bridging the Gap: Connecting Industry to Education

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Kelly Moreno and Heather Thomas

Workforce Professional Apprenticeships—Five Years Later

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Dr. Linda Angel, Mary Carter, and Louis LeDoux

Open Meetings Training for Public Officials

Dallas 5–7, Level 3

Debra Simpson

Break – 2:30–3:00 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E–F, Level 1

Refreshments will be served.

Workshops – 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Transforming a Rural High School Career and Technology Program through the Texas Workforce Commission’s High Demand Job Training Program

Grapevine A, Level 3

John Clary, Pam Pearson, Doug Shryock, and Karen Smith

Building Inclusive Pathways for Supporting Opportunity Populations

Grapevine B, Level 3

Michael Hinojosa, Wes Jurey, and Stephen Williams

Understanding Health Care’s Rapid Economic Growth

Texas 1–3, Level 3

David Munoz and Mindy Vu

Understanding Health Care's Rapid Economic Growth

Texas 4-6, Level 3

Updated Responsibilities of Workforce Solutions Office Staff Triaging Veterans for the Jobs for Veterans State Grant

Bob Gear, Gabriel Lopez, and Casey Wade

Break – 4:00–4:15 p.m.

Commissioner Super Session – 4:15–5:00 p.m.

One Workforce, One Texas

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Joe Esparza, Leslie Cantu, Jozue Chaires, and Mark Sherry

Networking Reception – 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E-F, Level 1

Friday, December 6, 2024

Breakfast – 7:30–8:30 a.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E-F, Level 1

Exhibitor Hours

7:30–10:00 a.m.

Longhorn Exhibit Hall E-F, Level 1

Workshops – 8:30–9:30 a.m.

Building Your Workforce’s Digital Resiliency

Grapevine AB, Level 3

Mahalia Baldini, Dr. Glenda Rose, and Ashly Winkle

FAME: A Customer-Centered Design Approach to Building True Talent Pipelines

Texas 1-6, Level 3

Steven Bridges, Tony Davis, and Veronique Tran

Break – 9:30–9:45 a.m.

Closing Keynote Address – 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Making It Without Losing It: New Rules for Innovation—and Motivation That Lasts

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Jess Ekstrom

Closing Remarks – 10:45–11:00 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3