



# National Convening on Registered Apprenticeships in Teaching



New Orleans, LA  
January 28–30, 2026

## 2026 PEC **DRAFT** Agenda

08/12/2025 JWA

Wednesday, January 28		
Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	<i>La Salle Foyer 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>Conference Registration</b>
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>Pre-Conference #1: Teacher Apprenticeship 101</b> David Donaldson, National Center for Grow Your Own (NCGYO) Ben Gagne-Maynard, NCGYO
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>Pre-Conference #2: SubSchool: Professional Learning Platform for Substitute Teachers</b> Dr. Carla Warren, NCGYO Mary Wurtz, NCGYO
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM		<b>Transition Time</b>
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>Opening Remarks and Welcome</b> Jimmy Adams, NASDTEC Executive Director David Donaldson, NCGYO
1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>General Session 1</b> <b>The State of Registered Apprenticeships in Teaching</b> David Donaldson, NCGYO
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM		<b>Transition Time</b>
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	<b>Concurrent Block A</b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>A-1</b> <b>From Vision to Impact: The Next Phase of the Arkansas Special Education Teacher Registered Apprenticeship.</b> Melissa Jacks, Arkansas Dept. of Education Kyla Lawrence, Arkansas Dept. of Education Dr. Carla Warren, NCGYO

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	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>A-2</b> <b><i>The Gold Standard: Data Management for Launching, Managing, and Scaling GYO Teacher Apprenticeships</i></b> Kimberly Eckert, Craft Education
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>A-3</b> <b><i>Launching and Scaling Teacher Apprenticeships: Insights, Strategies, and Lessons from Nebraska</i></b> Cammy Romanuck Murphy, Midland University Kelly Baehr, Nebraska Dept. of Education Andrea Haynes, Westside Community Schools
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>A-4</b> <b><i>Stacking and Scaling Educator Apprenticeships in Delaware</i></b> Katherine Burns, Delaware Dept. of Education Ann Hlabangana-Clay, Delaware Dept. of Education
<b>3:00 PM – 3:15 PM</b>		<b><i>Transition Time</i></b>
<b>3:15 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Concurrent Block B</i></b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>B-1</b> <b><i>How SEA's and SAA can work together to sustain and expand teacher apprenticeships</i></b> Joel Gillaspie, Kansas Dept. of Education Eryn Knecht, Kansas Office of Apprenticeship
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>B-2</b> <b><i>Building the Future Together: North Dakota's Successful Partnerships in Teacher Apprenticeships</i></b> Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Dept. of Public Instruction Brittany Hagen, Mayville State University Kimberly Marman, University of Mary

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	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>B-3</b> <b><i>The Bridge to Licensure: Support for State Licensing Exams</i></b> Nathan Estel, Passage Preparation Kristina Sterling, Passage Preparation Lisa Barron, NCGYO
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>B-4</b> <b><i>From Pilot to Pipeline: Advancing the Connecticut Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program-Strengthening Systems, Scaling Impact, and Setting the Stage for Alternate Pathways</i></b> Jessica Ocasio, Connecticut State Dept. of Education Ashley Wright, Connecticut State Dept. of Education Shuana Tucker, Connecticut State Dept. of Education
<b>4:00 PM – 4:15 PM</b>		<b><i>Transition Time</i></b>
<b>4:15 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>General Session 2</i></b> TBA
<b>5:00 PM – 6:30 PM</b>		<b><i>Reception sponsored by</i></b>

Thursday, January 29		
Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
<b>7:00 AM – 3:00 PM</b>	<i>La Salle Foyer 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>Conference Registration</i></b>
<b>7:30 AM - 8:45 AM</b>	<i>Frenchman Ballroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>Breakfast sponsored by</i></b>
<b>9:00 AM - 9:45 AM</b>	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>General Session 3</i></b> TBA

Thursday, January 29		
Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM		<i>Transition Time</i>
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>Concurrent Block C</b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>C-1</b> <b><i>Building the Capacity of Mentors &amp; Journeyworkers to Ensure Teacher Apprentice Success (Guidance for Schools, Districts, States and EPPs)</i></b> Missy Testerman, NCGYO Carla Warren, NCGYO Ashley Osborne, NCGYO Lisa Barron, NCGYO
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>C-2</b> <b><i>How NASTAD states are expanding Teacher RAPs</i></b> David Polk, Wisconsin DWD Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards and NASTAD Dane Sulentic, Iowa State Apprenticeship Director Toni Giddens, Nevada State Apprenticeship Director Mary Wurtz, NCGYO
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>C-3</b> <b><i>Engaging Unions to Strengthen Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs</i></b> James Meadows, Washington Education Association Ryan Prosser, Washington Education Association Cindy Rockholt, Washington Education Association
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>C-4</b> <b><i>Lessons from the Field: From Initial Proposal to Approval and Compliance</i></b> Susan Boe, Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission Irene Alives, Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, Apprenticeship and Training Division

