



PROGRAM

Note: All times listed are in Central Time

Meals included in registration: Breakfast, Lunch

Registration includes entrance to: Welcome Reception & Mardi Gras Evening Event

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Meeting**

- UI Integrity Center Steering Committee Meeting | Rhythms II & III (2nd floor)

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Meeting**

- Paid Family Medical Leave Workgroup | Nottoway (4th floor)

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | **SUMMIT Hospitality Desk** | Check-in here for your name badge | 3rd Floor Foyer

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Note: Board & Committee attendees will be required to have a registration name badge to attend meetings.

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | **Hosted Breakfast for Board & Committee Meetings** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. | **SUMMIT Hospitality Desk** | Check-in for your name badge | 3rd Floor Foyer

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Board Meeting & Committee Meetings**

- Board of Directors | Borgne (3rd floor)
- Administration & Finance Committee | Bayside BC (4th floor)
- Communications Committee (starts at 9:00 a.m.) | Maurepas (3rd floor)
- Employment & Training Committee | Rhythms II & III (2nd floor)
- Equal Opportunity Committee | Oak Alley (4th floor)

- Paid Family Medical Leave Workgroup | Rhythms I (2nd floor)
- Technology Committee | Nottoway (4th floor)
- SIDES Operations Committee (ends at 12:00 p.m.) | Waterbury (2nd floor)
- Wage & Hour Committee (starts at 9:00 a.m.) | Grand Couteau (5th floor)
- Workforce & Labor Market Information Committee | Grand Chenier (5th floor)
- Unemployment Insurance Committee (starts at 1:00 p.m.) | Waterbury (2nd floor)

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Exhibitor Set-up** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | **Hosted Lunch for Board & Committee Meetings** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | **SUMMIT WELCOME RECEPTION with Exhibitors** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

- *Included in SUMMIT (and Committee meetings) registration. Light refreshments and beverages will be served.*
- *Please check in at the **Hospitality Desk** to pick up your conference **name badge** before entering the reception.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Included in SUMMIT Registration: two breakfasts, two lunches, Welcome Reception, Wednesday Evening Mardi Gras event. Name badges are required to be worn at all sessions, meals and events.

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Hospitality Desk** | Napoleon Foyer (3rd floor)

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Sponsor & Exhibitor Showcase** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. | **SUMMIT Hosted Breakfast** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | **General Session: SUMMIT Opening Ceremonies** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

NASWA Welcome

Michael A. Harrington, *Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2023-2024*

Scott B. Sanders, *President and CEO, NASWA*

Welcome to Louisiana!

Austin Lewis, *Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Jeff Landry*

Susana Schowen, *Secretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission*

A Word from our Diamond Sponsor | FAST Enterprises

Keynote: Hearing from the Assistant Secretary, ETA, U.S. Department of Labor

José Javier Rodríguez, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. | Coffee Break with Exhibitors | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

10:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (7 concurrent sessions)



BREAKOUT 1: Trumpeting Innovations and Outreach in Labor Market Information

Room: Maurepas (3rd floor)

Celebrate three states' creative innovations in labor market data and how they are communicated!

Tracks:   

Moderator: **Diane Watkins**, Director, Office of Public Affairs, DC Department of Employment Services

Speakers:

Dawn Dove, Deputy Secretary and Director of Policy + Public Affairs, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

Nicol Nicola, Director of Economic and Demographic Research, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Scott Powell, Chief Data Officer | Director, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget

BREAKOUT 2: Attorney Group Meeting in the Big Easy

Room: Borgne (3rd floor)

Time for the NASWA Attorney Group members to gather and share promising practices. Open to NASWA Members only.

Tracks: 

BREAKOUT 3: RESEA Operations Focus: States Sharing Innovative Approaches to Reemployment for UI Recipients

Room: Nottoway (4th floor)

Learn and join the discussion as three states share Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program operations improvements and ideas.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Ismaila Maidadi**, Director of Employment Connections, Washington State Employment Security Department

Speakers:

Arthur Larsen, *Job Service Field Director, CareerForce Systems Division, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development*
Vicki Mockler, *Director, New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment & Workforce Solutions*
Beth Townsend, *Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development*

BREAKOUT 4: Brilliance in the Bayou: Celebrating Workforce System Alignment

Room: Oak Alley (4th floor)

