

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

VIRTUAL DAY - SEPTEMBER 18

CHATTANOOGA, TN - OCTOBER 6-9

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ADULT EDUCATION

Shaping Our Global Future with Purpose, Well-Being, Joy, and Resilience

AAACE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dear AAACE Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to AAACE 2026!

This is a special one. We are celebrating 100 years of adult education, and what a joy it is to mark this milestone together!

As we have moved toward this centennial, two ideas have helped frame our journey. Shelly has invited us to think about AAACE as a tree—deeply rooted in our history, strengthened by those who have nurtured it, and always growing toward what comes next. And our centennial theme, "Celebrating 100 Years of Adult Education: Shaping Our Global Future with Purpose, Well-Being, Joy, and Resilience," invites us to consider what will sustain that growth as we enter our next century.

Together, they remind us that we can honor our roots while still reaching for new possibilities.

For 100 years, adult educators have helped people learn, grow, adapt, find their voices, and strengthen their communities. That history reflects our resilience. The difference our work makes reflects our purpose. Our commitment to the whole person calls us to prioritize dignity and well-being. And through it all, there is joy—joy in learning, in doing work that matters, and especially in being together.

To those who joined us for our virtual conference in September, thank you. You helped begin the conversations and build the energy that brought us to this in-person celebration. Now that we are here together in Chattanooga, we hope you will make the most of this time together. Meet someone new. Reconnect with an old friend. Attend a session that makes you curious. Share an idea. Celebrate one another. Laugh together. Make room for joy.

AAACE can do all of this because people choose to serve. So much of what propels our Association forward is powered by members who voluntarily give their time, talents, ideas, and care. Our conferences, commissions, initiatives, leadership, and opportunities for connection happen because you show up. We see that service, we value it, and we are deeply grateful for it.

Showing up does not end when we leave this conference. We invite your leadership and involvement. Stay connected throughout the year, through our commissions, programs, initiatives, and the many opportunities. AAACE offers us to learn from and support one another. Then, before we know it, we will have the joy of gathering in person again next year.

Perhaps that is how we best honor 100 years: by appreciating the tree others planted, caring for what has grown, and deciding together what we will plant next.

The first 100 years brought us here. The next 100 are ours to nurture. May we do so with purpose, well-being, resilience, and lots and lots of joy.

We are so glad you are here. Here's to our roots, to this moment, and to all that we will grow together.

Warmly,



Michelle (Shelly) Glowacki-Duka, Ph.D.
President
American Association for Adult and Continuing Education



Petra A. Robinson, Ph.D.
President-Elect
American Association for Adult and Continuing Education

MESSAGE FROM OUR CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 AAACE Annual Conference. Whether you joined us for our Virtual Day or are gathering with us in Chattanooga, Tennessee, thank you for being part of this community and for contributing to the ongoing work of adult and continuing education.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate 100 years of adult education. Our theme, *Celebrating 100 Years of Adult Education: Shaping Our Global Future with Purpose, Well-Being, Joy, and Resilience,* invites us to honor the people, ideas, scholarship, and practice that have shaped our field while also considering what we will carry forward into the next century.

I encourage you to engage fully in the conference experience. Attend a session outside your usual area, connect with someone new, and participate in the many opportunities for learning and community-building, including pre-conferences, workshops, concurrent and roundtable sessions, poster presentations, keynote sessions, Author Chats, Networking Dinners, and the Ambassadors Program. Please also use the Whova app for schedules, announcements, session information, and opportunities to connect with fellow attendees.

A conference of this scope is possible only because of the time, expertise, and care of many people. I extend my sincere appreciation to the AAACE Board of Directors, proposal reviewers and review chairs, virtual session moderators, registration volunteers, Ambassadors Program mentors, Networking Dinner hosts, presenters, and all who have contributed to this year's conference.

I am especially grateful to our Conference Vice Chair, Dr. Maja Stojanović, and to the members and volunteers of the Conference Committee. Their creativity and dedication have shaped both the scholarly program and the engaging activities, including Trivia Night, that give us opportunities to connect, build community, and enjoy our time together.

I also extend my deep appreciation to the AAACE staff for their expertise and steady support throughout the planning process.

Most importantly, thank you for being here. As we celebrate the first 100 years of adult education and look toward the next 100, I hope this conference offers space for scholarship, reflection, connection, renewed purpose, and joy.

Welcome to the 2026 AAACE Annual Conference. I look forward to learning, celebrating, and imagining what comes next with you.

