Learning that works for Arizona CTE

actearizona

2026 CONNECTION CONFERENCE

July 9-15, 2026 | Tucson, AZ

Be part of a powerful conference experience with 300+ sessions focused on best practices, cutting-edge innovations, and strategies to strengthen your professional network. From work-based learning to AI in the classroom, from empowering counselors to elevating rural CTE, you'll discover fresh ideas and ready-to-implement solutions to take your impact to the next level.

$595 - Registration Rate

Registration opens March 5, 2026

$120 - Hotel Room + taxes/fees

Room Blocks open April 2, 2026

Westin La Paloma Resort
3800 E. Sunrise Dr, Tucson, AZ 85718
(520) 742 - 6000

Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
7000 N. Resort Dr, Tucson, AZ 85750
(520) 299-2020

A Purpose-Driven Experience

> Discover the latest innovations shaping CTE
> Connect with fellow professionals and leaders
> Gain strategies to spark real change
> Engage in affiliate meetings and sessions
> Expand your learning through networking and keynotes
> Celebrate excellence at the Awards Breakfast

Session Topics

Workforce Alignment & WBL
Career Literacy Across K-12+
Empowering Counselors
Best Practices, AI, and Innovation
Rural CTE Best Practices
Marketing and Community Engagement
Program Development and CTE Academies
Postsecondary CTE Initiatives
Data Driven Improvement
High Quality Instructor Engagement
CTSOs: Leadership in Action
Standards Aligned and Hands-On Curriculum

Opening Session Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Kevin J. Fleming
"Words, Relevance, and Relationships"

Visit arizonactecon.com. Transform the future of CTE.

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Workforce Alignment & Work Based Learning

Where hands-on learning meets unstoppable confidence.

Work-Based Learning is not an add-on to CTE. It is the bridge between classroom excellence and career confidence. It's where technical skills meet professional behaviors. Where students practice communication with real employers. Where they see themselves not just as learners but as contributors. **They gain clarity. They build confidence. They understand their value.** This track is designed for CTE leaders and educators ready to cement student confidence and accelerate career readiness through intentional, scalable, and powerful Work-Based Learning systems.

Students deserve more than exposure — they deserve opportunity

- Build powerful pathways that move students from exploration to employment.
- Forge meaningful partnerships between CTE and industry to create seamless transitions from classroom to career.
- Align CTE with high-demand workforce needs to ensure students graduate ready to contribute on day one.
- Scale excellence in work-based learning while shaping meaningful student career pathways.

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Transform the future of CTE.

Featured Sessions:

Building Robust WBL Programs: A Step-by-Step Approach
Sunday, July 12
This interactive workshop walks you through the essential components of a strong WBL program, from launch to monitoring to continuous improvement.

Elevating Work-Based Learning: Tech, Partnerships & Purpose
Monday, July 13
Explore strategies using digital tools, service learning, and partnerships to connect students, employers, and communities.

How to Leverage State & Local Partnerships to Accelerate Workforce Readiness Workforce Panel
Tuesday, July 14
Arizona leaders share partnership strategies advancing workforce development amid rapid economic, demographic, and technological change.

More related sessions including:

> Risk-Smart WBL: Contracts, Compliance, and Clarity
> Work-Based Learning Communication Strategies
> Strengthen business partnerships through clear communication and engagement strategies
> Beyond the Advisory Board: Strategic Hacks to Supercharge Your Industry Partnerships
> Work-Based Learning Mastery