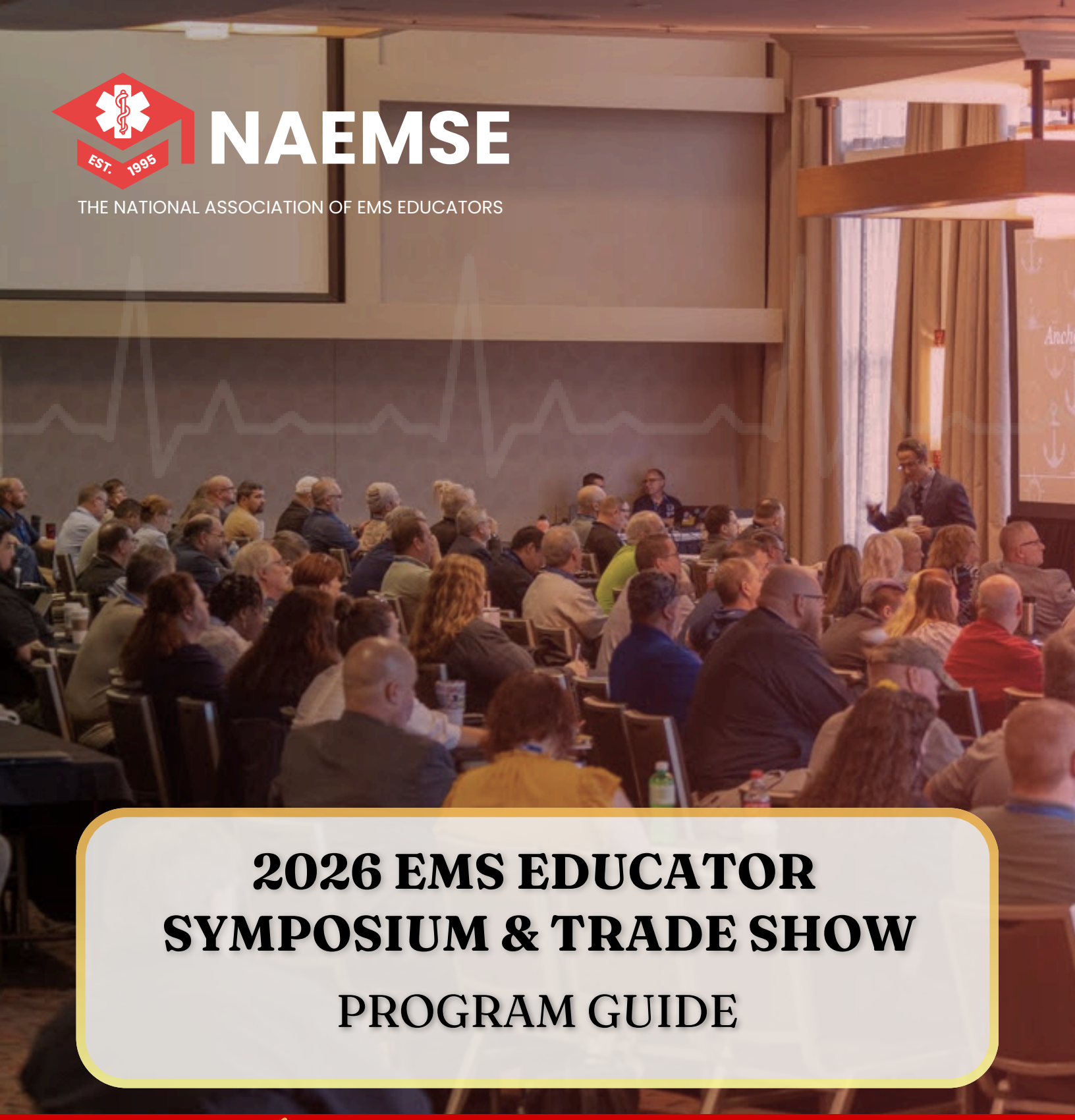
NAEMSE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMS EDUCATORS



2026 EMS EDUCATOR SYMPOSIUM & TRADE SHOW

PROGRAM GUIDE

The Ultimate EMS Educator Experience

AUGUST 10-15, 2026 | RENO, NEVADA

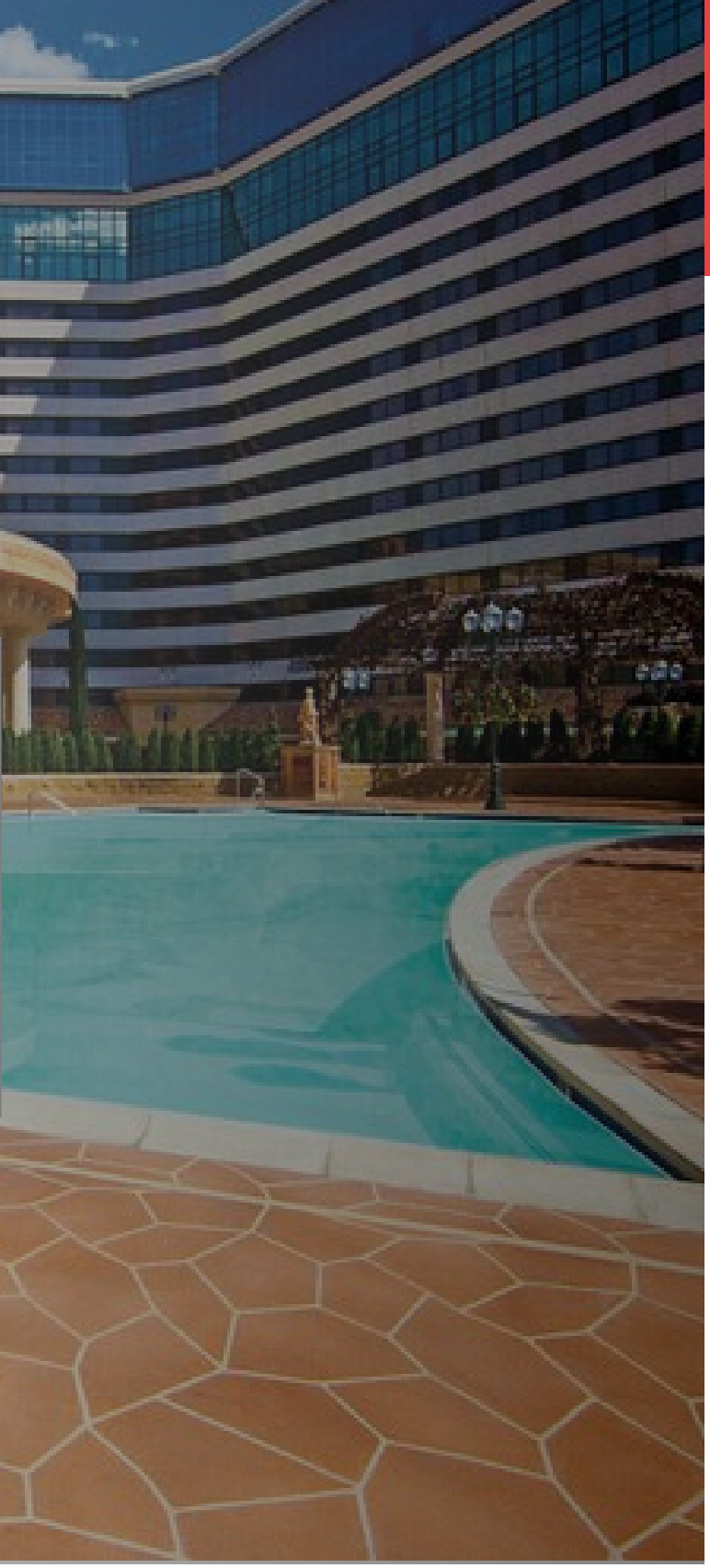
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
August 10-12 (Monday-Wednesday)

