

● ● EDGE CONFERENCE 2026 LOOKBOOK

● ● POWERED BY JAG

THE OFFICIAL SESSIONS GUIDE

# EDGE 2026

*Where education meets the future of work. Three days. Nine blocks. One hundred conversations.*

**DATES**

July 14–16, 2026

**LOCATION**

Long Beach Convention Center  
Long Beach, CA

**AUDIENCE**

JAG Affiliates, Specialists, Educators & Partners



POWERED BY  
**JAG** JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES  
JULY 14 - 16, 2026  
LONG BEACH, CA

SESSIONS GUIDE / V.1  
JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES

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**ABOUT THIS LOOKBOOK**

## ***A field guide* to every session, panel, lab, and immersion across three days in Long Beach.**

EDGE is the nation's premier education-to-employment conference for practitioners who turn ideas into scalable opportunities for young people. This lookbook gathers every confirmed and in-flight session so JAG affiliates, presenters, and attendees can plan their week before they arrive.

Sessions are organized by day, then time block, then session type — so you can scan a window of time and see your full set of choices at a glance. Use the type key on the next page to know what to expect from each.

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<b>WHEN</b>	<b>July 14–16, 2026</b> Tuesday through Thursday
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>Long Beach Convention Center</b> 300 E Ocean Blvd · Long Beach, CA 90802
<b>HOTELS</b>	<b>Hyatt Regency Long Beach</b> <b>Westin Long Beach</b>
<b>CONTACT</b>	events@jag.org · jag.org/edge

— THE FIVE FORMATS

# HOW EDGE IS BUILT.

EDGE runs on five distinct session formats. Each is designed for a different kind of contribution — listening, building, testing, or experiencing. Skim the cards below before you build your schedule.

## 01

MAIN STAGE

### KEYNOTE

Headline conversations from leaders, artists, and changemakers shaping the future of work and youth.

## 02

90 MINUTES

### LAB

Expert-facilitated think tanks tackling the toughest questions in education-to-employment. Collaborate and contribute to published insights.

## 03

60 MINUTES

### WORKSHOP

Fast, practical skill-builders led by practitioners. Walk out with tools, frameworks, and strategies you can use Monday morning.

## 04

DROP-IN

### SANDBOX

Open, hands-on spaces to test tools, platforms, and assessments. Try. Test. Tinker.

## 05

FIELD EXPERIENCE

### IMMERSION

Field experiences with industry partners — talent pathways and real-world work environments.

A large, stylized letter 'M' logo in a light blue color, outlined in a darker blue, set against a dark blue background.

MONDAY · JULY 13, 2026

**LAUNCHPAD**

● JAG NETWORK ONLY — CLOSED TO EXTERNAL PARTNERS & PUBLIC

A JAG-first day built exclusively for the JAG network — Affiliate teams, Specialists, and managers. These role-based Launchpad tracks run twice (morning and afternoon) and are not open to external partners or the public.

# MORNING LAUNCHPAD JAG NETWORK · ROLE-BASED TRACKS

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · NEW SPECIALISTS

## New Specialist Training

**Josh Yow & Stephanie Goodman** · JAG National Faculty

Core onboarding for Specialists new to the JAG model — the foundations of delivery, relationships, and outcomes.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · NEW SPECIALISTS

## New Specialist Training

**Candice Fedeler** · JAG National Faculty

Core onboarding for Specialists new to the JAG model — the foundations of delivery, relationships, and outcomes.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · NEW MANAGERS

## New Manager Training

**Trinetta Lipsey & Renee Van Der Werff** · JAG National Faculty

For new JAG managers — leading Specialists, managing data, and running a high-performing program.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE

## JAG Advantage Trifecta

**Shi Pillars** · JAG National Faculty

A deep dive into the three pillars of The JAG Advantage™ — trauma-informed care, project-based learning, and employer engagement.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · AFFILIATE LEADERS

## JAG Leadership

**Jan Ennis & Karin Wu** · JAG National Team

A working session for affiliate leaders on the year ahead.