Warmly,



Anita Samuel, Ph.D.
2026 AAACE Conference Chair
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

2026 AAACE AWARDS

Malcolm Knowles Award

for Outstanding Adult Education Program of the Year

Community-Based Research for Engagement and Education (CBREE)

Outstanding Service Medallion

Recognizing Persons having an Outstanding Record of Service



Davin Carr-Chellman
University of Dayton



Royce Ann Collins
Kansas State University

Cyril O. Houle Award

for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education

For their book, *Learning for Democracy: A Framework for Adult Civic Learning*



Tetyana Hoggan-Kloubert
University of Augsburg



Chad Hoggan
North Carolina State University

2026 AAACE AWARDS

Imogene Okes Award

for Outstanding Research in Adult Education

For their research, *"I am a Learner" How Higher Education in Prison Changes Students' Relationship to Education*



Rosemary S. Russ
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Christine Pribbenow
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Valerie D. Nguyen
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Past President Award

In recognition for your dedication to AAACE and service as an AAACE President



Tricia Berry
Dynamic Trajectories LLC

President's Appreciation Award

for Exemplary Commitment and Service to AAACE



Christy Rhodes
East Carolina University



Autumn Guel
Texas State University



Anita Samuel
Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences



Melissa Kay Hort-Overton
Emporia State University

2026 AAACE AWARDS

Commission Awards

Commission for Distance Learning and Technology (CDLT)

Outstanding Distance Learning Adult Educator Award	Tobin Lopes
Director's Appreciation Award	Leann Kaiser

Commission for Graduate Students (CGS)

Graduate Student Leadership Award	Viktoria Loidl

Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE)

Early Career Award	Maja Stojanović
Mid Career Award	Jill Zarestky

2026 AAACE AWARDS

Commission for Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD)

Faculty Award	Junghwan Kim
Student Award	Omaima Hajjami
Director's Award	Yvonne Hunter

Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE)

Mid Career Faculty Award	Junghwan Kim
Lifetime Achievement Faculty Award	John A. Henschke
Outstanding Student Award	Sarah Haroon Sualehi
Community/Practitioner Award	Serge Gasore

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the 2026 Student Conference Grant Recipients!

AAACE awards up to twelve grants on an annual basis to support the conference attendance of graduate student members. The competitive application process includes a written statement, academic endorsement, and volunteer hours.

OLUMUYIWA BAMGBOSE
Texas State University

ANDREW OPIO
Texas State University

SARAH HAROON SUALEHI
Texas A&M University

ANTARA MAHBUB
The University of Southern Mississippi

BEZA TEFERA MUZEIN
University of Georgia

SANDRINA BROWN
University of Tennessee Knoxville

MAHREEN KASHIF GHAYAS
Texas A&M University

CAROLINE EVERIDGE
Ball State University

HYEON KANG
The Pennsylvania State University

SANDI CHAI
Texas A&M University

YUXUAN LIU
University of Georgia

2026 CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

2026 Conference Planning Volunteers

Conference Committee
Anita Samuel, Chair
Maja Stojanović , Vice Chair
Petra Robinson

Special Activities & Engagement
Autumn Guel
Somanita Kheang
Jacob Kelley
Román Graff
Yuewei Shi
Sara Bano

Local Area
Codi Plaster
Holley Linkous
Ruhi Banerjee
Maryjan Fiala

Sponsorship
Brittany Hyden
Fabiola Riobé

Social Media
Victoria Suarez
Hailey Hershberger
Billie McNamara

CIAE Pre-Conference
Christy Rhodes

CGS Student Networking Program
Somanita Kheang

CDLT Pre-Conference
Kelly McKenna

CPAE Workshop
Susan Barcinas
Rachel Wlodarsky

2026 Proposal Reviewers

Ruhi Banerjee
Sara Bano
Susan Barcinas
Tricia Berry
Casandra Blassingame
Cynthia Blodgett-Griffin
Jerry Bowling
Kerry Sue Brown
John Chick
Norina Columbaro
Jennifer Danquah
Jonathan Elmore
Maryjan Fiala
Donald George Stoddart
Michelle Glowacki-Dudka
Angela Gomez
Roxanne Gonzales
Román Graff
Kenda Grover
Autumn Guel
Janine Guerra
Kamilla Guinn
Krista Hanna
Dorea Hardy
Hailey Hershberger
Jennifer Holtz
Brittany Hyden
Musa Ismaila Salami
Sihan Jian
Gail Johnson
Leann Kaiser
Jacob Kelley
Somanita Kheang
Jolie Lam
Angie Lipschuetz
Jan Magree
Moontaha Mahfuz
Holley Marie Linkous
Jonathan Martel
Kelly McKenna
Billie McNamara
Henry Merrill
Michael Miller
Mitsunori Misawa
Sarah Myers
Lee Nabb
Comfort Ninson
Mosa Nkoko
Laura Beth Norman
Ronald Nyanzi
Nilajah Nyasuma Sims
Joann Olson
Lynne Orr
Manjeet Panwar
Jiyea Park
Andrew Parzyck
Cindy Peña
Codi Plaster
Michael Porterfield
Ajit Prasad Bhattarai
Ruoyi Qiu
Christy Rhodes
Salomón Rodezno
Sneha Roy
Isaiah Samuel Zukowski
Edinah Sigira
Naeemah Staggs
Mattyna Stephens
Maja Stojanović
Sarah Strom Kays
Robert Taliaferro, Jr
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Colt Turner
Melinda Turner
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Yvette Ussher
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ADULT EDUCATION

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TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

October 4-8
New Orleans, Louisiana