MAIN CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT HALL
August 13-15 (Thursday-Saturday)



Welcome

NAEMSE is proud to host the 31st Annual EMS Educator Symposium & Trade Show, bringing together EMS educators from across the country for a week of connection, learning, and inspiration. From engaging workshops and insightful presentations to meaningful networking opportunities, this event is designed to support and elevate your work as an educator. We invite you to explore this program guide and make the most of your experience!



Program Guide

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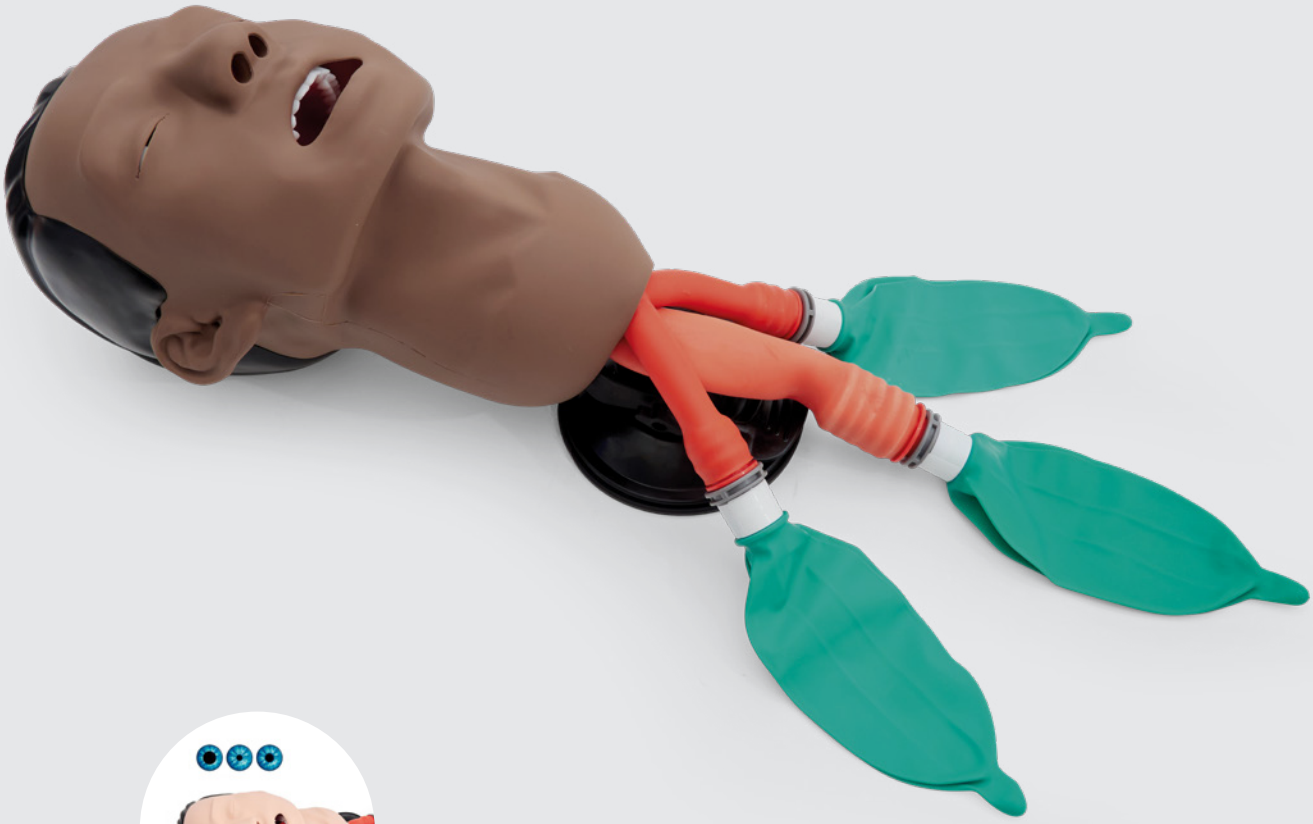
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This realistic, anatomically accurate model features lifelike airway structures and allows for full-axis manipulation. It features a revolutionary suction cup design, allowing you to use the trainer in any environment. It provides comprehensive training in essential BLS and ALS airway management skills, enabling healthcare professionals and students to practice procedures such as endotracheal intubation and the use of supraglottic airway devices, thereby building real-world proficiency.



ADVANCING SIMULATION EDUCATION WITH ATLAS AND REALITI 360

The Atlas adult and pediatric life-support simulators integrate with iSimulate's REALITi 360 and feature intubatable airways, CPR-capable chests, and IV/IO access (arms for Junior; arms and legs for Baby). Realistic airway anatomy and ribcage design support advanced airway training and lifelike CPR compressions.

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A Letter from the NAEMSE President

Welcome to the 2026 National Association of EMS Educators Symposium!

It's a pleasure to welcome you to Reno, Nevada—"The Biggest Little City in the World!" This year's symposium, held at the awesome Peppermill Hotel, brings together the very best of our profession in a setting that's as energizing as the work you do every day. Whether you're stepping into education for the first time or you've shaped generations of clinicians, you belong here.

Our program committee has done an outstanding job curating a lineup that truly meets you where you are. From novice educators to seasoned experts, from field training officers to paramedic program faculty, this year's sessions are designed to challenge, inspire, and equip you with practical strategies you can take straight back to your classroom, lab, or clinical environment.

And when the learning sessions pause, Reno offers a launch point for unforgettable experiences. Take in the beauty of Lake Tahoe, step back in time in historic Virginia City, or explore the mystery and stories of nearby ghost towns. This is a symposium that feeds both your professional growth and your sense of adventure.

