





# 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



# 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

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