



27TH ANNUAL TEXAS WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

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.
Texas Ballroom, Level 3
Together, We Are Limitless
Jeremy Poincenot

Break 2:15–2:30 p.m.

Workshops 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Grapevine A, Level 3
Empowering the Texas Workforce: Unity in Collaboration
Kendra Ball, Crosby Brito, Lynn Hoffman, Nellie Reyes, and Alba Silvas

Grapevine B, Level 3
Advancing Employment of People with Disabilities
Kevin McCloskey

Texas 1–3, Level 3
Everyone Belongs—Supporting High-Quality Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs
Becky Elam and Jilian Smith

Texas 4–6, Level 3
Building a Bridge Program to Apprenticeship
Mahalia Baldini and Jodi Cobler

Dallas 5–7, Level 3
Conflict De-Escalation in the Workplace

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.

Workforce Innovation Fund

4:00–4:15 p.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Commissioner Super Session

4:15–5:00 p.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

State of the Workforce with Bryan Daniel

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 1

All-Star College Award

8:30–8:45 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Commissioner Super Session

8:45–9:30 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

Understanding Employment Experiences and Challenges for Foster Youth

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.

Grapevine A, Level 3

Supporting the Child Care Workforce

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

Grapevine B, Level 3

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

Steven Bridges, Benjamin Magill, and Elizabeth Caudill McClain

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Strategic Planning Reimagined: Interactive Tools for Local Workforce Development Boards

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

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Strategic Solutions: Tools for Incumbent Worker Training

Amber Warne

Dallas 5–7, Level 3

New Board Member Orientation

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

Workshops 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Grapevine A, Level 3

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

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

Grapevine B, Level 3

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

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

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Bridging the Gap: Connecting Industry to Education

Kelly Moreno and Heather Thomas

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Workforce Professional Apprenticeships—Five Years Later

Dr. Linda Angel, Mary Carter, and Louis LeDoux

Dallas 5–7, Level 3

Open Meetings Training for Public Officials

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.

Grapevine A, Level 3

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

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

Grapevine B, Level 3

Building Inclusive Pathways for Supporting Opportunity Populations

Michael Hinojosa and Wes Jurey

Texas 1–3, Level 3

Understanding Health Care's Rapid Economic Growth

David Munoz and Mindy Vu

Texas 4–6, Level 3

Understanding the 2023 Wagner-Peyser Act Final Rule: Impact on the Texas Workforce System

Chaundra Brown, Dawn Cronin, Horacio Lopez Montes, and Shunta Williams

Dallas 5–7, 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.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

One Workforce, One Texas

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.

Grapevine A, Level 3

Building Your Workforce's Digital Resiliency

Mahalia Baldini, Dr. Glenda Rose, and Ashly Winkle

Grapevine B, Level 3

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

Steven Bridges, Tony Davis, and Veronique Tran

Break 9:30–9:45 a.m.

Closing Keynote Address

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

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

Jess Ekstrom

Closing Remarks

10:45–11:00 a.m.

Texas Ballroom, Level 3

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