● 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG TECHNOLOGIES

## JAG Technologies: JAGForce

**Michele Cody** · JAG National Team

Hands-on with JAGForce, JAG's data and case-management platform.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · FEATURED PARTNER

## FranklinCovey Leader in Me Certification

**Dr. Michelle Berry** · FranklinCovey

Earn the Leader in Me certificate through JAG's partnership with FranklinCovey.

● 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

# AFTERNOON LAUNCHPAD JAG NETWORK · ROLE-BASED TRACKS

1:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · NEW SPECIALISTS

## New Specialist Training

**Josh Yow & Stephanie Goodman** · JAG National Faculty

Core onboarding for Specialists new to the JAG model — the foundations of delivery, relationships, and outcomes.

● 1:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · NEW SPECIALISTS

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WORKSHOP · FEATURED PARTNER

## FranklinCovey Leader in Me Certification

**Dr. Michelle Berry** · FranklinCovey

Earn the Leader in Me certificate through JAG's partnership with FranklinCovey.

● 1:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG HUB

## JAG Hub Foundations

**Natalie Toney & Shane Krukowski** · JAG  
National Team

This in-person introductory training is designed for specialists who are new to the JAG Hub, powered by Headrush Learning. The session provides a high-level overview of the JAG Hub and its role as a centralized platform for learning, collaboration, communication, and support within JAG programs.

● 1:00 – 4:00 PM

# 01

TUESDAY · JULY 14, 2026

## DAY 1 SET THE STAGE

<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
KEYNOTE	LABS	WORKSHOPS	SANDBOXES	IMMERSION

### OPENING KEYNOTE

9:00 – 10:15 AM

**KEYNOTE**

1

KEYNOTE · GENERAL SESSION **MAIN STAGE**

### Opening Keynote

**Coach Ken Carter** · Author, Speaker, Philanthropist

Subject of the 2005 film "Coach Carter," celebrated for his transformational coaching philosophy and unwavering belief in young people.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

# BLOCK 1 DAY 1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## LABS

2

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201A

### AI to ROI: Designing Ethical, Career-Connected Learning for the Future of Work

Melissa Winter · Kuder

As AI is redefining workplace readiness, learn how JAG leaders can transform disruption into a competitive advantage with a structured blueprint to stay ahead.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 203C

### McDonald's & JAG Partnership

Kaity Parent · JAG New Mexico

Learn about our new partnership! Across the country, JAG affiliates are looking for stronger employer alignment, clearer career pathways, and more sustainable program models. In New Mexico, we're piloting a new approach through our partnership with McDonald's, moving beyond traditional job placement to true employer integration.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## WORKSHOPS

10

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 102C

### Mindful Journeys: Nurturing Resilience in Classrooms and Beyond

Christine Spiese · JAG Louisiana

Equip JAG educators with strategies and tools to turn classrooms into connected learning communities, using practical mindfulness, movement techniques, and soft skills that help students succeed in school and in life.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

### JAG is a Culture, Not a Class

April King · JAG Louisiana

JAG educators facing low engagement and inconsistent outcomes will gain practical tools to build a culture-driven program that strengthens leadership and workforce readiness.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

## So You've Got the Skills- Now What?

Alexis Franks & David Barch · NAWDP

Credentials and Career Pathways Solutions for Workforce Professionals

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · YOUNG ADULT ROOM 202B

## Through the Alumni Lens: Strengthening JAG Programs Beyond Graduation

Jennifer Bogar Richardson & Alberto Romero · JAG New Jersey

See life through your students' eyes and transform post-graduation outcomes with hands-on strategies to engage, mentor, and empower every JAG alum.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · CURRICULUM / PBL

ROOM 202C

## Profits with Purpose: Elevating Student Leadership Through High-Impact Fundraising

Dr. Michele Margavio · JAG Louisiana

Equip students to solve fundraiser fatigue by launching student-led ventures that build real-world leadership skills and record-breaking revenue.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