Learn about innovative strategies and technologies aimed at aligning workforce systems. Panelists will showcase successful initiatives that are moving the needle and elevating alignment across the workforce system. Discover how these approaches can be adapted and applied in your own state to enhance collaboration with partners, efficiency across programs and service delivery to customers.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Liz Carver**, *Workforce Development Director, Workforce Development Division, Utah Department of Workforce Services*

Speakers:

Jess Maneely, *Assistant Director, Process Innovation, American Public Human Services Association*
Robert McGough, *Chief Data Officer, Arkansas Department of Information Systems*
Sarita Nair, *Secretary, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions*
Kim Vitelli, *Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration*

BREAKOUT 5: Jazzing Up Workforce and Economic Development through Sector Strategies

Room: Bayside BC (4th floor)

Sector strategies are an important tool for states and local areas looking to spur economic growth and job creation through industry-led workforce development programs. Hear from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Workforce Investment on their new "Sector Strategies Framework" and learn how states are supporting innovative sector strategy initiatives in industries like aerospace and offshore wind.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Susana Schowen**, *Secretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission*

Speakers:

Mary Keller, *Director, Maryland Department of Labor, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Office of Strategic Initiatives*
Robin Fernkas, *Deputy Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment*
Stephanie Mufic, *Business Innovation & Strategy Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Employment and Training*

BREAKOUT 6: UI Operations Focus: Making it Easy to Learn from Each Other

Room: Grand Chenier (5th floor)

States share new strategies to improve operations and customer service.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Wendy Castle**, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Workforce Services, FloridaCommerce

Speakers:

Julia Dale, Director, Unemployment Insurance Agency, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

Nathan Gillie, Command Center Division Chief, Unemployment Insurance Branch, California Employment Development Department

Regina Graham, Chief of Benefits, Division of Employment Security, North Carolina Department of Commerce

Susan Landis, UI Director, Virginia Employment Commission

Nsungwe Shamatutu, Director, Office of Unemployment Compensation Service Centers, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

BREAKOUT 7: Big Data in the Big Easy: How Jobs Data is Powering the Labor Market

Room: Grand Couteau (5th floor)

Discover how the NLx Research Hub provides states with labor demand information from job postings that can be integrated with traditional labor market information to provide a comprehensive view of workforce trends. This interactive session will explore the potential of this unique data, demonstrate how these insights power data-driven decisions, and invite attendees to help shape future NLx Research Hub offerings that will meet the needs of state workforce agencies and their constituents.

Tracks:    

Moderator: **Paul Daniels**, NLx Research Hub Manager, NASWA

Speakers:

Lesley Hirsch, Assistant Commissioner, Research & Information, New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Adam Leonard, Chief Analytics Officer and Director of Information Innovation & Insights, Texas Workforce Commission

11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (7 concurrent sessions)



BREAKOUT 1: Innovating and Elevating Equitable Access to UI

Room: Maurepas (3rd floor)

Hear from representatives from Hawaii, Wisconsin, Nebraska and vendor partner, American Institutes for Research, about how they have implemented innovative strategies to address equity and accessibility challenges in their UI programs. The speakers will share their strategies, best practices, and lessons learned from their experiences, working in partnership with NASWA's Behavioral Insights unit and others to design, test, and implement customer-centered solutions that promote equitable access.

Tracks:    

Moderator: **Jess McKay**, Behavioral Advisor, NASWA Behavioral Insights

Speakers:

Helena Manzano, *Language Access Coordinator/Equity Access Specialist, Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*

Helen Ramsden, *Management Information Chief, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*

Grace Johnson, *Marketing & Communications Specialist, Nebraska Department of Labor*

Phomdaen Souvanna, *Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research*

BREAKOUT 2: Unmasking Jurisdiction of Coverage and Localization of Wages

Room: Borgne (3rd floor)

Join the discussion about jurisdiction of coverage in the age of remote work.



Moderator: **Erma Robinson-Cook**, *Director, Office of Re-Employment Assistance, Mississippi Department of Employment Security*

Speakers:

Al Demeter *Assistant Director, Employer Accounts Division, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Candace Edens, *Director, Division of UI Operations, U.S. Department of Labor*

Chris Pfeffer, *Assistant Director, Employer Accounts Division, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Chuck Ross, *Director, Division of Fraud Deterrence and Compliance Monitoring, Texas Workforce Commission*

BREAKOUT 3: Data in Harmony: The Multi-State Data Collaborative Showcase

Room: Nottoway (4th floor)

Celebrate innovative shared projects and products of the Multi-State Data Collaborative, a cross-sector network, hosted by NASWA. The projects we'll highlight link administrative data to answer critical questions for policy and practice, such as understanding post-secondary pathways and their workforce outcomes, Unemployment Insurance program insights and outcomes and WIOA and RESEA outcomes (beyond core performance measures).



