



# 2026 Agenda At a Glance

# GLOBALMINDED CONFERENCE

JUNE 10, 11, 12 SHERATON DENVER DOWNTOWN

JUNE 10—REGISTRATION: 3:00–8:00 • OPENING RECEPTION: 5:00–7:00  
INCLUSIVE LEADERS AWARDS DINNER: 7:00–9:00PM

## K-12 Tower Court A

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**The Future of Teacher Education Preparation: Bolstering Education** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, *President & CEO, AACTE*

**The Civic Fabric of Our Democracy: AI's Rapid Integration Into K-12** 11:10–12:00  
Erika Twani, *Founder, Learning One to One*

**Human-Centered AI Literacy: Teaching Strong Critical Thinking Skills to Evaluate AI Outputs, Algorithmic Bias, and Ethical Engagement** 1:30–2:20  
Tom Vander Ark, *Advisor, Partner, and former CEO, Getting Smart*

**Where Opportunity Begins: Employment Launchpads for HS Talent** 2:30–3:20  
Lisa Dughi, *Chief Executive Officer, NAF*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Personal and Professional Self Care for Educators: Surviving In Times of Extreme Challenge** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Rosemarie Allen, *Assoc. Professor, School of Education, MSU Denver*

**Inclusive Educator Talent Pipeline: Unifying & Empowering the Future** 11:10–12:00  
Jason Dropik, *Exec. Director, National Indian Education Assoc. (NIEA)*

**Promoting Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Employment-Ready Skills With CTE Strategies: Career Success From Classroom to Workforce** 1:30–2:20  
Allison Doe, *Founder, Classroom to Leadership; CTE Business & Tech Instructor, Stride*

## HIGHER ED Tower Court B

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Leadership, Skills-Based Learning, and Employment-Ready Graduates in the Age of AI** 10:10–11:00  
Susan Adams, *Founder, Women in AI CO; Assoc. Director, Achieving the Dream*

**Solutions to Top Challenges Facing College Presidents: Political Pressures, Institutional Autonomy, Enrollment Declines, Affordability, Student Debt, Mental Health & Student Well-Being, and Free Speech on Campus** 11:10–12:00  
Barbara Gellman-Danley, *President, Higher Learning Commission*

**Developing a Strong Outward Mindset: Community College Innovation** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Colleen Simpson, *President, Front Range Community College (invited)*

**Leaders of Collegiate Leaders: Advancing Affordability, Belonging, and Employment-Ready Outcomes** 2:30–3:20  
Dr. Mary Papazian, *Global Fellow, Univ. Design Institute, Arizona State Univ.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Democracy Campus 2036: Building Morally Democratic Leaders** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Michael Gavin, *President & CEO, Alliance for Higher Education (invited)*

**Articulation and Transfer AI Network: Making Students First in the College Transfer Process to Maximize Completion and Employment** 11:10–12:00  
Dr. Karen Vignare, *VP, Digital Transformation for Student Success, APLU*

**Listening, Implementing, and Leveraging AI With Faculty and Students: Involving Key Stakeholders in Successful Outcomes** 1:30–2:20  
Dave Toole, *Chairman, Outthink AI*

## STEAM Spruce (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Cybersecurity Careers and Frontiers: Charting the Future of Safety, Strength, and Sovereign Systems** 10:10–11:00  
Julia Costin, *Cofounder and COO, Cyber Qubits*

**Rocketing to Resilience: Visionaries Protecting Freedom's Frontier** 11:10–12:00  
Debra Wilcox, *Founder, Creating Mfg.; Chair, CO Space Business Roundtable*

**Engineers Managing and Leading Innovation for the Future: Managing Change and Innovation for a Thriving Democracy** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Gilda Barabino, *Former President, Olin College of Engineering*

**The Business and Technology of Aviation: Career Opportunities** 2:30–3:20  
Marlene Price, *Faculty, Aviation and Aerospace Sciences, MSU Denver; Boeing (ret.)*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Innovative Approaches for STEM Education: Trust In the Age of AI** 10:10–11:00  
Dustin DeBrum, *Operations Director, Innovation Programs, Applied Computing, Cal Poly*