## Try AI Coaches That Help Young People Speak Up with Confidence at Work

Eric Shepherd · Foundation for Talent Transformation

Try AI Coaches that help young people practice workplace conversations and build the confidence to ask questions, contribute ideas, and speak up at work.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

## Invisible Reflection: How Story Prompts Engage Students Who Hate Journaling

Andrew Webster · JAG Missouri

A simple storytelling-based reflection system that helps even the most disengaged students build self-awareness, resilience, and career readiness—without feeling like they are completing another assignment.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

## Building Digital Citizenship Leaders: How Your Students Can Teach Your Community

Jess Golson & Stephanie Hartung · Connected Nation and JAG National

Using the JAG approach and the Teens Teach Tech model—powered by AT&T— learn how students can lead digital-literacy workshops that build real career networks while raising funds for their programs.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 201B

### BuildSubmarines.com

Dr. Carrie Curtis

This interactive workshop introduces educators to the mission of the Submarine Industrial Base and the wide range of careers that support it.

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 202A

### We Got Us: A Youth-Led Mental Health Movement

Dr. Jamila Davis · Partners Uplifting Our Daughters and Sons (PUDS)

Students are facing rising levels of anxiety, trauma, depression, and disconnection. This session explores how youth-led peer-to-peer mental health initiatives can transform school culture, strengthen student leadership, and create healing...

● 10:30 – 11:30 AM

## SANDBOX

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101A

### JAGForce Data Management System

Michele Cody · JAG National Team

Welcome to the JAGForce Sandbox, the ultimate tech playground at EDGE! No rigid presentations, no "look but don't touch" rules, just pure, unadulterated exploration. Think of it as your digital recess. You're welcome to explore at your own pace, and ask questions on the platform as you go.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**BLOCK 2** DAY 1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 – 2:30 PM

**LABS**

2

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201A

**BuildSubmarines.com**

Dr. Carrie Curtis

This interactive workshop introduces educators to the mission of the Submarine Industrial Base and the wide range of careers that support it.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201B

**Roundtable: California Afterschool Network**

Jeff Davis · California Afterschool Network

Welcome to the California Afterschool Network Roundtable, the ultimate pit stop for champions of education and workforce development! This isn't just another meeting. It's a dynamic space designed for California change-makers to sync up, share wisdom, and spark new ideas.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

**WORKSHOPS**

9

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

**Building Bridges: Connecting Students to Local Careers**

Steven Ford · JAG Kansas

Go beyond career conversations by turning community connections into real opportunities for students.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

**Defining Workforce Readiness: JAG's Modernized Competency Framework and Credential**

Breanna Morsadi · JAG National

What if workforce readiness could be clearly defined, consistently measured, and meaningfully demonstrated? This session introduces JAG's modernized framework of 15 workforce-readiness competencies and the credentialing model designed to help youth showcase growth in the durable skills employers need most.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

## Supercharge Your Specialist Toolkit

**Pamela Donnelly & Bill Swartout** · American Access Institute

Unlock a new era of Gen Z economic mobility through AI-supported tech, where every grad identifies the right-fit career pathway from trades, military, technology, and entrepreneurship, to college and beyond.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

## The Value of Your First Job

**Sheila Jones** · Whicked Results

Your first job is not just where you earn money. It's where you prove your VALUE and BUILD your reputation. In this high-energy, hands-on session, participants will learn how to stand out from Day 1.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

## Financial Tools for Student Success

Synchrony

Join the Synchrony Financial Literacy Service Corp to explore hands-on tools and practical strategies designed to equip students with the essential money management skills they need for a successful financial future.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · CURRICULUM / PBL

ROOM 202C

## Coaching by Design: Building Championship-Level JAG Programs Through Performance Systems

**Leon Bunion & Kenneth Scott** · JAG New Jersey

JAG Specialists are expected to build high-performing programs without a clear playbook—this session provides a proven coaching framework to create consistent, results-driven student outcomes.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