Most importantly, this year we pause to honor a remarkable leader and friend. We celebrate the career of our outgoing Executive Director, Stephen Perdziola, whose years of dedicated service have helped guide NAEMSE to the pinnacle of EMS education. His vision, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence have left a lasting mark on all of us—and on the future of our profession.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for what you do. And get ready for a symposium that will challenge your thinking, strengthen your practice, and remind you why this work matters. To help ensure that, you will have a phone number that is a direct line to my cell phone in the unlikely event that you might have a problem that can't be corrected by normal routes.

Welcome to Reno—we're glad you're here.
Bill

Dr. Bill Young NRP, Ed. D., CP-C
President, National Association of EMS Educators



Peppermill Reno Resort Information



Starting at

$159/night + tax & resort fee

Reserve by July 8, 2026

Enjoy discounts on room nights as a part of your 2026 Symposium registration. Reserve your room by July 8, 2026 to secure this discounted price!

Plus enjoy:

- Free parking
- Free airport shuttle
- Free wifi in all meeting spaces

Book Now

To book your stay, scan the QR code below or visit naemse.org -> 2026 Symposium -> Book Your Stay at the Peppermill. If you need assistance booking, call the Peppermill at 775-689-7145. Let them know you would like to book your room at the special NAEMSE conference rate.

About the Peppermill

Experience the eco-conscious Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno's Premier AAA Four Diamond resort, boasting 1,621 luxurious guest rooms including the 600-room all-suite Tuscany Tower. Embark on a pampered journey at the remarkable three-story, 33,000-square-foot Spa & Salon Toscana featuring 24 treatment rooms, Northern Nevada's only Caldarium with indoor pool, sun deck and full-service salon. Enjoy slots, table games and poker in the 82,000-square-foot casino and race & sports book. Resort amenities include a posh 9,900-square-foot fitness center; two beautiful pools and three outdoor jetted spas, heated with on-site geothermal energy; and a designer boutique shopping. An exciting assortment of bars and lounges, including the iconic Fireside Lounge; and 9 award-winning restaurants offering authentic Chinese, inspired Italian, steaks and chops, seafood, deli and café dining.

Reno, Nevada
Attractions & Things to do

RESTAURANTS

- Bimini Steakhouse
- Chi
- Romanza
- Sabroso
- Oceano
- Cafe Milano
- Biscotti's
- The Kitchen Table
- Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse

+ much more!

GAMING

- Peppermill Resort Casino
- Peppermill Resort Race & Sportsbook
- Peppermill Resort Poker Room
- Silver Legacy
- Circus Circus Reno
- Bonanza Casino
- Siri's Casino
- Gold Dust West Casino

ENTERTAINMENT

MUSEUMS & ZOOS

- National Automobile Museum
- The Discovery Museum
- Nevada Museum of Art
- Sierra Nevada Zoological Park
- Animal Ark

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

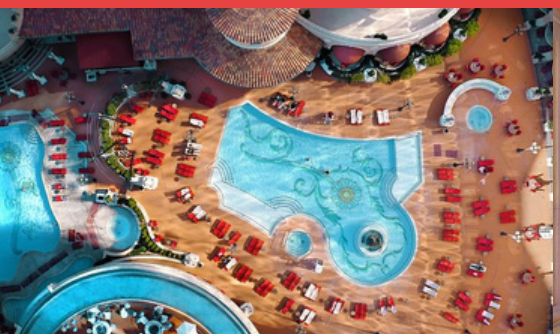
- Lake Tahoe
- Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
- The Slopes at Mt. Rose
- Bartley Ranch Regional Park
- Galena Creek Trail
- Virginia Lake Park
- Oxbow Nature Study Area

ARTS & CULTURE

- The Reno Arch
- Street Art Tour
- Fleischmann Planetarium
- Reno Rodeo Association
- Reno Riverwalk District

Don't want to leave the property? No problem! Enjoy some of the Peppermill Resort amenities:

Upper Deck Pool



Terrace Lounge



Spa Toscana





Pre-Conference Sessions

August 10-12, 2026

Prepare to elevate your symposium experience by indulging in our enriching pre-conference sessions and Instructor Courses! Prior to delving into the main event, seize the opportunity to immerse yourself in specialized educational offerings curated by seasoned EMS Educators. Our meticulously crafted lineup promises dynamic presentations tailored to enhance your teaching skills, fostering discussions on educational material that will resonate long after the symposium concludes. Join us for an unforgettable journey of learning and dialogue.

Pre-Conference Sessions	Date	Price
NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor Course	10th-12th	$345
NAEMSE Level 2 Instructor Course	11th-12th	$300
NAEMSE Skills Instructor Course	11th-12th	$300
Beyond the NREMT Exam - Teaching strategies to ensure student competency!	12th	$250
The Feedback Lab: How to Grow Great Clinicians	12th	$250
Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part I	12th	$125
Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part II	12th	$125
Teaching the Invisible Work: Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Sustainability in EMS	12th	$125

You must pre-register for all sessions.

MONDAY - AUGUST 10

NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor Course (Day 1)

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Linda Abrahamson & Amy Marsh*

NAEMSE's Level 1 Instructor Course provides an introduction to a broad span of educational theory that is heavily reliant on brain-based learning and evidence-based best practices for all levels of EMS Education.

TUESDAY - AUGUST 11

NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor Course (Day 2)

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Linda Abrahamson & Amy Marsh*

NAEMSE Level 2 Instructor Course (Day 1)

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Dr. Lindi Holt & Bradley Perry*

NAEMSE's Level 2 Instructor Course is the continuation of NAEMSE's IC1 material and covers mentoring, student-centered learning, lesson planning, program evaluation, social intelligence, research, presentations and more!

NAEMSE Skills Instructor Course (Day 1)

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Dr. Christopher Metsgar & Rusty Gilpin*

The NAEMSE Skills Instructor Course is a specialized program designed to equip EMS educators with the knowledge and tools necessary to teach and evaluate patient care skills effectively. This course focuses on the psychomotor domain of education, ensuring that instructors can teach hands-on patient care techniques, provide constructive feedback, and accurately assess students' abilities.

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 12

NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor Course (Day 3)

8:00am - 3:00pm PT *Linda Abrahamson & Amy Marsh*

NAEMSE Level 2 Instructor Course (Day 2)

8:00am - 3:00pm PT *Dr. Lindi Holt & Bradley Perry*

NAEMSE Skills Instructor Course (Day 2)

8:00am - 3:00pm PT *Dr. Christopher Metsgar & Rusty Gilpin*

Beyond the NREMT Exam - Teaching Strategies to Ensure Student Competency!