**Elevating Math's Global Purpose in the 21st Century: Financial Markets, AI Math Literacy, Business Success** 11:10–12:00  
Dr. Po-Shen Loh, *Professor of Mathematics, Carnegie Mellon Univ.*

**Creating a STEM Ecosystem: Cultivating Connection and Community** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Janelle Johnson, *Director, Colorado STEM Ecosystem, MSU Denver*

## TECH Century (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**No Tech Company Can Solve It: How Tech Companies Can Lead the Sea Change Needed** 10:10–11:00  
Valerie Singer, *General Manager, Global Education, Amazon Web Services*

**Empowering Leaders Through Safety, Security, and Thoughtful Technology: Strengthening Democracies Worldwide** 11:10–12:00  
Grant Schreiber, *Global Campaign Mgr., WAAS Human Security for All*

**AI Innovators: From Startup to Scale** 1:30–2:20  
Brittany Saunders, *President & CEO, Colorado Technology Assoc.*

**Is AI Making Us Dumber or Smarter? Cognitive Guardrails for Tech Developers, Faculty, Education Leaders, and Managers** 2:30–3:20  
Musa Hakim Jr., *Cofounder & CEO, Lazy Moose NFTs; Director, Web3 and IT, FutureLAND*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Agricultural and Rural Tech: Reinventing a Most Important Industry** 10:10–11:00  
Daniel Ryley, *Vice President of Economic Development, Metro Denver EDC*

**Improving Public Safety Responsiveness: AI, Enhanced Tech, and Increased Human Effectiveness in Challenging Situations** 11:10–12:00  
Chandy Ghosh, *COO and General Manager, Emergency Services, Sinch*

**Women Breaking Barriers in Tech and AI: From Entry Level to C-Suite** 1:30–2:20  
Kathleen Lockhart, *Senior Vice President, Deal Management, Zayo Group*

## HEALTH Windows

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Social Determinants of Health: Education, Housing, Climate, Food, Mental Health, and Digital Health Equity** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Tony Hansberry II, *Psychiatry Resident, Tripler Army Medical Center*

**Population Health as a Basic Right: The Economic Need for Population Health Equity in Rural, Urban, and Global Locations** 11:10–12:00  
Dr. Georges Benjamin, *Exec. Director, American Public Health Assoc.*

**Identifying Talent, Supporting Talent, Growing Talent, and Inspiring Talent: Creating a Thriving Healthcare Talent Pipeline** 1:30–2:20  
David Mafe, *Vice President, Human Resources, UHealth*

**Mindset & Emotional Awareness: Cognitive Sovereignty in the Age of AI** 2:30–3:20  
Dr. Lalit Bajaj, *Senior Vice President, Children's Hospital Colorado System*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**AI Driven Solutions: Impacting and Improving Health Equity, Maternal Healthcare, and Social Determinants in Rural and Urban Communities** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Indira Lanig, *Spinal Cord Injury Medical Director, Paradigm*

**Aging in Place, Aging in Tech: Promoting Longevity and Health Equity** 11:10–12:00  
Karen Chong, *Vice President of Audience Strategy, AARP*

**Apprenticeships & Internships Grow the Healthcare Talent Pipeline: Paperless Reporting, Measurement, and Learner/Employer Success Outcomes** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Bridgett Willey, *Director, Allied Health Education, Univ. of Wisconsin Health*

**Mitigating and Healing Trauma Through Human-Animal Connection, and Alternative Methods: Improving Options for Mental Health Treatments** 2:30–3:20  
Dr. Kevin Morris, *Exec. Director, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, Univ. of Denver*

## GLOBAL WORK SKILLS Tower Court C

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Financial Planning for Small Business: From Survival to Sustainability to Success for Underestimated Talent** 10:10–11:00  
Karen Ashworth-Macfarlane, *Cofounder & CEO, Doña Loca; former Wall Street Exec.*

**How Can Skills-First Learning Redefine the Promise of Education?** 11:10–12:00  
Kacey Thorne, *Senior Director of Skills Architecture, Western Governors Univ.*

**From First-Gen Grad to Professional Success to Corporate Leadership** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Kiesha King, *U.S. Head of Strategic Engagement, K-12 Education, Apple*