Moderator: **Erin Joyce**, *Programs Director, Multistate Data Collaborative, and Associate Director, Ohio Education Research Center*

Speakers:

Matt Berry, *Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS)*

Ellie Hartman, *Chief Evaluation Officer, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*

Marty Johnson, *Manager, Workforce Analysis and Dissemination, Illinois Department of Employment Security*

BREAKOUT 4: When Care Goes Marching In: Orchestrating Support for America's Direct Care Workforce

Room: Oak Alley (4th floor)

The direct care workforce — including occupations such as home health aides, personal care aides, direct support professionals, and more — is one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S.

labor market. In fact, the U.S. is projected to add nearly a million direct care jobs by 2032. Hear from representatives of the Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center and states about how they are leveraging a range of investments to support the nation's direct care workforce.

Tracks:   

Moderator: **Ben Mays**, Policy Director, NASWA

Speakers:

Stephanie Gibbs, Director, Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center, National Council on Aging

Laura Thorn, Senior Specialist, Direct Care Workforce Project Management, National Council on Aging

Rachel Moskowitz, Bureau Chief, Economic Research and Analysis Bureau, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

Dr. Gordon Zook, Grants & Fiscal Division Chief, Bureau of Workforce Development Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

BREAKOUT 5: Perfecting Your AI Jazz Ensemble: Harmonizing Policy, Security, and Procurement Challenges

Room: Bayside BC (4th floor)

In jazz, the band improvises and harmonizes to create magic, so too can your AI strategies balance policy, security, procurement, and legal challenges into a seamless rhythm. This workshop will immerse you in the many sounds surrounding AI, where we'll explore techniques to fine-tune your AI framework. Learn from the panel to transform your state's AI ensemble into a well-rehearsed, captivating harmony.

Tracks:       

Moderator: **Amy Hiltunen**, Director, Workforce ITSC, NASWA

Speakers:

Chris Henderson, Chief Information Officer, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Christine Lambino, Project Manager, National Association of State Procurement Officers (NASPO)

KK Raghavan, Technical Architect & Advisor, UI ITSC, NASWA

Baron Rodriguez, Vice President Artificial Intelligence, Client Facing Technology, & Compliance, WestEd, and Executive Director, Data Integration Support Center

BREAKOUT 6: Equal Pay for Equal Work and Pay Transparency: An Update from the States

Room: Grand Chenier (5th floor)

An increasing number of states and cities are enacting transparent and equitable pay requirements to reduce inequity within the workplace. Learn more about the landscape of transparent and equitable pay in the United States with an overview featuring Washington and Colorado. Attendees will hear about implementation, outreach, and compliance as well as discussing successes and difficulties.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Maurice Emsellem**, Senior Advisor, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Speakers:

Ellen Giarratana, *Job Equity Program Manager, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment*

Ellen Saline, *Labor Standards Senior Policy Manager, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries*

BREAKOUT 7: UI Administrative Funding: Supplementing Federal Funds

Room: Grand Couteau (5th floor)

UI Administrative Funding provided by USDOL from Congressional Appropriations has not met the needs of states for a considerable period. In this workshop state members will discuss the issues, challenges, and results of providing supplemental funding from state resources.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Chris Lavigne**, *Chief Financial Officer, Connecticut Department of Labor*

Speakers:

Christine Bonorino, *Budget Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment*

Chris Nelson, *Chief Financial Officer, Texas Workforce Commission*

Mike Smith, *Chief Financial Officer, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*

12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. | **SUMMIT Hosted Luncheon** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

2:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. | **General Session: SUMMIT Plenary** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

A Word from our Platinum Sponsors

CAI, Career EDGE, Deloitte Consulting

Keynote: When Generations Connect – Navigating Generational Dynamics

Four distinct generations collaborate side by side, each bringing a unique set of attitudes, values and work styles to the table in today’s workplace. Strengthening your team requires a deep understanding of these inherent generational dynamics. Identifying what motivates each generation and how they communicate is crucial for breaking down barriers and harnessing collective strengths. Unlocking the power and perspective of each generation fosters an environment where everyone feels empowered, valued, and understood.

