

ACTE Region II Conference Program

Dates: September 10–12, 2025

Location: Trilith Guesthouse, Fayetteville, GA

Quick Facts

- **Registration Desk Hours:**
 - Sept. 10 — 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Exhibitors:** Located in the Kitchen and Ballroom Lobby
- **Sponsors:** ICEV, Microburst, and Career Accelerated Learning

At a Glance Schedule:

Wednesday, September 10

- **8:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Pre-Conference (Ballroom)
- **10:00 – 11:45 AM:** Exhibitor Set Up (Kitchen & BR Lobby)
- **12:00 PM:** Registration Opens; Exhibits Open (Kitchen & BR Lobby)
- **1:00 – 2:45 PM:** Opening Session with Keynote Dave Weber (Ballroom) — Sponsored by ICEV
- **2:45 – 3:00 PM:** Snack Break (BR Lobby) — Sponsored by Microburst
- **3:00 – 3:45 PM:** Breakout Sessions (Ballrooms 1–3, Studio ST-1)
- **4:00 – 4:45 PM:** Breakout Sessions (Ballrooms 1–3, Studio ST-2)
- **4:00 – 5:30 PM:** Trilith Studio Tour (Tour 1)
- **6:00 – 9:00 PM:** Dinner & Social at Fairway — Sponsored by ICEV

Thursday, September 11

- **7:30 – 8:30 AM:** Continental Breakfast (Ballroom)
- **8:30 AM – 2:30 PM:** Exhibitors Open (Lobby & Kitchen)
- **8:30 – 10:30 AM:** Super Session with Brian Buffington (Ballroom) – Sponsored by Switch Vehicles
- **10:30 – 11:30 AM:** Vendor Visitation & Awards Set Up
- **11:30 AM – 1:30 PM:** Awards Luncheon (Ballroom)
- **1:30 – 2:30 PM:** Trilith Studio Tour (Tour 2)
- **1:45 – 2:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions (Ballrooms 1–3, Studio ST-3)
- **2:45 – 3:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions (Ballrooms 1–3, Studio ST-4)
- **3:45 – 4:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions (Ballrooms 1–3, Studio ST-5)
- **4:00 – 5:00 PM:** Trilith Studio Tour (Tour 3)
- **6:00 PM:** Region II Professional Development Committee Dinner (Invitation Only)

Friday, September 12

- **7:30 – 8:30 AM:** Grab N Go Breakfast
- **9:30 – 11:00 AM:** Trilith Studio Tour (Tour 4) / Fayette County Public Schools Center of Innovation Tour (Tour 5 — No Transportation Provided)
- **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Georgia Metro Area Directors Meeting (Ballroom 1 — Invitation Only)

ACTE Region II Conference – Detailed Session Listings

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

12:00 – 4:00 PM Career Tech Expo

1:00 – 2:45 PM — Opening General Session (Ballroom)

Keynote Speaker: Dave Weber Sponsored by iCEV

2:45 – 3:00 PM: Snack Break (BR Lobby) — Sponsored by Microburst

3:00 – 3:45 PM — Breakout Sessions

Ballroom 1 (BR1)

Framing the Future: Mentoring Middle School CTSOs to Build the Future

Presenter: Amanda Pugh

Description: Educators will explore the benefits of high school CTSO advisors mentoring middle school chapters. The session focuses on sustaining student engagement, building leadership skills early, and strengthening both middle and high school CTSOs through collaboration.

Ballroom 2 (BR2)

Bridging the Opportunity Gap: Workforce Ignite Lenoir

Presenters: Amy Jones, Brittany Harrison, Melanie Smith

Description: Learn how Lenoir County Public Schools partners with industry and community colleges to expand work-based learning, youth apprenticeships, and guaranteed job pipelines for students.

Ballroom 3 (BR3)

Preparing Virtual Students for In-Person Internships: FLVS & Lockheed Martin

Presenter: Tina Leslie

Description: Explore Florida Virtual School's pilot with Lockheed Martin, creating new internship opportunities for virtual students. Key insights include grant funding, mentorship, transportation, and lessons learned from implementing industry partnerships.

Studio (ST-1)

Stacking the Deck: Dealing Game-Changers to the Workforce Table

Presenter: Sohmer McKibben

Description: This interactive session demonstrates how educators and workforce leaders can build strategic partnerships with industry, align pathways with workforce needs, and deal out “winning opportunities” for students.

