

From Curiosity to Career Awareness

Helping Middle School Students Discover Their Future

Middle school is a pivotal time when students begin shaping their curiosity, identity, and confidence, yet many move through these years without understanding how their interests connect to real opportunities. Career Connected Learning bridges that gap by providing intentional exploration, real-world connections, and exposure to diverse pathways that link education to life beyond the classroom. These sessions help educators build systems that boost engagement, strengthen motivation, and empower middle schoolers to explore and prepare for their futures.

Empower Your Impact

- Spark career curiosity early by introducing students to the breadth of career possibilities.
- Build career literacy skills including self-awareness, goal setting, and informed decision-making.
- Strengthen student engagement and motivation by helping learners see their future possibilities.
- Lay the foundation for future career-connected and work-based learning opportunities.

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Transform the
future of CTE.



Featured Session:

Middle School Early CTE (eCTE) Essentials July 11-12

This course supports middle school educators in building career literacy and introducing CTE pathways that spark curiosity and confidence.

More related sessions including:

- > Middle Level Matters: Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) and eCTE
- > Making Career Exploration Work for You: Embedding Connected Learning Across a District
- > From Participation to Mastery: JA Inspire Micro-Credentials to Strengthen CTE Pathways
- > Designing Futures: Bringing the Course of Study to Life!
- > Career Literacy Fuels Future-Ready Students
- > Build Your eCTE Curriculum Map
- > Helping Students Find Their Why: A Framework for Pathways and Goals



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
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