Kelly Brinkman, *Generational Consultant, Bridgeworks*

A Word from our Platinum Sponsors

Eightfold.ai, PAIRIN, and Sagitec Solutions, LLC

Featured Panel | When the States Go Marching on with AI

States will share their artificial intelligence (AI) success stories and best practices in enhancing both operations and service delivery. Like the front line of a New Orleans marching band, these trailblazers will set the pace, guiding others toward a harmonious approach to AI innovation. Join us to find your rhythm in the AI revolution and lead the march toward more efficient operations and enhanced service delivery!

Moderator:

Deniece Thomas, *Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development*

Speakers:

Robert Asaro-Angelo, *Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Joe M. Barela, *Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment*

Josh Richardson, *Chief of Staff, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*

3:40 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. | **Networking Break with Exhibitors** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **General Session: SUMMIT Plenary** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

Washington, D.C. up to the Minute

What workforce leaders need to know about the current state of play on Capitol Hill and the Administration, as well as what to expect in the upcoming elections.

John Colbert, *Co-Founder, Capitol Hill Partners*

Adjourn for the Day

Michael A. Harrington, *Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2023-2024*



HOSTED MARDI GRAS EVENING EVENT

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | at Mardi Gras World

Join us for a Mardi Gras event at Mardi Gras World for networking, food, and fun!

**Included in SUMMIT registration (guest passes can be purchased)*

TRANSPORTATION:

Buses will begin loading at 5:15 p.m. at the Canal St. door (lobby level) of the Sheraton. Buses will shuttle between the Sheraton and Mardi Gras World until 9:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

NOTE: Name badge must be worn to attend any SUMMIT sessions and meals

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **Hospitality Desk** | Napoleon Foyer 3rd floor)

7:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. | **Sponsor & Exhibitor Showcase** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. | **SUMMIT Hosted Breakfast** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | **General Session: SUMMIT Plenary** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

Welcome: Day Two

Michael A. Harrington, *Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2023-2024*

A Word from our Gold Sponsors

Catalis, CATCH Intelligence, Coursera, Inc., FutureFit AI, Geographic Solutions

Elevate Research to Inform Policy and Workforce Planning

An overview of major labor force trends that are emerging as major challenges for states and how states can harness existing data to address those challenges with support from the research community.

Dr. Stephen Barnes, *Executive Director, Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Associate Professor of Economics, B.I. Moody III College of Business*

A Word from our Gold Sponsors

Infosys Public Services, Inc., Launchpad Careers, Inc., Metrix Learning/Workforce180, Salesforce, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Featured Panel | Hearing from the U.S. Department of Labor

Moderator:

Julie Ellen Squire, *Vice President, Policy and General Counsel, NASWA*

Speakers:

Michelle Beebe, *Deputy Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration*

Julie Hatch Maxfield, *Associate Commissioner, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Kim Vitelli, *Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration*

Salute to Leadership Awards

NASWA's 2023-2024 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will be honored with awards for their service during the Association Year.

10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m. | **Coffee Break with Exhibitors** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (7 concurrent sessions)



BREAKOUT 1: UI Collections and Navigating the Muddy Waters of UI and Bankruptcy
Room: Maurepas (3rd floor)

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Karen Levchuk**, General Counsel, New Hampshire Employment Security

Speakers:

John Millikan, Director of Benefit Payment Control, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Andy Rubsam, Senior Attorney, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Candace Williams, Chief of Integrity, Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

BREAKOUT 2: Orchestrating Successful Short-Time Compensation Programs: State Strategies and Impacts

Room: Borgne (3rd floor)

What progress has the U.S. made in advancing short-time compensation as an alternative to employer layoffs when labor needs decline during a downturn? With short-time compensation, workers can work part-time and collect a percentage of unemployment insurance benefits. And employers benefit from maintaining a labor force. Come hear the latest from state leaders and top researchers in the field.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Razanne Chatila**, Unemployment Insurance Benefits Senior Manager, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Speakers:

Grecia Staton, Deputy Director, Unemployment Insurance Branch, California Employment Development Department

Lars Thompson, Acting Director of the Unemployment Insurance Division, New York State Department of Labor

Kara Segal, Research Manager, California Policy Lab

BREAKOUT 3: Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler with Data: Building and Leveraging Data Literacy
Room: Nottoway (4th floor)

Delve into the vibrant world of data literacy, an essential skill in today's data-driven landscape. Experts in workforce development and data governance will highlight the universal importance of data literacy, extending beyond just specialists. Discover the challenges and opportunities in implementing data literacy programs, including developing and sustaining a data-literate culture, and gain valuable insights on how to start upskilling your workforce. We'll also explore the exciting intersection of data literacy and artificial intelligence (AI).