## Thursday, January 29

Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM		<b>Networking Break sponsored by</b>
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>General Session 4</b> Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; Deena Bishop, Commissioner of Alaska’s Department of Education and Early Development; Lizette Reynolds, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education Carey Wright, State Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	<i>Frenchman Ballroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>Lunch sponsored by</b>
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	<b>Concurrent Block D</b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>D-1</b> <b>Show Me the Money! How to Leverage Federal, State and District Funding to Ensure Financial Sustainability of your Teacher Apprenticeship Program</b> David Donaldson, NCGYO Miles Woodhull, NCGYO
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>D-2</b> <b>Growing Your Own Teachers: Cultivating Pre-apprenticeship Programs</b> Heather Finley, Georgia Dept. of Education’s Office of Rural Education and Innovation Laura Ergle, Georgia Dept. of Education’s Office of Rural Education and Innovation
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>D-3</b> <b>Extending and Merging the Pipeline through Paraprofessional Development</b> Shawna LeBlond, Virginia Dept. of Education Ashley Osborne, NCGYO

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	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>D-4</i></b> <b><i>Grow Your Own &amp; Registered Apprenticeship in the Houston Region</i></b> Hope Swearingen, Houston ISD Elizabell Garcia, Houston ISD Ramon Minjares, Aldine ISD Maria Peterson-Ahmad, Texas Women's University
1:45 PM - 2:00 PM		<b><i>Transition Time</i></b>
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	<b><i>Concurrent Block E</i></b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>E-1</i></b> <b><i>Building the Blueprint: Tennessee's Statewide Approach to Scaling Registered Teacher Programs</i></b> Deanna Meyer, Tennessee Dept. of Education Shalondria Shaw, Tennessee Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>E-2</i></b> <b><i>Utah's Registered Apprenticeship for Teachers: From "Let's do it!" to "Oh my, look what we've done!"</i></b> Christina Guevara, Utah State Board of Education Malia Hite, Utah State Board of Education Aubree Gardner, Davis School District
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>E-3</i></b> <b><i>P-TEACH: A Thriving Teacher Pathway and Apprenticeship Program</i></b> Diana Lauer, St. Vrain Valley Schools Laura Hess, St. Vrain Valley Schools Shela Blankinship, St. Vrain Valley Schools

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Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>E-4</i></b> <b><i>Making the MARC with Registered Teacher Apprenticeships</i></b> Callan Eschenburg, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity Wanda Bigelow, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity
<b>2:45 PM - 3:00 PM</b>		<b><i>Transition Time</i></b>
<b>3:00 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>General Session 5</i></b> TBA
<b>3:45 PM - 4:00 PM</b>		<b><i>Networking Break sponsored by</i></b>
<b>4:00 PM - 4:45 PM</b>	<b><i>Concurrent Block F</i></b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>F-1</i></b> <b><i>Innovating Educator Preparation: How Colorado's Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Model is Reshaping Program Design</i></b> Kristan Gundel, Colorado Dept. of Education Mary Bivens, Colorado Dept. of Education
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b><i>F-2</i></b> <b><i>Unlocking Potential: Collaborative Solutions for the Educator Pipeline</i></b> Albert Chen, Educators Rising/PDK Malik McKinley, ETS Lisa Colon Durham, ETS

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Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
	Acadian I/II 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<p><b>F-3</b></p> <p><b><i>The Evolution of Grow Your Own and Teacher Registered Apprenticeships in Tennessee from the University Perspective</i></b></p> <p>Erica Boone, Austin Peay State University  Amber Button, Austin Peay State University  Amelia Brown, University of Tennessee-Knoxville  David Cihak, University of Tennessee-Knoxville  Stephanie Brennan, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga  Kim Wingate, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga  Allen Pratt, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga</p>
	Poydras 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<p><b>F-4</b></p> <p><b><i>Building Bridges: Collaborative Design and Implementation of a Virginia Teacher Resident Apprenticeship Program</i></b></p> <p>Kim McKnight, Virginia Commonwealth University  Yolanda Brown, Petersburg City Public Schools  Shawna LeBlond, Virginia Dept. of Education</p>
4:45 PM		<b><i>Adjourn For The Day</i></b>

