



Purpose or Perish—Presented by Keynote Speaker Joshua M. Evans

In today's world, uncertainty is at an all-time high, leaving many people overwhelmed, burned out, and unfulfilled. But it doesn't have to be this way. This session equips individuals with tools to break free from the day-to-day minutia that can cloud our sense of purpose. We'll reconnect to what doing great work truly means for the people who depend on us, so participants leave inspired and reengaged.

Standout Communication . . . Life Would Be Easy If It Weren't for Other People—Presented by Keynote Speaker Connie Podesta

Imagine what you could accomplish if you could decode the mystery of human behavior and truly understand what makes people do what they do and say what they say (including yourself!). Research shows that success hinges on the ability to connect with others. Human psychology expert, Connie Podesta, will offer laugh-out-loud humor, killer takeaway strategies, powerful pops of psychology, and amazing insights into others (including those who "drive you crazy"). She will take you inside the minds of the people you interact with daily, at work and at home, so you can act instead of react, read between the lines, and navigate conversations with ease.

Navigating the Landscape of Texas Workforce Commission Workforce Training Grants

Learn how to maximize the impact of grants such as the Skills Development Fund and Lone Star Workforce of the Future. This session will offer a practical guide to forging strategic employer partnerships and tailoring training to industry needs. Gain practical, actionable takeaways, including how to connect employers with qualified talent, leverage sector partnerships, and maximize grant impact. Real-world examples and strategies will help participants build a strong workforce that drives economic growth.

Attract Staff with Employer Child Care Solutions

Employers need reliable child care to operate so their staff can thrive. With the innovative Employer Child Care Solutions (ECCS) initiative, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is helping employers attract and retain staff. Texas employers of any size can receive free technical assistance to learn the child care needs of their employees, consider options for starting an employer-supported child care program, and work with child care providers to offer site-based child care. Join us to learn more about ECCS.

Solving Farm Labor Shortage: Strategies and Insights

The Agricultural Recruitment System (ARS) connects employers with qualified farmworkers. This session will explain the ARS recruitment process, its vital link to the H-2A visa program, tools to enhance ARS effectiveness, and will clarify common misconceptions. You will leave equipped to better connect employers with qualified farmworkers.

New Board Member Orientation

Learn about the TWC workforce system, its history, and the Local Workforce Development Board (Board) member role, including possible conflicts of interest. This required session is offered annually during the TWC Annual Conference so individuals who have been nominated for Board positions can become certified.

Camp V: A Place for Veterans

Camp V in Tyler provides career development and comprehensive care for veterans. Discover how Camp V serves as a one-stop resource for veterans seeking support and stability. Learn about its origins, the unique challenges veterans and their families face, and how Workforce Solutions East Texas collaborates with Camp V and community partners to build brighter futures for veterans.

Third-Party Partnerships: Success from Start to Finish

The Third-Party Partnership Initiative (TPPI) empowers Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) recipients toward self-sufficiency. Presenters from existing Boards, TWC, and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will share best practices and explain available technical assistance for the initiative.

Reimagining K–12 Education: Accelerating Healthcare’s Future Workforce

The Central Texas Healthcare Academy is a new comprehensive dual-enrollment model for Independent School Districts (ISDs) to provide pathways for students with interest in health sciences. This session will outline how Boards can create systematic change for education and affect severe-shortage careers in their workforce areas.

Healthcare Sector Partnership: Solving Workforce Shortages

Do you have healthcare shortages? Let’s solve them! Central Texas Healthcare Partnership (CTHP) is using the sector partnership model to solve healthcare shortages through industry and education collaborations. In the past five years, CTHP has more than doubled the number of nursing graduates and certified more than 300 healthcare apprentices. Come learn how Boards can grow local talent and use rotation-to-hire practices to fill job shortages.

The Customers behind the Numbers: Performance Measurement and Reporting Updates from Information Innovation & Insight

Get the latest from TWC’s Information Innovation & Insight (I|3) Division on the construction and completion of reporting and visual platforms for Boards to track performance outcomes and gain insight to their customers “behind the numbers.” This session will also cover recent updates to performance measures and future changes in development.