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Bryan Ericson, Dr. Bill Young, & Dennis Edgerly*

Empower your learners to think faster, act smarter, and deliver better care through stronger clinical judgment. This precon will help educators clearly understand what successful clinical judgment looks like—and how to measure it effectively. You'll gain practical instructional strategies and techniques designed to engage learners, strengthen reasoning skills, and elevate competency. This interactive 8-hour program is built to energize, equip, and inspire educators who want to elevate their practice and produce more confident, capable EMS providers. This dynamic, 8-hour course empowers EMS educators with the tools, strategies, and evaluation methods needed to teach and assess student competence and clinical judgment with confidence. Highlights will include performance-based examinations, scenario-driven assessments, and both traditional and technology-assisted evaluation tools that bring clinical judgment to life in the classroom, lab, and field.

The Feedback Lab: How to Grow Great Clinicians

8:00am - 5:00pm PT *Dr. Heather Davis, Dr. Stephen Taylor, & Dr. Maia Dorsett*

Effective feedback is the most powerful, and undertrained, tool in EMS education and leadership. This immersive 8-hour workshop equips preceptors, FTOs, educators, supervisors, and managers with a practical framework for delivering feedback that is specific, timely, and actionable; the kind that truly drives performance improvement. Participants will examine why feedback often fails: vague, overly positive comments, personal bias, unsafe learning climates, and moments when cognitive overload makes feedback impossible to absorb. Through guided discussion, real EMS-based scenarios, and structured peer coaching, attendees will both give and receive feedback in a supportive environment designed for rapid-cycle, deliberate practice. Participants will leave with evidence-based strategies, repeatable tools, and increased confidence and competence to engage in feedback conversations that change behavior, strengthen relationships, and elevate provider performance in the field.

Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part I

8:00am - 12:00pm PT *Tim Whitaker, Jennifer McCarthy, Dr. Andrew Spain, Matt Charnetski, Dr. Kimberly Whitten-Chung, & Carrie Gigray*

High-quality EMS simulation is the result of intentional, evidence-based design decisions that align learning objectives, scenario structure, environmental cues, and debriefing strategies. Simulation designers must balance realism, cognitive load, operational constraints, and psychological safety while preparing learners for high-stakes clinical environments.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of evidence-based EMS simulation design. It will guide attendees through a structured design framework that includes needs assessment, objective development, fidelity selection, environmental and sensory design, facilitation strategies, and outcome evaluation.

Participants will work through the process of creating or refining an EMS simulation using evidence-informed principles. Emphasis will be placed on translating research into practical, scalable design decisions that improve learner performance and debriefing quality while remaining feasible in real-world EMS education settings.

Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part II

1:00pm - 5:00pm PT *Dr. Andrew Spain, Carrie Gigray, Tim Whitaker, Matt Charnetski, Dr. Kimberly Whitten-Chung, & Jennifer McCarthy*

Effective simulation includes the combination of structured debriefing, robust assessment, and ongoing quality assurance that ensures learning translates into safe, competent clinical performance. This course builds on foundational simulation design principles (Part I) and dives deeply into the evaluation and feedback side of simulation programs.

Participants will explore evidence-based debriefing frameworks, strategies to measure and improve learner performance, and methods for integrating simulation-based assessments into broader quality assurance initiatives. Emphasis will include practical applications: designing assessment tools, conducting structured debriefings that foster reflective learning, and implementing QA processes to ensure program fidelity and continuous improvement. Through interactive exercises, case discussions, and scenario-based practice, attendees will leave with actionable strategies to elevate the educational value, reliability, and impact of their simulation.

Teaching the Invisible Work: Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Sustainability in EMS

1:00pm - 5:00pm PT *Em Cyr & Sara Cox*

Leadership, communication, and professionalism are often expected but inconsistently taught in EMS education. This session explores how educators can intentionally teach, model, and assess professional behaviors that shape competent clinicians and future leaders in EMS.





Main Symposium Schedule

August 13-15, 2026

Make the most of your time at the 2026 NAEMSE EMS Educator Symposium & Trade Show! This year's event is packed with dynamic educational sessions led by top experts in EMS education. Connect with peers, explore cutting-edge products and services in our Exhibit Hall, and take advantage of exclusive networking opportunities. Flip through the program to discover everything this premier event has to offer and start planning your experience today!

Opening General Session:

Wide Open Spaces - Staking Your Claim and Establishing Your Legacy

Navigating the path from Clinician to Educator to Leader

Presented by: Bryan Ericson

Thursday, August 13 | 9:00am - 10:00am PT

This presentation explores the transformative career evolution progression available to EMS education professionals. This isn't just another professional development talk—it's an honest, inspiring exploration of what it really means to transition from responding to scenes and treating patients to shaping the future of EMS through teaching and leadership. Whether you're a seasoned prehospital care provider considering your first teaching role, an educator contemplating administration, or a leader feeling disconnected from your roots, this presentation will validate your struggles, reframe your identity, and reignite your sense of purpose. Through personal stories, practical wisdom, and unflinching honesty about the challenges at each career phase, you'll discover how your evolution amplifies your impact exponentially and learn why the courage to grow into new roles isn't about leaving emergency medical services behind—it's about expanding its reach.

Let's dive in!

DAY 1

THURSDAY - AUGUST 13

Welcome Announcement & Award Ceremony

8:45am - 9:00am PT

Join us for the opening welcome announcement and award ceremony just before the opening general session as we honor the remarkable recipients of the 2026 Legends Award, Unsung Hero Award, and the James O. Page Award. Be part of this momentous occasion and witness greatness unfold as we celebrate those who have made exceptional contributions to the EMS community. Don't miss this chance to be inspired and celebrate excellence with us!

Opening General Session - Wide Open Spaces - Staking Your Claim and Establishing Your Legacy

Navigating the path from Clinician to Educator to Leader

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10:15 am - 11:15 am PT

1A - The Invisible Curriculum: The Lessons We Teach Without Realizing It

10:15am - 11:15am PT *Rick Slaven*

Every EMS program has two curriculums: the one we plan — and the one students quietly absorb. This invisible curriculum is taught through tone, fairness, role-modeling, and how we respond to mistakes. It shapes psychological safety, confidence, and professional identity — sometimes more than lectures ever could. This session helps educators uncover the unintended messages students receive and intentionally align culture with the values we say we teach. Walk away with practical ways to build curiosity, compassion, accountability, and safer learning environments — without adding workload, policies, or stress.

1B - Teaching Clinical Judgement

10:15am - 11:15am PT *Dennis Edgerly*

It is paramount that EMS providers use good clinical judgement when caring for patients. Certifying exams are using clinical judgement models to assess prospective EMS providers. What is clinical judgement and how can it be effectively taught in the EMS classroom. This session will discuss the clinical judgement model and will look at methods for instructors to help their students incorporate clinical judgement in their practice. The session will include methods to be used in the classroom, lab and to be incorporated into clinical and internship.

1C - AHA Emergency Cardiovascular Care Guidelines: Does the AHA "Get" Us in EMS?