## "It is Fun, and You Should Do It!": Why Students Recommend Classroom Discussion Circles

**Renee Van Der Werff** · Aspire Consulting

Cultivate relationships, engagement, learning, and fun in your classrooms by adding student and teacher recommended discussion circles to your repertoire of instructional strategies

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

## Discovery to Motivate the Next Generation Workforce

**Melissa Sadler-Nitu** · Hill Country Education & Training Consultants, LLC

Empower disconnected or uncertain students to discover their strengths and career direction by using identity-based talent discovery and leadership activation tools.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SPECIAL ROOM 203C

### Bridging the Gap: Co-Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce

Jose Guadron and Latea Davis · Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Get creative to fully support young adults entering the workforce by playing resource Tetris.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

## SANDBOXES

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101A

### Foundations of Resilience: Building Trauma-Resilient Educational Communities

Craig Beswick & Dana Brown · TREC

For dedicated educators and leaders struggling to bridge the academic and emotional gaps created by the trauma epidemic, TREC 101 provides the evidence-based PACEs science and practical tools needed to cultivate lasting resilience through t...

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101B

### Build-A-Future: The Agilities Sandbox

Kristie Larson · DeBruce Foundation

In this come-and-go session, participants will "play" with The DeBruce Foundation's suite of free, research-based tools, including the Agile Work Profiler®, Career Explorer Tools, and K-12 resources. Discover how these resources help individuals identify their unique strengths, build Career Literacy, and connect to meaningful career pathways.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

**BLOCK 3** DAY 1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**LAB**

1

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201B

**Connection Architect Certification**

Lindsay Clark · Plus Wonder

Join us for this session to get further engaged with the 6 Degrees of Connection Framework. During our session, you will start earning your micro-credential to be Plus Wonder Certified!

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

**WORKSHOPS**

10

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

**Regions Bank & JAG: Money Management and Mentorship**

Join Regions Bank to discover how you can actively engage with JAG's brand-new National Service Project, blending essential financial literacy with impactful youth mentorship.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

**Promoting Positive Behaviors**

Dr. Monica Scott · JAG Louisiana

Stop playing "whack-a-mole" with classroom disruptions and start building a culture where positive behavior is the default. In this high-energy session, you'll move beyond traditional discipline to master a proactive framework that focuses on connection over compliance.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

**JAG Career Exploration Series Launch**

Stephanie Hartung · JAG National Team

JAG Career Exploration Series Unlocked: A community of practice around intentional career exploration with partners in Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Retail Services.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

**The Pando Way: Strategic Innovations (Perspectives in Organizational Change)**

Niki Childers, Daniel Morford, Kenya McConico, Katie Kelly

How The Pando Initiative modernized a 35-year-old organization by integrating workforce readiness, financial-literacy tech, and a five-pillar support framework.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

## Experience a Microcredential from FranklinCovey that Builds Real-World Skills

**Dr. Michelle Berry** · Franklin Covey

For workforce-focused educators struggling to build durable skills in diverse learners, experience a microcredential model that makes leadership and life skills accessible, measurable, and real.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · YOUNG ADULT ROOM 202B

## Draw Your Future with Agilities

**Christine Hocker, Kristie Larson, Rebecca Kessler** · DeBruce Foundation

In this interactive workshop, you'll experience the Draw Your Future process: a simple, visual approach you can use with the youth you serve to help them reflect on where they are today, imagine what's possible, and take action toward a better future. Through drawing, goal setting, and the power of Agilities, you'll learn how to guide students in identifying their strengths and taking three bold, achievable steps forward.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · CURRICULUM / PBL

ROOM 202C

## How Does Project-Based Learning Add Currency to Job-Seeking Youth?

**Jason Filie** · Empowered

Explore how hands-on, project-based learning transforms classroom experiences into high-value professional assets that students can confidently market to top employers.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

## The JAG Store Incubator: From Competency to Commerce

**Jacques Watkins** · JAG Alabama

Overcome student disengagement by launching a creative 'Incubator' store model that transforms classroom competencies into a self-sustaining, student-led brand.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

## From Purpose to Paycheck: AI Powered Project-Based Learning for Career Readiness

**Dr. Latunja Caster** · Next Level Consulting Group, LLC.

Equip mentors overwhelmed by disengaged students and unclear career paths with an AI-powered Pathway to Purpose Leadership Assessment that turns identity into actionable career plans.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · SPECIAL ROOM 203C

## The Power of Partnership: Engaging Communities for Greater Impact

**Christiana Faulkner & Kenta Estrada Darley** · Coalition for Responsible Community Development

We will discuss best practices for partnership development, stakeholder engagement, coalition building, and maintaining trust within the communities organizations serve

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM



SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101B

## Scaling Work-Based Learning: Tools That Drive Measurable Outcomes

**Melissa Winter** · Kuder Inc.

Expand equitable access to work-based learning opportunities with scalable solutions used by JAG affiliates.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

# BLOCK 4 DAY 1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:15 – 5:30 PM

## LAB

1

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201B

### From Vision to Voice: Elevate Your JAG Presence through Branding

Christine Spiese and Debbie Desmouroux · JAG Louisiana

JAG Specialists: Want more students and community backing? Learn how to market your program to inspire participation and support.

● 4:15 – 5:30 PM

## WORKSHOPS

3

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

### The Huddle: An Affiliate Leader Pop-In Space

Jan Ennis & Karin Wu · JAG National Team

No agendas. No formal presentations. Just collective genius. While structured sessions are great, some of the best breakthroughs happen during the casual, unplanned chats between peers. Welcome to The Huddle, a dedicated pop-in workshop designed entirely for JAG Affiliate Leaders.

● 4:15 – 5:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

### The No-Drama Classroom

Beatrice Matthews & April Stewart · JAG Louisiana

Drama free, preventative tools to keep our middle school classroom in order.

● 4:15 – 5:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SPECIAL ROOM DETAILS TBA

### California Connections: Come and Network with other California-Based Organizations

Jeff Davis · California Afterschool Network

● 4:15 – 5:30 PM

# IMMERSIONS

Afternoon · 60–90 min

## IMMERSION

1

IMMERSION · STEAM IMMERSION

LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

### STEAM Workforce Immersion: Try the Job, Then Teach It

In partnership with Legends Global

A working venue becomes a hands-on workforce simulation. Small groups rotate through three live zones — Workforce Pathways, Operations in Motion, and Live Production — trying real tasks alongside the pros who do them every day.

• AFTERNOON · 60–90 MIN

# EVENING

Evening

## SESSION

1

SESSION · EVENING SOCIAL

THE COVE · LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER (OUTDOOR SPACE)

### California Dreamin' at EDGE

Lean into the SoCal spirit with food trucks, music, games, and laid-back creative connections inspired by the energy of Long Beach.

• EVENING

# 02

WEDNESDAY · JULY 15, 2026

## DAY 2 BUILD TOGETHER

<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
KEYNOTE	LABS	WORKSHOPS	SANDBOXES	IMMERSION

### OPENING KEYNOTE

9:00 – 10:15 AM

#### KEYNOTE

1

KEYNOTE · GENERAL SESSION MAIN STAGE

### Day 2 Keynote

**Professor Fernando Garibay** · Garibay Center / Producer & Entrepreneur

The Vision: Moving beyond the technicalities of AI to explore the "Human Spirit in the Digital Age." We will challenge the next generation to bridge the gap between technical trades, academia, and the future of work. Featuring panelists Leigh Anne Taylor Knight (DeBruce Foundation), Denise Yap (Synchrony Foundation), and Janelle Duray (Jobs for America's Graduates).