Tracks:

Moderator: **Cynthia Forland**, *State Engagement Director, Multi-State Data Collaborative, and Principal, Forland Consulting LLC*

Speakers:

Jessica Cunningham, *Vice President of State Programs, Coleridge Initiative*

Adam Leonard, *Chief Analytics Officer and Director, Information Innovation & Insight, Texas Workforce Commission*

Scott Powell, *Director, Michigan Center for Data and Analytics, Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget*

BREAKOUT 4: Swinging Past Employment Hurdles with Innovative Supportive Services

Room: Oak Alley (4th floor)

From transportation vouchers to childcare assistance, supportive services can play an important role in enabling jobseekers to overcome barriers to employment. Hear from representatives of state workforce agencies about how they are leveraging supportive services to better assist jobseekers.



Tracks:

Moderator: **Eddie Thomas**, *Director, Office of Employment & Training, Arkansas Workforce Connections, Arkansas Department of Commerce*

Speakers:

Crystal Houser, *Director, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Partnership & Operations*

Jim Pfarrer, *Director, Oregon Employment Department, Workforce Operations Division*

Jeanna Fortney, *Director, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, CareerForce Division*

BREAKOUT 5: Building Floats of Success: Improving UI IT Systems with Customer Centric Innovations

Room: Bayside BC (4th floor)

See how states are improving their modernization efforts as vibrant floats, incorporating exciting improvements that enhance customer experiences. Join this parade of states as they share their best practices and innovations, ensuring that customer experience takes center stage in their unemployment insurance upgrades.



Tracks:

Moderator: **Kris Funk**, *UI Administrator, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services*

Speaker:

Greg Castellani, *UI Director, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Brett Flachsbarth, *Director, UI ITSC, NASWA*

Gillian “Jill” Gutierrez, *Senior Advisor/Director, OUIIM, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Brandi Kealoha, *UI Specialist, Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations*

Darryl Scott, *Director, Division of Unemployment Insurance, Delaware Department of Labor*

BREAKOUT 6: Celebrating Leaps Forward in Communications and Engagement in UI Programs
Room: Grand Chenier (5th floor)

Hear how three states are taking leaps forward in reaching underserved populations, creating new positions for outreach in the community and engaging with key audiences to spread the word about UI services.



Moderator: **Larry Parker**, *Digital Media Manager, Division of Employment Security, North Carolina Department of Commerce*

Speaker:

Chris Barron, *Communications Director, Washington State Employment Security Department*

Cami Feek, *Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Department*

Laura Leonard, *Communications Manager, Division of Employment Security, North Carolina Department of Commerce*

Angie Robinson, *Legislative Liaison, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission*

Pete Shipman, *Assistant Director Benefits Support, UI Division, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission*

BREAKOUT 7: Expanding Apprenticeships into New Industries and Occupations

Room: Grand Couteau (5th floor)

In recent years, states have led the way with the expansion of registered apprenticeship programs into a broad range of industries and occupations. Hear from Arkansas, Colorado, Michigan, and Wisconsin about how they are building partnerships to expand apprenticeship programs in industries as varied as health care and state government.



Moderator: **Cody Waits**, *Director of Workforce Connections, Arkansas Department of Commerce*

Speakers:

Callan Eschenburg, *Apprenticeship Specialist, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*

David D. Polk, *Director, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*

Stephanie Mufic, *Business Innovation & Strategy Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Employment and Training*

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. | **SUMMIT Hosted Luncheon** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. | **87th Annual Membership Meeting** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

This meeting is only open to state administrators and state members who are eligible to vote for their state.

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (6 concurrent sessions)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time



BREAKOUT 1: Parade of State Progress in Enhancing UI Wage Records

Room: Maurepas (3rd floor)

The reasons are growing for states to enhance their employment and earnings records, from creating labor market insights to supporting program research and evaluation to buttressing fraud detection. State leaders and the Chamber of Commerce Foundation share the latest state developments and reveal how states are addressing challenges and benefiting from change. Also, learn why establishing standards across states is important and brainstorm ways to get there!