10:15am - 11:15am PT *Kenneth Navarro*

Stay ahead of the latest American Heart Association guideline recommendations with this essential session for EMS providers, leaders, and educators. Join one of the AHA's Content Consultants as he presents EMS-specific highlights from the latest AHA Guidelines. This session will also pull back the curtain on the guidelines development process and provide some practical strategies for implementing guidelines changes.

1D - Simulation in EMS - Traps to Avoid

10:15am - 11:15am PT *Dr. Andrew Spain, Jennifer McCarthy, Tim Whitaker, Matt Charnetski, Dr. Kimberly Whitten-Chung, & Carrie Gigray*

Simulation, just like any other educational tool, requires careful planning, design, execution, and quality to ensure that the learners achieve the desired outcomes. For many of us, our story in healthcare simulation was crafted through learning as we go, often based on the mistakes we made, or by being limited to what we ourselves have experienced or seen others do. It is a difficult challenge to overcome to achieve the KSAs to do great simulation—and by proxy, created EMS practitioners with great KSAs in delivering great care. But there are many traps to avoid. This panel will explore many traps, identifying where the problems but also the good intentions are so we can craft good simulation. Evidence-based standards, constructs, and questions to ask will be woven into the presentation to help grow your simulation expertise. Build your sims into what we all want them to be—great experiences for our learners that reinforce learning and transfer good practice to the real world.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm PT

2A - CoAEMSP/CAAHEP Accreditation Update

11:30am - 12:30pm PT *CoAEMSP Staff*

Join the leadership of the CoAEMSP to hear what is new in accreditation. Take the opportunity to ask your questions and hear first-hand from the CoAEMSP on topics that will impact Paramedic and AEMT education programs in the coming year.

2B - Frequently Asked Questions About National Certification Examination Content

11:30am - 12:30pm PT *Matt Ozanich*

This course will feature a variety of informational content centered around examination development and will provide detailed answers to questions that are frequently asked of the examinations content team. Specific subjects will include the details of how an examination is developed, how content is chosen for the examination, how the examinations are referenced, what happens when medical standards change, and the National Registry's role in the field of EMS.

2C - Perspectives on Professionalism: Defining, Assessing, and Advancing Our Professional Climate in Medical Education

11:30am - 12:30pm PT *Dr. Heather Davis*

Professionalism is central to EMS practice, yet defining and assessing it often frustrates educators and learners. This interactive session brings together prehospital clinicians to examine the challenge of teaching, observing, and supporting professionalism across training and career stages. Participants will share examples of professionalism lapses, then work together to define what "professional behaviors" should look like in EMS. These ideas will be refined into a shared, practical working model to guide teaching, feedback, and accountability. Attendees will explore evidence-based strategies and tools from EMS and other health professions. In small groups, participants will co-create recommendations to strengthen how professionalism is taught and evaluated across education and practice. The session closes with opportunities for change in curriculum, policy, admission, and culture.

2D - Play with Purpose: Game-Based & Experiential Learning in EMS Education

11:30am - 12:30pm PT *Dr. Carlene Thornton*

Game-based learning and experiential strategies can powerfully reinforce critical thinking when used intentionally. This session moves beyond "games for fun" to explore how structured play, scenarios, and experiential activities align with learning objectives, assessment, and professional behaviors in EMS education.

Exhibit Hall Open & Lunch Served
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm PT

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm PT

3A - Un-Teaching Dogma: Helping EMS Students Challenge "Because We've Always Done It" Medicine

3:30pm - 4:30pm PT *Rick Slaven*

EMS education sometimes passes along practices that feel right but aren't supported by current evidence. When students feel unsafe questioning ideas, they memorize instead of thinking. This session explores how clinical dogma forms, why it persists, and how educators can safely teach learners to evaluate claims without undermining medical direction or program culture. Using real EMS examples, participants will gain tools to build respectful curiosity, clinical judgment, and evidence-informed decision-making — creating providers who understand not just what to do, but why.

3B - Assessment Synergy: A Comparison of Classroom and National Certification Examinations

3:30pm - 4:30pm PT *Matt Ozanich*

This course will feature a variety of informational content centered around the purpose and development of assessments, both at the classroom level and the national certification level. Discussion points will include the difference between formative and summative assessments, the origin of assessment content for both settings, the scoring of assessments, and how clinical competence relies on the overlap of, and distinguishment between, education, licensure, and certification.

3C - Precepting your Preceptors

3:30pm - 4:30pm PT *Dennis Edgerly*

EMS students spend a significant amount of time with preceptors in the prehospital setting both during ambulance clinicals and field internship. Programs can be required to provide education about precepting to their field preceptors. This session will look at processes that can be implemented to help field preceptors better prepare the students for testing and work as an independent provider. The session will incorporate concepts to use clinical judgement models during coaching, and while providing feedback.

3D - Closing the Education to Operations Gap in EMS

3:30pm - 4:30pm PT *Dr. Heather Davis*

EMS education programs are expected to produce workforce-ready clinicians, yet too often they operate without shared expectations, aligned equipment, or feedback from the agencies who will eventually employ their graduates. Educators shouldn't have to guess what "field ready" looks like, nor carry the responsibility alone. This session empowers educators to lead collaboration across the EMS system to improve student readiness, retention, and transition to practice. Through practical examples, we'll explore where schools can proactively engage EMS departments with easy wins like scheduling alignment, equipment familiarity, and national exam preparation and deepen partnerships including incorporating QI fallouts into curricular revisions and building recruitment pathways. Participants will leave with immediately applicable strategies and conversation starters to strengthen relationships with agency partners, positioning educational programs as co-producers of EMS readiness and retention.

4:45 pm - 10:00 pm PT

Opening Welcome Reception

DAY 2

FRIDAY - AUGUST 14

8:00 am - 9:00 am PT

General Session - When Rigor Becomes Threat: Rethinking the Affective Domain in Trauma-Informed Paramedicine Education

8:00am - 9:00am PT *Dr. Ryan Batenhorst*

In the high-intensity environment of EMS, trauma is often unseen—embedded in patient histories, behaviors, and even the responses of providers themselves. This session introduces Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) as a critical shift in paramedic education and practice, moving beyond treating conditions to recognizing the whole person behind the call. Participants will explore the foundational principles of TIC, examine its relevance to both patient care and provider well-being, and discuss how traditional EMS approaches can unintentionally re-traumatize or overlook essential human needs. The presentation highlights practical strategies for integrating trauma-informed practices into paramedic education to foster trust, resilience, and cultural humility. Designed for educators, preceptors, and clinical leaders, this session promotes a more compassionate and reflective approach to care—because every call is more than a patient; it is a person with a story.