**Impact of Relational Trust on People, Organizations & Communities: Democracy and Gainful Employment Around the World** 2:30–3:20  
Catherine Carlton, *Managing Trustee, San Mateo County Vector Control District*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**State-by-State Alignment of Workforce Skills With Public Purpose: Higher Education Driving Democracy and Economic Thriving** 10:10–11:00  
Ashley Finley, *Vice President for Research, Sr. Advisor to the President, AAC&U*

**Latino Leaders Growing Talent in Times of Great Challenge** 11:10–12:00  
Thomas Savino, *Chief Executive Officer, Prospanica*

**Caregiving, Supporting Employees for Our Economic Future: Workforce Competitiveness Across Industries** 1:30–2:20  
Wendi Safstrom, *President, SHRM Foundation*

## FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDERS Tower Court D

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Democracy in Action: Creating Financial Empowerment for Generations** 10:10–11:00  
Samuel Lalanne, *Managing Director, Morgan Stanley*

**Courageous Funding, Times of Change, Next Gen & Seasoned Gen Connecting Across Differences to Fuel the Future With Individual Donors** 11:10–12:00  
Anna Pruitt, *Sr. Vice President & Philanthropic Strategist, Bank of America Private Bank*

**Funding Sources for New and Existing Initiatives: Social Impact and Philanthropy Are Central to National and Global Economic Security** 1:30–2:20  
Wendy Lea, *Board Member, Elevate Quantum; Cofounder & Chair, Energize Colorado*

**Little Learners, Big Democracy: Why and How Funding 0-3rd Grade Will Secure Our Economic Future** 2:30–3:20  
Dr. Meera Mani, *Vice President, Families and Communities, David & Lucile Packard Fdn.*

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**FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDERS** Tower Court D

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Risk, Return, and Resilience: A New Framework for Philanthropy** 10:10–11:00  
Christopher Coritsidis, *Founder, Opus I Foundation*
- What Differentiates America? Social Mobility, Advancement, Opportunity** 11:10–12:00  
Rahim Rajan, *Chief Executive Officer, AQL Labs*
- Pathways to Possibilities: Philanthropies Powering Post-Secondary Attainment and Career Success** 1:30–2:20  
Tina Gridiron, *Chief Impact & Learning Officer, ACT Center for Impact and Learning*

**POLICY** Colorado (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Careers in City, State, and National Government** 10:10–11:00  
Stephanie Garnica, *Dir. Global Business Dev., Denver Economic Dev. and Opportunity*
- Making a Difference with Law School and Legal Careers** 11:10–12:00  
Dr. Kimberle Jackson-Butler, *Exec. Director, Law School—Yes We Can!*
- Policy, Programs, and Partners for Preschool and Early Education** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Lisa Roy, *Exec. Director, Colorado Dept. of Early Childhood*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Policy Threats and Opportunities in the Educator Workforce** 10:10–11:00  
Richard Audrain, *Head, Innovation & Policy Initiatives, Next Ed. Workforce, ASU*
- Democracy, Tribal Nation Building, Sovereignty, and Land Restoration: Advancing Native American Political Leadership** 11:10–12:00  
Larry Wright, Jr., *Exec. Director, National Congress of American Indians*
- Amplifying and Activating Alumni Civic Engagement: Reinvesting in Leadership and Policy Change for Home-Grown Talent** 1:30–2:20  
Richard Maez, *Exec. Director, Ednium*