4:00 – 4:45 PM — Breakout Sessions

Ballroom 1 (BR4)

Career Coaches

Presenter: Mariana Mansfield

Description: Discover how pairing students with career coaches improves performance, attendance, and future readiness. Learn about scaling a volunteer-based career coaching program to serve entire schools.

Ballroom 2 (BR5)

Differentiation is for Everyone: Practical Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms

Presenter: Adam C. Logan

Description: Gain practical strategies to differentiate instruction, reach diverse learners, and boost classroom engagement. Attendees will leave with inclusive teaching practices and assessment methods.

Ballroom 3 (BR6)

From Burnout to Boss Mode: Let AI Do the Tedious Stuff

Presenter: Monique Stayler

Description: Learn how AI-powered tools like ChatGPT and MagicSchool can streamline lesson planning, rubrics, and documentation—helping educators save time and reduce burnout.

Studio (ST-2)

Level Up Leadership: Gamified Learning for Career-Ready Students

Presenters: Nicole Champion & Nicole Smith

Description: A hands-on walkthrough of Leadership Connect, a gamified leadership development platform with 178 modules. Students can earn Georgia’s first high school leadership certificate endorsed by Emory University.

Thursday, September 11, 2025

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM Career Tech Expo

8:30 – 10:30 AM — Super Session (Ballroom)
Presenter: Brian Buffington

1:45 – 2:30 PM — Breakout Sessions

Ballroom 1 (BR7)

ED2: Educators Are Economic Developers, Too

Presenter: Dr. Victoria Thomas

Description: Learn how educators contribute to workforce pipelines by building externship programs with industry partners that drive local and regional economic growth.

Ballroom 2 (BR8)

AI-Ready Classrooms: Responsible AI Integration in K–12 Schools

Presenters: Dr. Melissa Busbin & Dr. Donald Gilman

Description: Practical classroom activities and district strategies for responsible AI integration. Topics include ethics, bias, digital citizenship, and leadership support for implementation.

Ballroom 3 (BR9)

Special Session with Carrie Giles, ACTE President

Studio (ST-3)

Grow Your Own Future Educators!

Presenter: Marthe Gullledge

Description: Best practices for creating Education & Training pathways that recruit and support future educators through initiatives like Educators Rising.

2:45 – 3:30 PM — Breakout Sessions

Ballroom 1 (BR10)

IEP Data Collection in CTE

Presenter: Michael S. Lechette, Ed.S.

Description: Explore strategies for accurate IEP data collection, reporting, and accommodations in CTE classrooms through interactive mock activities.

Ballroom 2 (BR11)

Reflections on 27 Years: Lessons Learned

Presenter: Michael R. Stone

Description: Reflections on communication, partnerships, strategic focus, and professional growth over nearly three decades in education.

Ballroom 3 (BR12)**The Director's Cut**

Presenters: Rachel Popham, Jennifer Bremen, Jen Newendyke

Description: Fellows share candid stories about their professional journeys, leadership lessons, and experiences with ACTE's Professional Fellowship program.

Studio (ST-4)**The FAME Formula: Filmmaking, Podcasting, Branding & Social Media in AVTF**

Presenter: Rick Williams

Description: Explore Floyd County's innovative FAME program in Audio-Video Tech & Film, engaging students through project-based learning and industry-driven media projects.

3:45 – 4:30 PM — Breakout Sessions**Ballroom 1 (BR13)****EmpowerED Exploration**

Presenters: Ferida Cralle & Scott Flath

Description: A district-wide career readiness model incorporating VR career exploration, community events, and work-based learning for equitable student access.

Ballroom 2 (BR14)**Recruiting & Retaining New CTE Instructors: An EPP's Contribution**

Presenter: Ulla Carr

Description: Insights from Tennessee's policy environment and Knox County Schools' efforts to recruit and retain CTE instructors from industry.

Ballroom 3 (BR15)**Lessons from the Playground: Bringing Joy and Balance into Work & Life**

Presenters: Matt Harris & Kaye Harris

Description: Explore burnout prevention and work-life balance strategies through reflection, research, and practical tips.

Friday, September 12, 2025**9:30 – 11:00 AM**

- Trilith Studio Tour (Tour 4)
- Fayette County Public Schools Center of Innovation Tour (Tour 5 — No transportation provided)

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Georgia Metro Area Directors Meeting (Ballroom 1 — Invitation Only)

Lights. Camera. Innovate



ACTE Region II Frames the Future of CTE

Special Thanks to our Sponsors:

