Pre-Conference Session
Unlocking the Power of Collaboration: Exploring Opportunities Across Youth and Adult Workforce Systems

Presented by: The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth)

Description:
Through an interactive presentation and case study design, CAPE-Youth will examine how meaningful collaborations among youth-serving systems identified by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – including workforce development, vocational rehabilitation, education, and other agencies – can address how youth and young adults with significant barriers to employment can access high-quality jobs and career pathways. This interactive session will highlight findings from a study conducted by CAPE-Youth that looked at state systems’ collaboration practices across the country and research into how states can utilize WIOA Title I programs to support this effort.

Learning Objectives:

• Part I: Collaboration
  o Participants will:
    ▪ Describe the dimensions of collaboration;
    ▪ Identify practices and challenges in collaborative relationships in agencies serving youth with disabilities; and
    ▪ Name ways states are improving collaborative practices that help VR participants reach their goals.

• Part II: WIOA Title I
  o Participants will explore strategies related to:
    ▪ Leveraging current services available in the workforce system to serve youth and young adults with disabilities (Y&YAD);
    ▪ Building collaborative relationships with partners in the community;
    ▪ Blending Title I services with other available services related to employment; and
    ▪ Expanding YouthBuild and Job Corp programs to be inclusive of Y&YADs.

• Participants will apply these strategies to a case study.