



Empowering Rural CTE Professionals

In Arizona's rural communities, CTE is more than a program—it is a lifeline that connects students to opportunity, sustains local industries, and strengthens the fabric of the community. Rural CTE professionals are innovators, collaborators, and champions of student success, often serving as the bridge between education and the workforce.

The Connection Conference is your space to connect with peers who understand the unique opportunities and challenges of rural education. Join fellow educators, administrators, counselors, and industry partners to share ideas, elevate rural voices, and build lasting partnerships that support thriving schools and resilient local economies. Together, we are cultivating talent, empowering students to succeed, and ensuring that rural communities continue to prosper for generations to come.

Rural Voices, Statewide Impact

-  Celebrate Rural Excellence
-  Share Innovative Rural Practices
-  Champion Student Success
-  Empower Sustainable Communities
-  Create Opportunities Close to Home



Join us to connect, collaborate, and champion the future of rural Arizona through the power of CTE.

Not Your Shop Class Anymore: Reintroducing CTE to Rural Communities

Tuesday, July 14, from 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM at Loews
Reframe outdated perceptions of CTE. Learn strategies to communicate rigor, college alignment, and workforce relevance while building trust with families and increasing student participation.

More Featured Sessions:

Friday, July 10th

- > Strengthening Workforce Pipelines Through Business and Industry Collaboration

Saturday, July 11th

- > Educator Exchange: Rural Health Sciences

Monday, July 13th

- > From Standards to Assessment: Connections for Student Success
- > CTE Curriculum Connection Open Lab: Explore. Organize. Teach.

Tuesday, July 14th

- > Igniting Futures: A Statewide Vision for Career-Connected Learning
- > From Standards to Assessment: Connections for Student Success
- > Not Your Shop Class Anymore: Reintroducing CTE to Rural Communities
- > CTE Curriculum Connection Open Lab: Explore. Organize. Teach.



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.

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"

\$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

Visit arizonactecon.com.

Transform the future of CTE.