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Jason Tyszko**, Senior Vice President, Education & Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Speakers:

Dr. Bryan Grady, Assistant Executive Director for Labor Market Information, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

Adam Leonard, Chief Analytics Officer and Director of Information Innovation & Insights, Texas Workforce Commission

Robert McGough, Chief Data Officer, Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS)

BREAKOUT 2: Jazz Up Your LMI Shop Using Modern Data Tools: Experiences and Best Practices from NASWA's R User Group

Room: Borgne (3rd floor)

Learn how some LMI shops are modernizing traditional LMI production because of--and despite--ongoing budget constraints. With growing workforce agency needs for labor market insights, forward-looking states are investing in their staff, adopting new data tools and creating a cross-state community for learning and innovation. Progress takes agency leadership and technology support, in addition to the ingenuity of LMI staff.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Paul Daniels**, NLx Research Hub Manager, NASWA

Speakers:

Emily DiPalma, Chief Economist, Louisiana Workforce Commission

David Schmidt, Chief Economist, Nevada Department of Employment, Training, & Rehabilitation

Nick Wallace, Bureau Chief, Office of Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services

BREAKOUT 3: Marching Forward with Workforce Services for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Room: Nottoway (4th floor)

Hear from three states about how they are delivering workforce services to support refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S.

Tracks: 

Moderator: **Ama E. Akakpo**, *Division Director of Employment and Training Programs, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development*

Speakers:

Beth Goguen, *Director of Central Programs, MassHire Department of Career Services*

Kelly Lapetino, Ed.D., *Northern Illinois Regional Workforce Manager, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity*

Dana Politis, *Associate Commissioner of Workforce Development, New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions*

Demetria Veasy, *Assistant Director, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training Services*

BREAKOUT 4: Discussion with USDOL – Underneath the Parasol of Conformity and Compliance.

Room: Oak Alley (4th floor)

Discussion about UI Compliance and legal issues with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Tonya A. Robinson**, *General Counsel, District of Columbia Department of Employment Services*

Speaker:

Daniel Hays, *Director, Division of Legislation, Office of Unemployment Insurance, U.S. Department of Labor*

BREAKOUT 5: Step into the AI Second Line: Celebrating States Innovating on AI Solutions

Room: Bayside BC (4th floor)

Join the AI Second Line, where states are marching to the innovative sounds of AI! A "second line" is a New Orleans tradition of celebration and dance, following the band or "first line". In this workshop, states will showcase how they're using AI to enhance service delivery and improve operations. Get inspired and bring the AI rhythm to your state!

Tracks:    

Moderator: **Annie Tietema**, *Director of Performance and Technical Management, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development*

Speakers:

Michael Burke, *UCB Director, New Hampshire Employment Security*

Archanna Manoharan, *Chief Architect, Office of Information Services, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services*

Kenneth Walker, *Deputy Director of Federal Workforce Programs, District of Columbia Department of Employment Services*

BREAKOUT 6: Labor Disputes: A Multi-State Perspective on Unemployment Compensation Challenges and Approaches

Room: Grand Couteau (5th floor)

In 2023 the perfect storm aligned, and major labor strikes occurred across the country. Ohio held labor dispute hearings for members of the United Auto Workers and reached out to other states for

input. It turns out that approaches to labor disputes vary widely across this country. This panel, with presenters from four different states, will offer an overview on different approaches, and tips on best practices.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Delores Evans**, Senior Staff Attorney, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Speakers:

Greg Castellani, Director, Unemployment Insurance, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Stephen Geskey, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Employment Security, New York State Department of Labor

Sharon Martin, Deputy Chief Counsel, Division of Employment Security, North Carolina Department of Commerce

Megan Robinson, Senior Staff Attorney, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. | **Networking Break with Exhibitors** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)
Visit the Photo Studio on this floor for a professional headshot during this time

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** (6 concurrent sessions)



BREAKOUT 1: The UI Masquerade: Unmasking UI Fraud with Data Strategies and Partnerships
Room: Maurepas (3rd floor)

You're invited to the UI Masquerade to explore effective data strategies for unmasking UI fraud. States will share their successful approaches and partnerships in fraud prevention and detection, offering insights into how they reveal fraudulent activities and enhance the integrity of UI systems.