Friday, January 30		
Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	La Salle Foyer 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<b><i>Conference Registration</i></b>
7:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Frenchman Ballroom 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	<b><i>Breakfast sponsored by</i></b>
8:45 AM – 9:30 AM	La Salle A/B/C 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<p><b><i>General Session 6</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Teacher by Teacher: Fireside Chat with the Former Secretary of Education John King moderated by the 2024 National Teacher of the Year Missy Testerman</i></b></p>



Friday, January 30		
Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
9:30 AM – 9:40 AM		<b>Transition Break and Check out</b>
9:40 AM - 10:25 AM	<b>Concurrent Block G</b>	
	La Salle A/B/C 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<b>G-1</b> <b><i>It Takes a State: How South Dakota's Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Higher Ed Used Data to Build an R-TAP</i></b> David De Jong, Dakota State University Kathryn Blaha, South Dakota Dept. of Education Jason Howell, South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
	Pelican I/II 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<b>G-2</b> <b><i>Building and Maintaining Collaboration Across State Agencies to Support R-TAP: Louisiana's Story</i></b> Kevin Nanney, Louisiana Dept. of Education Britt Colon, Louisiana Dept. of Education
	Acadian I/II 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<b>G-3</b> <b><i>Innovative Pathways to Teaching: The University of Florida's Teacher Apprentice Program</i></b> Blake Beckett, University of Florida Alyson Adams, University of Florida Natalie Hagler, University of Florida
	Poydras 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	<b>G-4</b> <b><i>Aligning On-The-Job Learning Competencies to CAEP and State Level Standards</i></b> Sean Elliott, Office of the State Superintendent – Washington D.C. Abigail Goodman-Johnson, Office of the State Superintendent – Washington D.C. Raven DeRamus-Byers, Office of the State Superintendent – Washington D.C.
10:25 AM – 10:35 AM		<b>Transition Break</b>
10:35 AM – 11:20 AM	<b>Concurrent Block H</b>	

## Friday, January 30

Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>H-1</b> <b><i>How Gulf State IHEs are Shaping the Future of Pathways into Teaching</i></b> Patrick Steck, Deans for Impact
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>H-2</b> <b><i>Developing and Scaling Teacher Apprenticeships in Texas via Regional Hubs</i></b> Sara Delano, Center for Reigniting the Educator Workforce (CREW) at Dallas College Charvett Conner, CREW
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>H-3</b> <b><i>From Patchwork to Pipeline: How States Can Build Coherent Educator Workforce Strategies</i></b> Danielle Pickens, USHCA Craig Chin, USHCA
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>H-4</b> <b><i>Boosting Apprenticeships with Advanced Teaching Roles: North Carolina's Statewide Approach with Examples from Charlotte</i></b> Kendall King, Public Impact Leah Sutton, NC Dept. of Public Instruction Maureen Stover, NC BEST Kristen Hoyt, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Erin Shoemaker, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Shannon Stehmeier, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
<b>11:20 AM – 11:30 AM</b>		<b><i>Transition Break</i></b>
<b>11:30AM – 12:15 PM</b>	<b><i>Concurrent Block J</i></b>	
	<i>La Salle A/B/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<b>I-1</b> <b><i>Improving Teacher Apprenticeship Quality</i></b> Jill Harvieux Pitner, NCTR Paula Talty, Central Connecticut State University

## Friday, January 30

Time	Location/Facilitator	Event
	<i>Pelican I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<p><b>I-2</b>  <b><i>Strategic School Staffing: Creating a Great Environment for Apprentices, Educators, and Students</i></b>  Lennon Audrain, Arizona State University  Scott Rudes, Ector County ISD,  Kendall King, Public Impact  Teresa Hinojos, Education Service Center Region 19  Allen Haynes, Education Service Center Region 19</p>
	<i>Acadian I/II 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<p><b>I-3</b>  <b><i>Building Ecosystems</i></b>  Cristie DeWitt, PA Dept. of Labor and Industry  Carissa Pokorny-Golden, PA Dept. of Education</p>
	<i>Poydras 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</i>	<p><b>I-4</b>  <b><i>JATCs: More than a requirement in Minnesota</i></b>  Emily Busta, Minnesota Dept. of Education  Leslie Philmon, Minnesota Dept. of Labor &amp; Industry  Gina Boots, BrightWorks</p>
<b>12:15 PM</b>		<b><i>Say Your Goodbyes &amp; Travel Home Safely</i></b>