



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
EXCEPTIONAL LEADER AWARDS DINNER: 7:00–9:00 PM

PLENARY SESSIONS Grand Ballroom (Main)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Creating Our Democratic Destiny: Responsible Tech, AI, and Learning 9:00–10:00
Scott Carter, *Producer, Playwright, and Podcast Host*

People-Powered Progress: Prioritize Human Connection & Build Bridges 12:30–1:20
Tom Vander Ark, *Advisor, Partner, and former CEO, Getting Smart*

Pillars of Our Democracy—The Connect Effect: 3:30–4:30
53 Minutes to Authentic Leadership, Deep Respect, and Cooperation
Riaz Patel, *Exec. Producer and Director, ConnectEffect*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Financial Freedom and Economic Mobility: Creating Long-Term Success 9:00–10:00
Rodney Bolden, *Exec. Director, Workplace Benefits Insights, Morgan Stanley at Work*

Learning, Earning, and Educating to Realize the America Dream: 12:30–1:20
Building Capacity, Aligning Systems, and Sustaining Impact State by State
Mike Johnston, *Mayor, Denver, Colorado*

What Unites Us? Sports, Music, the Arts, Purpose, and Service 3:30–4:30
Tatiana Arguello, *President, Telemundo CO & UT, NBC-Universal Local Div.*

EARLY LEARNING (various)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Early Learning: Creating Our Future One Young Learner at a Time 10:10–12:00
Michelle Kang, *CEO, National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children* GOLD

Policy, Programs, and Partners for Preschool & Early Education 1:30–2:20
Dr. Lisa Roy, *Exec. Director, Colorado Dept. of Early Childhood* COLORADO

Little Learners, Big Democracy: Securing Our Economic Future 2:30–3:20
Chris Preston, *Chief of Strategic Partnerships, BlueSKY Collaborative* TOWER COURT D

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Personal & Professional Self Care for Educators: Surviving Challenges 10:10–11:00
Dr. Rosemarie Allen, *Dean, School of Education, MSU Denver* TOWER COURT A

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

Caregiving, Supporting Employees for Our Economic Future 1:30–2:20
Wendi Safstrom, *President, SHRM Foundation* TOWER COURT C

Early Learning—Where We Go From Here: A Blueprint for Success 2:30–3:20
William Browning, *President & CEO, Clayton Early Learning* DENVER

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 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 Exec. Officer, NAF*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Personal & Professional Self Care for Educators: Surviving Challenges 10:10–11:00
Dr. Rosemarie Allen, *Dean, 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 & Employment-Ready Skills 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, Employment-Ready Grads & AI 10:10–11:00
Susan Adams, *Founder, Women in AI CO; Assoc. Director, Achieving the Dream*

Solutions to Top Challenges Facing College Presidents: 11:10–12:00
Political Pressure, Institutional Autonomy, Enrollment Declines, Affordability, Debt . . .
Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, *President, Higher Learning Commission*

Architects of Higher Education Transformation: Create Lasting Change 1:30–2:20
Dr. Nia Woods Haydel, *VP for Institutional Transformation, Complete College America*

Leaders of Collegiate Leaders: Advancing Affordability and 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*

Articulation & Transfer AI Network: Student-First Transfers 11:10–12:00
Dr. Karen Vignare, *VP, Digital Transformation for Student Success, APLU*

Listening, Implementing & Leveraging AI With Faculty & Students 1:30–2:20
Dave Toole, *Chairman, Othink AI*

STEAM Spruce (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Cybersecurity Careers and Frontiers: Safety, Strength, Sovereignty 10:10–11:00
Julia Costin, *Cofounder & COO, Cyber Qubits*

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

Engineers Managing and Leading Innovation for the Future 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 & Aerospace Sciences, MSU Denver; Boeing (ret.)*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Innovative Approaches for STEM Education: Making a Difference 10:10–11:00
Dustin DeBrum, *Operations Dir., Innovation Programs, Applied Computing, Cal Poly*