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

**BLOCK 5** DAY 2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**LABS**

2

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201A

**Learning That Leads Somewhere:  
Creating Career-Connected  
Pathways for Economic Mobility  
& Contribution to Community****Meg Riordan & Luke Matys** · The Possible Zone

Educators preparing students for the future of work can bridge the classroom-career gap by designing real-world learning with industry and community partners.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201B

**Building Young CEOs: A New  
Model for Teen Entrepreneurship****Dr. Jamila Davis** · Partners Uplifting Our Daughters and Sons (PUDS)

What happens when young people are given access to entrepreneurship, mentorship, leadership opportunities, and real belief in their potential?

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**WORKSHOPS**

10

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

**Behind the CFP: Community,  
Careers, and Connections****Moely Evans** · CFP Board

An introduction to the CFP Board, engagement opportunities, and how to work with the CFP Board Volunteers in your classroom.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

**From Classroom to Career:  
Building Employer-Aligned Talent  
Pipelines That Actually Work****Thomas Covington** · Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Murfreesboro

Workforce leaders struggling with low placement or weak employer engagement will learn how to design employer-aligned pipelines that produce measurable hiring outcomes—not just program completion.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

## Connecting Futures: How Mobile Connectivity Expands Opportunity for JAG Students

Chris Watson &amp; Kaity Parent · Mobile Beacon

Discover how JAG New Mexico is closing the digital access gap and transforming learning through innovative, low-cost mobile connectivity.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

## Building a Youth Apprenticeship Movement: A California Blueprint for Employer-Driven Scale

Jill Armington · Career Wise

For workforce and education leaders stuck in pilot mode, this session delivers a proven blueprint to turn youth apprenticeship into a scalable, employer-driven regional movement.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

## Break Before You Break: Addressing Mental Health in the Construction Workforce

Tony Glover · ClayCo

Change the culture of high-pressure careers by teaching the next generation how to recognize burnout early and break before they break.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · ALUMNI ROOM 202B

## The Agilities Flyover

Christine Hocker, Kristie Larson, Rebecca Kessler · DeBruce Foundation

Help Students Build Confidence and Prepare for Careers through the Agilities©

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · CURRICULUM / PBL

ROOM 202C

## The Power of Possibility

Krisner Green · JAG Louisiana

When you control your attitude, you control your direction and outcome. Positivity isn't just a feel-good concept; it's a powerful leadership tool. Learn how positivity influences motivation, resilience, and success in both personal and professional environments.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

## Foundations of Resilience: Building Trauma-Resilient Educational Communities

Craig Beswick &amp; Dana Brown · TREC

For dedicated educators and leaders struggling to bridge the academic and emotional gaps created by the trauma epidemic, TREC 101 provides the evidence-based PACEs science and practical tools needed to cultivate lasting resilience through t...

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

### AI For Everyone: Tools for Human-Augmenting with the Help of AI

Jen Garcia · CalTech

Discover practical, user-friendly AI tools designed to supercharge your daily productivity, streamline workflows, and amplify human capability without requiring a tech background.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 203C

### Fostering Collaborative Funding Opportunities

Jahrell Thomas · Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Strengthening collaboration through funding investments to drive education and workforce outcomes for youth and young adults

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## SANDBOXES

2

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101A

### Catapult Career Readiness Software

Pamela Donnelly & Bill Swartout · American Access Institute

Explore how this intuitive platform streamlines career exploration, skill-building, and resume creation to effectively propel students into their next professional steps.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101B

### Data Management & Data Integrity

Michele Cody · JAG National Team

Join us for a drop-in session to ask questions about the JAGForce Data Management System. Come with questions or to learn new tips and tricks to master your data entry!

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

# BLOCK 6 DAY 2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 – 2:30 PM

## LAB

1

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201A

### JAG Engagement Bootcamp

Jennifer Bogar Richardson & Leon Bunion · JAG New Jersey

JAG Specialists are expected to launch high-impact programs — this hands-on boot camp gives educators a step-by-step, student-centered playbook to boost engagement, ignite motivation, and leave with a student success toolkit to make their J...