Tracks:   

Moderator: **Caroline Pratt**, Operations Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Labor

Speakers:

Raju Gadiraju, Chief Information Officer, Division of Employment Security, North Carolina Department of Commerce

Jerome Lord, IDH Support Team Manager, UI Integrity Center, NASWA

BREAKOUT 2: Connecting in the Crescent City on Community Outreach
Room: Nottoway (4th floor)

Please join us as we share recent community outreach activities including mobile units and leveraging partners in the community to strengthen access and outreach.

Tracks:    

Moderator: **Liz Gagen**, Director, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

Speakers:

Sonya Hakim, *Division Administrator – Benefits Customer Service, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency*

Jillian Berk, *Executive Director, Mathematica*

Suzanne Simonetta, *Director, Division of Performance Management, Office of Unemployment Insurance, U.S. Department of Labor*

Rhea H. Woods, *Administrator, Louisiana Workforce Commission*

BREAKOUT 3: Public-Private Partnerships in the Workforce Gumbo: A Key Ingredient to Building the Future of Work

Room: Oak Alley (4th floor)

The National Labor Exchange (NLx) is a unique public-private partnership that fosters collaboration and helps facilitate the transactions and relationships between governments, nonprofits, and the employer community. Hear from workforce ecosystem stakeholders why these partnerships are important, what is happening to better connect talent and opportunity in an evolving job market, and how we can work together to navigate cross-cutting issues like pay transparency, skills-based recruitment, equal opportunity, and more.

Tracks:  

Moderator: **Amber Gaither**, *Director, National Labor Exchange, NASWA*

Speakers:

Kimberlee Meyer, *Chief of Workforce Services, California Labor & Workforce Development Agency*

Shannon Offord, *Vice President of Partnerships, DirectEmployers Association*

BREAKOUT 4: Engaging Youth through Workforce Programs

Room: Bayside BC (4th floor)

Youth and young adults face unique challenges as they enter the U.S. labor market and begin their careers. Hear from representatives of Jobs for America's Graduates and two states about how they are supporting youth and young adults through innovative workforce initiatives.

Tracks:  

Moderator/Speaker: **Scott B. Sanders**, *President and CEO, NASWA*

Speakers:

Chris Cannon, *Chief Communications Officer, Assistant Commissioner, Communications and Events Division, Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development*

Janelle Duray, *President and CEO, Jobs for America's Graduates*

Austin Small, *National JAG Career Association President-Elect, Jobs for America's Graduates*

Kenneth Walker, *Deputy Director, Federal Workforce Programs, District of Columbia, Department of Employment Services*

BREAKOUT 5: Legal Roll Call of States with Case Law Updates, Significant Legislation, and Emerging Legal Issues

Room: Grand Chenier (5th floor)

Don't miss this opportunity for state workforce agency attorneys and policy staff to report on and ask questions of each other about significant legal cases, legislation, and policy development.



Tracks:

Facilitator: **Nancy Macirowski**, Assistant Attorney General, Maine Office of the Attorney General

BREAKOUT 6: Igniting the Spark: Creating a Culture and Infrastructure for Evidence Building
Room: Grand Couteau (5th floor)

Building evidence and improving programs and services based on that evidence is not an easy task, but it is more important than ever to make the best possible use of data to inform funding investments and improve outcomes.



Tracks:

Moderator: **Cynthia Forland**, State Engagement Director, Multi-State Data Collaborative, and Principal, Forland Consulting LLC

Speakers:

Byron Archer, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Jessica Cunningham, Vice President of State Programs, Coleridge Initiative

Ellie Hartman, Chief Evaluation Officer, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Baron Rodriguez, Vice President Artificial Intelligence, Client Facing Technology, & Compliance, WestEd, and Executive Director, Data Integration Support Center

3:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | **Exhibitors Tear Down** | Napoleon Ballroom (3rd floor)

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | **General Session: SUMMIT Closing Plenary** | Grand Ballroom (5th floor)

Introduction of New AY2024-2025 Board Chair & Board of Directors

Michael A. Harrington, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2023-2024

Joe Barela, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2024-2025

Announcement of 2025 SUMMIT & Adjournment of the 2024 SUMMIT

Joe Barela, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment and NASWA Board Chair, Association Year 2024-2025

Scott B. Sanders, NASWA President & CEO