9:15 am - 10:15 am PT

4A - The Case for a Civilian-to-Paramedic Pathway

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Melissa Stuive*

This presentation examines the long-standing assumption that EMT-Basic certification is a prerequisite for becoming a competent paramedic. Using comparisons to other health professions, workforce data, educational theory, and accreditation standards, participants will explore the viability and benefits of a Civilian-to-Paramedic (Direct-to-Paramedic) pathway. Emphasis is placed on structured education, competency-based progression, and leadership-driven program design rather than time-based tradition.

4B - Prehospital Guidelines Consortium: Helping to Drive Change in EMS Curricula

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Kenneth Navarro*

To sort through the voluminous amount of information published each year, multiple national organizations are engaging in ongoing efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate prehospital evidence-based guidelines. The Prehospital Guidelines Consortium (PGC) is collaborating with the National Registry of EMT's to continually identify current scientific literature to incorporate into education and certification activities. Earlier this year, the PGC released a new batch of EMS-centric literature. This presentation will examine the latest high-quality evidence that should drive changes to EMS curricula and testing practices.

4C - Beyond Burnout: Teaching Mental Health, Resilience, and Provider Wellness

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Dr. Carlene Thornton*

EMS educators are increasingly responsible for preparing students for the psychological realities of the profession. This session addresses how to integrate mental health literacy, resilience skills, and wellness strategies into EMS curricula while maintaining educational rigor and professional boundaries.

4D - The Netflix Effect: Keeping Students Engaged in the Binge-Watching Era

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Diedra Blankenship*

Students today are immersed in on-demand, high-stimulation environments where Netflix and YouTube deliver constant novelty. EMS classrooms often compete with short attention spans and shifting focus. This lecture explores how the "Netflix effect" impacts learner expectations, engagement, and retention. We'll dive into strategies to make lessons more dynamic without sacrificing depth: pacing lectures like episodes, integrating cliffhangers into case studies, and structuring content in binge-worthy arcs. Attendees will leave with creative techniques to hold attention in a world where learners expect to be entertained as well as educated.

10:30 am - 11:30 am PT

NAEMSE Membership Meeting

10:30am - 11:30am PT

Exhibit Hall Open & Lunch Served
11:30 am - 2:00 pm PT

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm PT

General Session - Live, Laugh, Loathe: Not Your Typical EMS Pep Talk

2:00pm - 3:00pm PT *Elizabeth Harney*

Live Laugh Loathe is my real story, told by the person who lived it. It traces my experience struggling with addiction and trauma, and the turning point that led me into EMS as a paramedic and educator, to show how compassion is formed, lost, and reclaimed in this profession. The session explores stigma, provider burnout, culture, and responsibility, and how presence and humanity can change outcomes for patients, educators and providers alike. This is not your typical motivational talk. This is honest, uncomfortable at times, and grounded in the realities of EMS. This is a rare opportunity to engage with one of the most honest, challenging conversations in EMS education, one that audiences don't just attend, but carry with them long after the conference ends.

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm PT

5A - Emotionally Literate AI in the Classroom

3:15pm - 4:15pm PT *Dr. Dustin Young*

This interactive workshop explores how thoughtfully integrated artificial intelligence (AI) platforms can support active learning, critical thinking, and structured self-reflection to strengthen emotional literacy among EMS students and professionals. Participants will examine practical, trauma-aware strategies for using AI tools to increase engagement with learning content, prompt ethical and clinical reasoning, and guide reflective practice. The session emphasizes AI as a supportive learning partner—not a replacement for human judgment—helping learners name emotions, recognize stress responses, and explore coping and communication strategies relevant to prehospital care. Through brief demonstrations, discussion, and applied examples, attendees will gain ideas for incorporating AI-supported prompts, case simulations, and reflective exercises into educational environments.

5B - Memory, Mindset, and Mastery: Unraveling EMS Education Myths and Methods

3:15pm - 4:15pm PT *Amanda Kinney & Dr. Mark Kinney*

Using the Mandela Effect as a starting point, this session explores how memory really works, why mindset matters, and how mastery is built—offering practical strategies EMS educators can use to improve learning and long-term retention.

5C - Interactive Case Studies in Accreditation

3:15pm - 4:15pm PT *CoAEMSP Staff*

Hundreds of emails and phone calls are received by the CoAEMSP team throughout any given year. Some inquiries require simple guidance, others are complex, with the need for a comprehensive analysis of the situation. Regardless of the situation CoAEMSP staff are available to support, encourage, and consult with programs. During this session we will utilize a case-based approach to review challenges many programs confront and offer guidance on best practices. Perhaps you have successfully navigated a challenge and have advice to share with your colleagues. Join us as we facilitate an interactive conversation to learn from each other, offer suggestions that may help solve a challenge, and answer your questions.

5D - Taming the Exam Dragon!

3:15pm - 4:15pm PT *Dr. Bill Young*

In the dynamic and challenging course "Taming the Exam Dragon!" designed for EMT and paramedic educators, participants will dig into the evolving landscape of the NREMT Advanced-EMT and Paramedic exams. This comprehensive pre-conference session equips educators with cutting-edge strategies tailored to the updated exam formats, focusing on critical thinking and scenario-based assessment. Educators will learn to craft their own NREMT-style questions, a proven approach to enhance understanding and retention among students. By developing these skills, educators will not only deepen their instructional techniques but also significantly boost the exam pass rates of their paramedic students. This course is an essential tool for educators aiming to stay at the forefront of paramedic training and ensure their students' success on the national stage.

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm PT

NAEMSE Committee Meetings

- Membership Committee
- Education Committee
- DEIB Committee

DAY 3

SATURDAY - AUGUST 15

8:00 am - 9:00 am PT

General Session - Fall in Love with EMS, Again

8:00am - 9:00am PT *Dr. Tom Platt*

For many of us, EMS isn't just a job — it's a calling. We came into this field because we wanted to make a difference. We believed in service, in teamwork, in being there on someone's worst day. But somewhere along the way — between the long shifts, the staffing crises, the paperwork, and the public's fading recognition — that spark has dimmed. This session is about reigniting that spark. It's about remembering why we chose EMS in the first place, and how we can build a future that makes us proud to stay.

9:15 am - 10:15 am PT

6A - Accreditation 101: All You Wanted to Know but were Afraid to Ask

9:15am - 10:15am PT *CoAEMSP Staff*

Accreditation can feel complex – even intimidating – but it doesn't have to be. This session demystifies the Letter of Review and accreditation process for AEMT and paramedic education programs by breaking down essential components of CAAHEP Standards and the CoAEMSP Interpretations. Whether you are new to accreditation, seeking to strengthen your program, or simply want to better understand what evaluators look for, this session provides a clear, practical roadmap. Participants will explore the purpose and structure of accreditation, learn how the CAAHEP Standards guide program quality, and engage with common questions and misconceptions. This foundational session equips you with the confidence and clarity needed to navigate accreditation successfully and support continuous improvement within your program.

