



## Draft Agenda

Note: Listed breaks and meals below are included in the attendee registration.

### Tuesday, February 11

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

Hosted Breakfast for Board of Directors | 7:30a – 9:00a

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING | 8:30a-5:00p

**\*\*Pick up your name badge in the Board meeting room\*\***

Hosted Lunch for Board of Directors | 12:00p – 1:00p

Exhibitor Check-In & Setup | 1:00p – 5:00p

**WINTER POLICY FORUM WELCOME RECEPTION with Exhibitors | 5:30p – 7:00p**

REGENCY B (Ballroom Level)

\*Hospitality Desk: Check-in & Pick up your name badge for Winter Policy Forum

### Wednesday, February 12

#### WINTER POLICY FORUM

HOSPITALITY DESK | 7:30a – 5:00p | REGENCY FOYER (Ballroom Level)

\*Check in: Pick up your name badge between 7:00a – 9:00a

HOSTED BREAKFAST | 8:00a – 9:00a | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

EXHIBIT SHOWCASE | 8:00a – 5:00p | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

OPENING PLENARY SESSION | 9:00a – 10:50a | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

#### WELCOME & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Joseph M. Barela**, Chair, NASWA Board of Directors and Executive Director,  
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

## NASWA WELCOME

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

## THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF 2025

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

## A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSORS

## POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE U.S. WORKFORCE IN THE 119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

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

Speakers:

**Committee staff from the following Congressional Committees:**

- *Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*
- *House Committee on Education and the Workforce*

**BREAK | 10:50a – 11:20a | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)**

**Plenary Session | 11:20a – 12:05pm | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)**

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM THOUGHT LEADERS

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

Speakers:

**Harry Holzer**, Professor of Public Policy, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy; Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings

**Demetra Smith Nightingale**, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute

**Brent Orrell**, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

**WINTER WORKFORCE INNOVATION AWARDS LUNCHEON | 12:05p – 1:15p  
REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)**

## HOSTED LUNCHEON

## WINTER WORKFORCE INNOVATION AWARDS

The Winter Workforce Innovations Awards are presented by several of NASWA's national policy committees.

- The **Data Insights and Innovations Award** is presented by the Workforce & Labor Market Information Committee and honors a state workforce agency, or

partnership involving a state workforce agency, for achievements related to labor market and workforce information.

- The **Merrill Baumgardner Innovation in Information Technology Award** is presented by the Technology Committee and a state demonstrating excellence in the field of information technology.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Business Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and honors a state workforce agency for an innovative business services initiative, framework, or effort of national impact, that addresses the employment/workforce needs of businesses at one or several stages and results in significant positive impacts for businesses.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and recognizes a state workforce agency for an innovative workforce project, strategy, or initiative that involves assisting certain or all customers with career services and/or the attainment of in-demand skills and credentials, and which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of opportunity for customers.
- The **William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award** is presented by the Equal Opportunity Committee and recognizes a state, or partnership involving a state, for an innovative workforce-related program, project, or initiative which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination.

PLENARY SESSION | 1:15p – 2:45p | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

## HEARING FROM OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS

Moderator: **Stephanie Beckhorn**, Director, Office of Employment & Training, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

Speakers:

**John V. Ladd**, Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship, Employment and Training Administration

**LaToya Newson**, Director, Division of Adult Education and Literacy, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education (invited)

**Christopher Pope**, Director, State Monitoring and Program Improvement Division, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education

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

## HEARING FROM OUR NON-GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Moderator: **Julie Squire**, Vice President, Policy and General Counsel, NASWA

Speakers:

**Brad Turner-Little**, President and CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards

**Tim Carlton**, Legislative Director, National Governors Association

**Will Durden**, Board Chair Elect, National Association of State Directors of Adult Education

**Tonia D. Ferguson, Esq.**, Director of Legislative Affairs, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

BREAK | 2:45p – 3:15p | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION | 3:15p – 5:00p | REGENCY BALLROOM (Ballroom Level)

### INTERACTIVE ATTENDEE DISCUSSION SESSION

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

### AI AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

**Molly Kinder**, Fellow, Brookings Metro

### ADJOURNMENT

**Joseph M. Barela**, Chair, NASWA Board of Directors and Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

## Thursday, February 13

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Hosted Breakfast for Committees | 7:30a – 9:00a

**Check-In: Committee Attendees who didn't attend Winter Policy Forum** | 7:30a – 5:00p | Hospitality Desk - Regency Foyer (Ballroom Level) **\*\*Pick up your name badge\*\***

Administration & Finance Committee | 8:30a – 5:00p

Communication Committee | 9:00am – 5:00p

Employment & Training Committee | 8:30a – 5:00p

Equal Opportunity Committee | 8:30a – 5:00p

Technology Committee | 8:30a – 5:00p

WLMI Committee | 8:30a – 5:00p

Hosted Committees Luncheon | 12:00p– 1:00p

## **Friday, February 14**

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Hosted Breakfast for Committees | 7:30a – 9:00a

Technology Committee | 8:30a – 12:00p

WLMI Committee | 8:30a – 12:00p

WLMI Partners Meeting | 1:00p – 4:00p