Elevating Math's Purpose in the 21st Century: Literacy & Success 11:10–12:00
Dr. Scott McLeod, *Founding Director, CASTLE, University of Colorado Denver*

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: Leading the Sea Change Needed 10:10–11:00
Valerie Singer, *General Manager, Global Education, Amazon Web Services*

Empowering Leaders Through Safety, Security, and Technology 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 2:30–3:20
Musa Hakim Jr., *CEO, Lazy Moose Co.; Board, Breakthrough Public Schools*

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 and Enhanced Tech 11:10–12:00
Chandy Ghosh, *COO & 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, Mental Health . . . 10:10–11:00
Dr. Tony Hansberry II, *Psychiatry Resident, Tripler Army Medical Center*

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

Identifying Talent, Supporting Talent, Growing Talent, Inspiring Talent 1:30–2:20
David Mafe, *Vice President, Human Resources, UChHealth*

Mindset & Emotional Awareness: Cognitive Sovereignty in the Age of AI 2:30–3:20
Dr. Mya O. Price, *Exec. VP & Chief Social Impact Officer, Creating Healthier Communities*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

AI Driven Solutions: Improving Rural and Urban Health Equity 10:10–11:00
Alex Magaña, *Executive Director, Beacon Network Schools*

Aging in Place, Aging in Tech: Promoting Longevity and Health Equity 11:10–12:00
John-Paul Hayworth, *Director, Audience Strategy, AARP*

Apprenticeships & Internships Grow the Healthcare Talent Pipeline 1:30–2:20
Dr. Bridgett Willey, *Director, Allied Health Education, Univ. of Wisconsin Health*

Mitigating and Healing Trauma Through Human-Animal Connection 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 Success 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 2:30–3:20
Dr. Catherine Carlton, *Cofounder and CEO, The Trust Impact Group*

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

State-by-State Alignment of Workforce Skills With Public Purpose 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 Exec. Officer, Prospanica*

Caregiving, Supporting Employees for Our Economic Future 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
Milton Chen, *Formerly of Edutopia—The George Lucas Educational Foundation*
- Courageous Funding in Times of Change: Connecting Across Differences to Fuel the Future With Individual Donors** 11:10–12:00
Holly Ruxin, *Founder and CEO, Montcalm*
- Funding Sources for New 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: Securing Our Economic Future** 2:30–3:20
Chris Preston, *Chief of Strategic Partnerships, BlueSKY Collaborative*

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 Exec. 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 & 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. & Opportunity*
- Making a Difference with Law School and Legal Careers** 11:10–12:00
Jeaneen Kappell, JD, *Attorney, formerly of the U.S. Securities & Exchange Comm.*
- Policy, Programs, and Partners for Preschool & Early Education** 1:30–2:20
Dr. Lisa Roy, *Exec. Director, Colorado Dept. of Early Childhood*
- Amplifying and Activating Alumni Civic Engagement: Reinvesting in Leadership and Policy Change for Home-Grown Talent** 2:30–3:20
Richard Maez, *Exec. Director, Ednium*

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*

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS North Convention Lobby

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Preparing for Global Leadership: GlobalMindED, Global Livingston Institute and Colorado Leaders for 150 More Years of Impact** 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 Exec. Officer, Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado*
- Denver Kids & Rotary Celebrate 80 Years: Building a Strong Pipeline With the Emerging Leaders Who Are Our Future** 11:10–12:00
Jay Grimm, *Chief Exec. 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
Jeffrey Kass, *Speaker & Consultant, Jeffrey Kass Global; Professor of Law, Univ. of Denver*
- Sports, Inspiration, Transformation: Becoming a Generous Leader** 11:10–12:00
Gwen K. Young, *Chief Exec. Officer, Women Business Collaborative*
- Navigating AI Implementation: Thoughtful Inclusion, Governance Principles, Citizenship, and Equity Outcomes** 1:30–2:20
Ahrash Bissell, *President & Chief Academic Officer, The NROC Project*
- How Do We Move in Harmony? Building Collective Wellness Through Voice, Movement, and Community** 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, *Exec. Director, Education Revolution Assoc.; Founder, "Live Starring You!"*
- Student-Centered Approach to Data: Transform Teaching & Learning** 1:30–2:20
H. Ray Keith, *Associate Director of Teaching & Learning, Achieving the Dream*
- Early Learning—Where We Go From Here: A Blueprint for Success** 2:30–3:20
William Browning, *President & CEO, Clayton Early Learning*