**GLOBAL CLASSROOMS** North Convention Lobby

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Preparing for Global Leadership: GMED, GLI, and Colorado Leaders** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Henrika McCoy, *Dean, Graduate School of Social Work, Univ. of Denver*
- Orchestrating Impact: Music-Inspired Teamwork and Leadership** 11:10–12:00  
Diego Carniero, *Founder & Director, AmazonArt Fdn.; Cofounder, Orchestrating Peace*
- How High School Students Help Humanity to Thrive in the Age of AI** 1:30–2:20  
Dr. Po-Shen Loh, *Professor of Mathematics, Carnegie Mellon Univ.*
- Beacons of Peace: Bridges of Impact, Understanding, and Collaboration** 2:30–3:20  
Sarmad Khan, *Founder & CEO, Telos Futures*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Equity, Economics, Politics, Leadership, and Cultural Identity** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Ryan Ross, *Chief Executive Officer, Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado*
- Denver Kids and Rotary Celebrate 80 Years: Building a Strong Employment Pipeline With the Emerging Leaders Who Are Our Future** 11:10–12:00  
Jay Grimm, *Chief Executive Officer, Denver Kids; Rotary Club of Denver*
- Collaborative Impact, Community, and Connection: Through Creativity, Science, and the Arts** 1:30–2:20  
Andrea Albo, *Exec. Director, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)*

**WORKSHOPS** Denver (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Why Good People Do Racist Things: Be Effective, Inclusive Leaders** 10:10–11:00  
Jefferey Kass, *Speaker & Consultant, Jeffrey Kass Global; Professor of Law, Univ. of Denver*
- Sports, Inspiration, Transformation: Becoming a Generous Leader** 11:10–12:00  
Joann Moreira López, *Manager Community Relations, Denver Summit FC*
- Navigating AI Implementation: Thoughtful Inclusion, Governance Principles & Equity Outcomes With Employees, Faculty, Staff, and Students** 1:30–2:20  
Ahrash Bissell, *President and Chief Academic Officer, The NROC Project*
- How Do We Move in Harmony? Building Collective Wellness** 2:30–3:20  
Kim Schultz, *Cofounder & Codirector, Unity Project Colorado Springs*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Cultivating Curiosity: Powerful Questions for Meaningful Conversations** 10:10–11:00  
Tim O'Shei, *Chief Learning Strategist, Ode Ventures; Founder, "Live! Starring . . . You!"*
- Corporate Fractional Leadership: Empowering the Talent Pipeline** 11:10–12:00  
Roquita Williams, *Dir., Commercial Readiness, Uber Freight; President, Polished Consulting*
- Student-Centered Approach to Data: Transforming Teaching and Learning Through Evidence-Informed Practices** 1:30–2:20  
H. Ray Keith, *Associate Director of Teaching and Learning, Achieving the Dream*
- Early Learning—Where We Go From Here: Blueprint for a Democratic Early Learner Success Pipeline** 2:30–3:20  
Ralph Smith, *Managing Director, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading*

**PRESENTATIONS** Grand Ballroom (Main)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- You Can Make It Happen: Leveraging Your Authentic Identity as Your Passport to Success** 10:10–11:00  
Stedman Graham, *American educator, author, businessman, and public speaker*
- Leaders, Strategies, and Systems of Belonging: Building a Fortified Talent Pipeline** 11:10–12:00  
Dr. Dedrick Sims, *CEO, Sims-Fayola Fdn.; Board Chair, The Hancock Fdn.*
- Successful Early Career Launchpads: Grow Your Professional Success** 1:30–2:20  
Gary Bolles, *Chair for the Future of Work, Singularity Univ.*

- Latina Women Breaking Barriers: Politics, Small Business & Civil Society** 2:30–3:20  
Dani Bedoni, *Master Coach; President, Learning One-to-One*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Courageous Democratic Leadership: A Statewide Model of Communities Expanding Democracy in Colorado From the Ground Up** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Landon Mascareñas, *CEO, Courageous Colorado; Board Chair, Colorado Comm. Colleges*
- The Next Ten Years of Education to Career Pathways: Future-Ready Apprenticeships Center & the Employer Apprenticeship Accelerator** 11:10–12:00  
Ryan Gensler, *Exec. Vice President, Director of National Partnerships, CareerWise USA*