The Gremlins in Your Gears

Frustrated by team gridlock and slow progress? Is your team working hard but spinning their wheels? Use interference diagramming to diagnose what's really going on "under the hood." This interactive workshop will walk you through techniques to help your team become laser-focused on a common goal, identify challenges that keep them from reaching their goals, and create win-win solutions that drive results. Participants will leave with a practical action plan that can be implemented immediately.

Shift Your Marketing and Own Your Brand

Give yourself permission to be a better marketer and steal our ideas while you do it. We made our information open source on purpose, so help yourself! Join us for an insightful discussion on topics that are top of mind for many Board marketers, including what your marketing playbook for staff and contractors could look like, Canva account creation and design compliance, and growing your Board member and staff engagement.

Labor Market Data for Economic Development

Economic development professionals frequently rely on the workforce system to provide timely and actionable data on the economy and labor force. Hear about key datasets for economic development and learn quick-reference dashboards and other tools to find data quickly. We will also discuss how labor market data is used in economic incentive programs and where to find prevailing wage data.

College, Career, and Civic Life: One Journey, Many Hands, Limitless Futures

As workforce demands grow more complex, the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) initiative addresses the critical loss of student potential due to dropout rates and low postsecondary completion. Through the ACCESS platform, Star Tech Group, Midland College, and Midland ISD are building a seamless, guided roadmap from sixth grade to career, empowering students to thrive and meet 21st-century workforce needs. This session will offer a collective impact strategy to align K–12, college, community, and industry.

Child Care Services' Journey Ahead: What to Expect in the Coming Year

TWC's Child Care & Early Learning Division staff will share upcoming policy changes stemming from the 89th Legislative Session. Learn how TWC's Customer Care team will also join the discussion about TWC's plans to examine our customers' experiences and support continuous quality improvement for Child Care Services' families and child care providers.

Board Child Care Committees: Sharing Best Practices to Maximize Stakeholder Engagement

Boards are required to have local child care committees to help them partner with child care stakeholders and to ensure services that they design and deliver address the needs of their respective communities. Boards have broad flexibility in determining who serves on their

committees, how often the committees meet, and what the committee reviews, discusses, and provides input on. This session will highlight committee best practices—that may be replicated—as we continue our efforts to maximize stakeholder engagement.

RESEA Live

Walk through real-world examples of the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) process. See how it works in practice and how it helps job seekers return to work.

A Stronger Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship: A Powerful Resource for Employers

The Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship (TIRA) program is evolving to give employers more flexibility in designing training programs. Learn about upcoming enhancements that will strengthen the skilled workforce and benefit organizations statewide.

Best Practices for TWC Grant Applications

The goal of this presentation will be for all participants to leave with strategies to strengthen their future Request for Applications (RFAs) and noncompetitive TWC grant application responses. Improve the chances of receiving TWC support for local programs.

Collaborating as One: Rethinking How We Serve Employers

Explore how the Wagner-Peyser Final Rule is improving employer services. Learn how to clarify staff roles, coordinate with business teams, and reduce duplication for multilocation employers.

The Power of Partnership: How Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs Work Together

See how Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs serve job seekers and employers and discover real-world examples of how integrated service delivery can lead to better outcomes for individuals, businesses, and communities.

Training Texans for Water and Broadband

Water and broadband are critical to Texas communities. A new report by Texas Rural Funders and Texas Water Foundation examined critical workforce shortages and opportunities to strengthen the talent pipeline. This session will explore current labor market conditions, tools and programs to prepare Texans for infrastructure jobs, and strategies to align education with workforce needs in rural communities.

Beyond Hiring: The Comprehensive Employer Services of Vocational Rehabilitation

One-size-fits-all solutions don't always work. This session will explore how Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides customized services to meet the unique needs of the business community. From identifying qualified candidates with disabilities to providing ongoing support

for employees and employers, VR offers a comprehensive suite of services designed to help build a stronger, more inclusive workforce.

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