6B - How to Teach New and Experienced EMS Providers About Racism in EMS in a Rigorous, Defendable, and Civil Way to Encourage Improved Care Equity

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Dr. Jamie Kennel*

Having conversations about racism in EMS is difficult but essential to advancing equity in prehospital care. Join a former paramedic program director—now a professor and Director of Health Equity Education at Washington State University's medical school—to learn evidence-informed curriculum elements you can apply immediately. This session covers both macro-level program design and micro-level strategies appropriate for agency trainings, community college programs, and university classrooms. Participants will leave with concrete, defensible approaches for facilitating rigorous, civil discussions about race and patient care.

6C - Tactics for a Successful EMT Classroom

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Michael Kaduce*

Are you an EMT educator becoming discouraged by students not performing to their potential, low pass rates, or instructors too busy sharing war stories to teach? These concerns are not new and are faced by EMS educators nationwide. However, there are proven tactics you can implement to increase success in your classroom and bring enjoyment back to teaching. This course will review many best-practice tactics that lead to success and bring happiness back to teaching.

6D - 2026 National Registry Update: ALS Practice Analysis, "Hot Spot" Test Questions, and Other Key Initiatives

9:15am - 10:15am PT *Brian Hamilton & Terrie Godde*

This presentation will provide content in three areas related to contemporary National Registry actions and topics. Matters covered include the ALS Practice Analysis, Hot Spot test questions and other key timely initiatives.

10:30 am - 11:30 am PT

7A - EMS Clinical Coordinator 101

10:30am - 11:30am PT *Dr. Bryan Spangler*

This session is designed to explore the role of the EMS Clinical Coordinator and the responsibilities associated with the position. Topics include an overview of what a Clinical Coordinator does, what the role can entail across different programs, and a review of CoAEMSP requirements related to clinical coordination. The session will also address major responsibilities such as guiding students through clinical education and supporting clinical faculty and preceptors. This class is ideal for new Clinical Coordinators seeking a foundational understanding of the role, as well as experienced Coordinators interested in learning how other programs operate and engaging in professional discussion with peers.

7B - Conducting Research with EMS and Medical Students; Strategies, Benefits, and Challenges

10:30am - 11:30am PT *Dr. Jamie Kennel*

The ability to understand, critique, and apply research findings to EMS practice is becoming an increasingly critical part to being an effective provider, educator, and/or EMS leader. In this session, attendees will gain insights and strategies to get your learners directly involved in a research project.

7C - Question Development Strategies: How do I write test questions in a way to ensure my students will have proficient entry-level competence?

10:30am - 11:30am PT *Stacey Kaizer & Bill Lehman*

The presentation will discuss expert techniques used by the National Registry to develop high-quality test questions for national certification examinations. These practical practices can be implemented by educators for developing classroom tests.

7D - How Does Negligence Become Homicide – Compassion Fatigue in EMS

10:30am - 11:30am PT *Dr. Tom Platt*

This presentation explores the tragic case of Earl Moore, Jr. to highlight how compassion fatigue and implicit bias can have deadly consequences in EMS settings. It defines key psychological and sociocultural concepts, discusses their impact on healthcare delivery, and introduces strategies to reduce risk. The goal is to promote awareness, accountability, and improved patient care.

Exhibit Hall Open & Brunch Served
11:30 am - 1:30 pm PT

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm PT

Closing General Session - Private Battles

1:45pm - 2:45pm PT *Dr. Bill Young*

As a respected paramedic and EMS educator, Bill Young presented a façade of strength to his colleagues while privately battling the crushing weight of PTSD. Years of traumatic calls silently accumulated—the infant he couldn't save, the mutilated crash victims, the colleagues lost in the line of duty—until darkness overwhelmed him. He had reached his breaking point. In this powerful session, Bill shares his raw, unflinching account of his descent toward suicide and his challenging path to recovery. He reveals the subtle warning signs others missed, the barriers that prevented him from seeking help sooner, and the life-changing interventions that ultimately saved him. Most importantly, Bill provides practical guidance for EMS providers facing similar struggles, including specialized resources designed for emergency responders and strategies for overcoming the profession's persistent stigma around mental health. It's a roadmap for those still fighting.

Scan the QR code to register

NAEMSE Member Benefits

NAEMSE members enjoy several benefits, such as:

- 25% tuition discount at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)
  - Free textbooks
  - 20% discount on EKU's Workforce Development courses
- Free access to all online Prehospital Emergency Care Journal articles and issues
- A weekly members-only newsletter that provides the latest EMS news and articles
- Many exclusive NAEMSE member discounts (including instructor courses and symposium registration)
- Free CEUs from monthly webinars
- Discounted access to Dementia Live®
- And more!

Invest in your future as an EMS Educator, and become a NAEMSE member today!
Please visit naemse.org for more details, or scan the QR code.

Membership Dues
$95/year

Membership dues are $95/year for individual EMS Educators. If your school, department or program is interested in a group membership, contact us for info on Institutional Memberships - only $85.50 per person if you have a minimum of 3.

Continuing Education

NAEMSE members enjoy 1 free hour of continuing education credit for attending live NAEMSE webinars, along with discounted rates for all NAEMSE courses and workshops- even symposium registration!

> By attending the NAEMSE conference, I have been able to stay up-to-date on the latest trends and developments in EMS education, ensuring that my curriculum remains relevant and effective, along with the best professional networking in the industry.

- NAEMSE Member since 2019

Not only can you sign up for NAEMSE courses from the comfort of your own home- you can attend them from there too! Visit naemse.org for a list of upcoming Instructor Courses, NEMSEC Exams, and webinars.



2026
NAEMSE Awards



Winner Receives

- Complimentary travel to Reno, NV
- Waived symposium registration
- 2 complimentary hotel nights

Previous Recipients

(2025 - Orlando, FL)



Jonathan Fannin
Unsung Hero Award



Chad Knox
James O. Page Award



Michael Kaduce
Legends Award

Legends Award | **Unsung Hero Award** | **James O. Page Award**

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Every year, NAEMSE presents 3 attendees with an award to recognize their efforts in advancing the EMS Education profession. The Unsung Hero Award, James O. Page Award and the Legends That Walk Among Us Award provide the recipient with a waived registration and travel/hotel expenses for their trip to the NAEMSE Symposium!

Tell us a little bit about yourself, your journey in EMS Education, and how attending this year's NAEMSE symposium would positively impact your career. If selected, you could be awarded a waived registration and 2 complimentary hotel nights plus travel to Reno, NV!

Applications will be available under the "2026 Symposium" tab on naemse.org this spring. Check back to submit an application and nominate yourself or a colleague to receive an award!

2026 Exhibitors

Take Your Classroom to the Next Level

Our exhibit hall is the perfect place to find the right solutions for you and your program. If you are in need of resources or advice to take your classroom to the next level, stop by the exhibit hall and get connected!