**ROUNDTABLES** Aspen (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- The Last Exit—Lessons from the Terminally Ill and Healing for Bereaved Parents, Siblings, Friends: A Lasting Legacy** 10:10–11:00  
Sarah Kravits, *Academic Coach, Rutgers Univ.; Sibling Coord., Bereaved Parents USA*
- Turning Your Identity Into Your Professional Superpower: Building Social Capital for Career Advancement** 11:10–12:00  
Sumayyah Emeh-Edu, *Chief Experience Facilitator, Embedded Consulting*
- Systems Supporting Access, Communication, and Opportunity** 1:30–2:20  
Dusty Gulleson, *Chief Executive Officer, eResources*
- Downside of Digital Credentials: Protect Learners From Hidden Pitfalls** 2:30–3:20  
Dr. Kelly Page, *Founder & CEO, Live What You Love Studio*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Reimagining the Freshman Year Experience for HBCU Success** 10:10–11:00  
Dr. Bahiyah Muhammad, *Assoc. Professor of Sociology & Criminology, Howard Univ.*
- Transforming Workplace Culture: Unlock First Gen Economic Mobility** 11:10–12:00  
Arquella Hargrove, *Chief Culture Officer, Alchemy Consulting Group*
- Promoting Inclusive Leaders Across Every Audience** 1:30–2:20  
Ethan Gutterman, *Founder, (I AM); Deputy Director, BuildStrong Fdn. (invited)*

**DEEPER DIVES** Silver and Gold (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Early Learning: Creating Our Democratic Future One Young Learner at a Time With Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Families** 10:10–12:00  
Chris Preston, *Chief Strategic Partnerships Officer, BlueSKY Collaborative Partners*
- Entrepreneurship for Economic Mobility: From Seed to Scale to Sale for Underestimated Talent** 1:30–3:20  
Dr. Rebecca Corbin, *President & CEO, NACCE*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- New Identities from Military to Civilian Life for Effective Career Transitions: Education, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship, and Service** 10:10–12:00  
Anthony Newton, *Microsoft Alumni Network, Dir. Product Management, AireSpring*
- Building a Workforce Pipeline for Ability Status Learners, Earners, and Leaders** 1:30–3:20  
Agatha Errante, *Partner, COO, and CFO of Hestia Wealth & Wellness*

**PROBLEM-SOLVING LABS** Silver and Gold (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Growing the Green Economy: Breakthroughs in Clean Energy, Climate Resilience, and Regenerative Agriculture** 10:10–12:00  
A.J. Grant, *President, Environmental Communications*
- The Next 150/250 of Women in Work: Architecting Work That WORKS** 1:30–3:20  
Simone Ross, *Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Colorado Hispanic, Latino, Indigenous Museums and Living History** 10:10–12:00  
Patricia Barela Rivera, *Exec. Director, U.S. Small Business Administration*

**IDEA CAFE (DAY I & II)** South Lobby

TUE. &amp; WED., JUNE 17–18

7:30–8:45 AM (during breakfast)

- Using AI to 10X Nonprofit Outcomes: Better ROI for Funders and NP Leaders**  
Dr. Solomon Abiola, *Biomedical, Mechanical, & Aerospace Engineering, Computer Sci (AI)*
- How Can You Plan to Thrive—No Matter What?**  
Deena Larsen, *Org. Dev. Strategist, Clearly Consistent; formerly Bureau of Reclamation*
- Start Where You Are: Designing a Life of Purpose, Energy, and Impact**  
Scott Talvin, *Award-winning Radio Host, Motivational Speaker, Magic 94.9 at Cox Media*
- What Does Inclusive Leadership Look Like for First-Gen Talent in Practice?**  
Sherica Hymes, *Assoc. Dean, Memphis Academy of Civic Education*
- Who Should Care About STEAM? Considerations for Families and Communities**  
Dr. Christian Anderson, *Assoc. Professor of Mathematics Education, Morgan State Univ.*
- From Insight to Impact: Leveraging Learning in a Business Internship**  
Dr. Susan Yturraspe, *Researcher, Speaker, and Consultant, Yturraspe & Co.*
- LEADERSHIP—Leading With Balance: "Weighing It All"**  
Roddrick Marshall, *Board Member, SOAR Elementary; Custodian, Denver Public Schools*
- Creating Worldwide Peacemakers**  
Richard Jordan, *United Nations Non-governmental Organizations*
- First Gen Breakthrough: Rewiring the Mental Script**  
Quynh Anh Do, *Founder and Coach, Self Management for Success*
- Africa-America Higher Education Partnerships**  
Dr. Pius Kamau, *President, AAHEP*