PRESENTATIONS Grand Ballroom (Main)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- A Crisis of Meaning-Making: Agency, Ownership, and Relevance** 10:10–11:00
Dr. Scott McLeod, J.D., *Founding Director, CASTLE, Univ. of Colorado Denver*
- Leaders, Strategies & Systems of Belonging: Fortifying Talent** 11:10–12:00
Dr. Dedrick Sims, *CEO, Sims-Fayola Fdn.; Board Chair, The Hancock Fdn.*
- Successful Early Career Launchpads: Grow Your Skills and 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: Communities Expand Democracy** 10:10–11:00
Dr. Landon Mascareñas, *CEO, Courageous Colorado; Board Chair, Colorado Comm. Colleges*
- The Next 10 Years of Education-to-Career Pathways: Apprenticeships** 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*
- Turn Your Identity Into Your Superpower: Building Social Capital** 11:10–12:00
Sumayyah Emeh-Edu, *Chief Experience Facilitator, Embedded Consulting*
- How Change Happens: Observations, Data & Action Build Paths to Impact** 1:30–2:20
Landon Jordan, *President and Founder, RunKind; Econ. student, Cornell Univ.*
- 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*

DEEPER DIVES Silver & Gold (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Early Learning: Creating Our Future One Young Learner at a Time** 10:10–12:00
Michelle Kang, *CEO, National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children* GOLD
- Entrepreneurship for Economic Mobility: From Seed to Scale to Sale** 1:30–3:20
Dr. Rebecca Corbin, *President & CEO, NACCE* SILVER

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- New Identities from Military to Civilian Life for Effective Career Transitions: Education, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship & Service** 10:10–12:00
Anthony Newton, *Microsoft Alumni Network, Dir. Product Mgmt., AireSpring* GOLD
- Building a Workforce Pipeline for Ability Status Learners & Earners** 1:30–3:20
Ann Hynek, *Director of Marketing, Flat Rock Global* SILVER

PROBLEM-SOLVING LABS Silver & Gold (Mezz)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Reset the Compass, Reach the Future: Breakthroughs in Clean Energy** 10:10–12:00
A.J. Grant, *President, Environmental Communications* SILVER
- The Next 150/250 of Women in Work: Architecting Work That WORKS** 1:30–3:20
Simone D. Morrison, *Chief Exec. Officer, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce* GOLD

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Colorado Indigenous, Mexican, Spanish Museum and Living History** 10:10–12:00
Patricia Barela Rivera, *Former Colorado Director, U.S. Small Business Admin.* SILVER

IDEA CAFE (DAY I & II) South Lobby

TUE. & 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*
- Climb Your Everest**
Letizia Pileggi, *Cofounder, Lumina Investments, Lead Instructor, Climb Your Everest*
- Creating Worldwide Peacemakers**
Richard Jordan, *United Nations Non-governmental Organizations*
- 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"**
Roddick Marshall, *Board Member, SOAR Elementary; Custodian, Denver Public Schools*
- First Gen Breakthrough: Rewiring the Mental Script**
Quynh Anh Do, *Founder and Coach, Self Management for Success*
- Who Should Care About STEAM? Considerations for Families and Communities**
Dr. Christian Anderson, *Assoc. Professor of Mathematics Education, Morgan State Univ.*