Dozens of Vendors in One Location

We are proud to welcome many of our Corporate Partners for this year's symposium, along with several new companies. Whether you are catching up or meeting for the first time, make sure you stop by the exhibit hall for an in-person meeting!

We are Working for You

Our exhibitors are dedicated to providing the best products and services for you and your students. They are here to help you find solutions to your challenges with their technology, products, and services.

Something for Everyone

We have exhibitors in many different industries, including simulation, evaluation, test development, certification, virtual reality, and more!

2026 Exhibitors

3B Scientific
American Heart Association
Anatomage
ARCHEON MEDICAL
camts — Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems
CAPCE — Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education
CoAEMSP
ALLIED MEDICAL TRAINING
The American Academy of Pediatrics
EMCE
American Red Cross
Columbia Southern University
Public Safety Group — A Jones & Bartlett Learning Brand
Laerdal — helping save lives
LIMMER EDUCATION
Lumis
CompuWerx — Tuition Pay
MEDTECH
Siyata
National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
INOVYTEC — The Power to Save Lives
North American Rescue
PediEdTrics — Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC
Platinum Educational Group
Integrated MedCraft
VRpatients
MedEdPrep
Intelligent Video Solutions
SSH — Society for Simulation in Healthcare

Scan the QR code to view the up-to-date list of exhibitors and their booth numbers.

2026 NAEMSE Symposium

Attendee Registration

REGISTER NOW

Online registration is preferred and available via naemse.org.

In order to register by mail, please fill out this form in its entirety and mail to:

250 Mt. Lebanon Blvd. Suite 209 Pittsburgh, PA 15234

OR scan this form and fax to (412) 343 - 4770 or email to rio.grassmyer@naemse.org.

1 Please select your Symposium Pass (Session selections on the next page):

O 3-Day Symposium Pass *Select:* O NAEMSE Member - $395 O Non NAEMSE Member - $495

O 1-Day Symposium Pass - $200 *Choose 1 day:* O August 13 O August 14 O August 15

2 Required Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Org: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

Is this a home or work address? O Home O Work

Primary Phone: (___) _____

Mobile Phone: (___) _____

Email: _____

3 License Info

License information is required in order to issue CAPCE-approved CEUs for attendance.

License #: _____

License State: _____ Expiration: _____

License Type: _____

(If applicable, not required.)

NREMT Number: _____

Expiration: _____

Payment Information

Pre-Conference Sessions: $

Main Conference: $

Total Cost: $

Payment Method *(Select one.)*

O Check **O Purchase Order-Please Provide #:** _____

Invoice will be mailed to the address provided on this form. If different, provide the correct address here:

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O Credit Card

O AMEX O VISA O Mastercard O Discover

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Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be made in writing and must be either emailed to stephen.perdziola@naemse.org or sent via mail to the following address: 250 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Suite 209, Pittsburgh, PA 15234. Cancellations received prior to July 14, 2026, will receive a 25% refund on their total registration fees.

We regret that we cannot refund any registration fees after July 14, 2026, because we must submit a complete commitment to the Peppermill by this date.

Complete this form & return to:
National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE)
250 Mt. Lebanon Boulevard, Suite 209
Pittsburgh, PA 15234

4 Registration Selections

Please select all sessions you plan to attend. All sessions are subject to capacity limits, mail-in registrations will be processed once received. Once processed, you will receive an email if there are any room capacity conflicts.

Pre-Conference Sessions	Course Date	Price
O NAEMSE IC Level 1	*10th-12th*	**$345**
O NAEMSE IC Level 2	*11th-12th*	**$300**
O NAEMSE Skills Instructor Course	*11th-12th*	**$300**
O Beyond the NREMT Exam - Teaching strategies to ensure student competency!	*12th*	**$250**
O The Feedback Lab: How to Grow Great Clinicians	*12th*	**$250**
O Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part I	*12th*	**$125**
O Sim Smarter, Not Harder Part II	*12th*	**$125**
O Teaching the Invisible Work: Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Sustainability in EMS	*12th*	**$125**

Pre-Conference Session Total: $_____

Main Conference - Day 1

Breakout 1 *10:15am-11:15am PT*

O 1A The Invisible Curriculum: The Lessons We Teach Without Realizing It
O 1B Teaching Clinical Judgement
O 1C AHA Emergency Cardiovascular Care Guidelines: Does the AHA "Get" Us in EMS?
O 1D Simulation in EMS - Traps to Avoid

Breakout 2 *11:30am-12:30pm PT*

O 2A CoAEMSP/CAAHEP Accredication Update
O 2B Frequently Asked Questions About National Certification Examination Content
O 2C Perspectives on Professionalism: Defining, Assessing, and Advancing Our Professional Climate in Medical Education
O 2D Play with Purpose: Game-Based & Experiential Learning in EMS Education

Breakout 3 *3:30pm-4:30pm PT*

O 3A Un-Teaching Dogma: Helping EMS Students Challenge “Because We’ve Always Done It” Medicine
O 3B Assessment Synergy: A Comparison of Classroom and National Certification Examinations
O 3C Precepting your Preceptors
O 3D Closing the Education to Operations Gap in EMS

Main Conference - Day 2

Breakout 4 *9:15am-10:15am PT*

O 4A The Case for a Civilian-to-Paramedic Pathway
O 4B Prehospital Guidelines Consortium: Helping to Drive Change in EMS Curricula
O 4C Beyond Burnout: Teaching Mental Health, Resilience, and Provider Wellness
O 4D The Netflix Effect: Keeping Students Engaged in the Binge-Watching Era

Breakout 5 *3:15pm-4:15pm PT*

O 5A Emotionally Literate AI in the Classroom
O 5B Memory, Mindset, and Mastery: Unraveling EMS Education Myths and Methods
O 5C Interactive Case Studies in Accreditation
O 5D Taming the Exam Dragon!

Main Conference - Day 3

Breakout 6 *9:15am - 10:15am PT*

O 6A Accreditation 101: All You Wanted to Know but were Afraid to Ask
O 6B How to Teach New and Experienced EMS Providers About Racism in Ems in a Rigorous, Defendable, and Civil Way to Encourage Improved Care Equity
O 6C Tactics for a Successful EMT Classroom
O 6D 2026 National Registry Update: ALS Practice Analysis, “Hot Spot” Test Questions, and Other Key Initiatives

Breakout 7 *10:30am - 11:30am PT*

O 7A EMS Clinical Coordinator 101
O 7B Conducting Research with EMS and Medical Students; Strategies, Benefits, and Challenges
O 7C Question Development Strategies: How do I write test questions in a way to ensure my students will have proficient entry-level competence?
O 7D How Does Negligence Become Homicide – Compassion Fatigue in EMS

SAVE THE DATE

2027

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ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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