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

## WORKSHOPS

9

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

### Pipeline Development

California Afterschool Network

Join the California Afterschool Network to explore collaborative strategies and proven practices that align expanded learning programs with workforce development pipelines across the state.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

### High Road Leadership - Uniting When Their Is Division

Sheila Jones · Whicked Results

In today's environment, division is easy. Unity takes leadership. This powerful session, inspired by principles from High Road Leadership by John Maxwell, is designed for business owners, community leaders, and JAG team members who are responsible for guiding teams through tension, change, and competing priorities.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

### Designing an Effective JAG Out of School Model

Kristine Moore, Andrew Urquidez, Janice De La O , · JAG New Mexico

This session will guide participants through the essential components of building a high-impact Out-of-School (OOS) model that supports youth success beyond the traditional classroom setting.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

### Strengthening Teacher Preparation

Dr. Danielle Williams, Patti Cruz, Austin Small, Michael Dozier · Grambling State University

Teacher preparation programs across the nation face a persistent gap between what candidates experience in preparation and how they are evaluated once they enter K–12 classrooms.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

### Behind the Breakthrough: Participant Voices from CSU East Bay's Innovative Workforce Development Program

Dr. Harshdeep Singh Nanda, Rachel Ticas, · California State University, East Bay

Behind every workforce breakthrough is intentional design - and participants who can prove it.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · ALUMNI ROOM 202B

### Department of Labor Grant Recipients COP

John McConnell · JAG National Team

Join us for an engaging session to share best practices and discuss new opportunities aligned with the Department of Labor.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

### The Future of Brain-Based Research is Here

Carlos Partida & Crag McEwen · Serene Health

Personalized repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (PrTMS®) PrTMS is delivered to help reduce symptoms associated with depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and sleep disorders.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

### AI With Discernment: Help JAG Students Work With AI, Not Just For It

Poly Chen Smith · PlayLab AI

Participants who want to close the career-readiness gap will leave this session with a custom-built AI tool designed for their students' real barriers — and the discernment to know when AI helps and when it gets in the way.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WORKSHOP · SPECIAL ROOM 203C

## Services and Support Model for Homeless Youth

**Carolina Cortazar, Ileana Martinez, Nelson Murcia-Chavez, Neri Rivas** · Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Homeless; not Hopeless, through coordinated support, young people can thrive and feel empowered to achieve stability by building a career to secure and sustain permanent housing.

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

### SANDBOX

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101A

## The Transformational Shift in Youth Interview Skill Development!

**Emanuel Wilder** · Interview Institute

Ask yourself 2 questions: What is the key global challenge that you were uniquely designed to solve? And, Why haven't you solved it yet?

● 1:30 – 2:30 PM

**BLOCK 7** DAY 2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:00 – 4:00 PM

## WORKSHOPS

9

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 102C

**Financial Tools for Student Success**

Synchrony

Join the Synchrony Financial Literacy Service Corp to explore hands-on tools and practical strategies designed to equip students with the essential money management skills they need for a successful financial future.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · EDUCATORS ROOM 103B

**All about LOVE - Sparking a Movement**

Enlight Unite

Join the Enlight Unite Foundation for an inspiring session dedicated to cultivating connection, fostering empathy, and exploring how prioritizing love can ignite a powerful movement for positive social change.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

**Future-Proof Planning: A Career-Centric Pathway Framework for College & Career Readiness**

Melissa Winter · Kuder Inc.

Create a future-proof approach to student success planning by implementing a structured, career-centric pathway planning framework that guides every student from exploration to postsecondary and workforce outcomes.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

**Universal Technical Institute: In-Demand Careers & Skilled Labor**

Join Universal Technical Institute to explore high-growth career paths and discover exactly what skills today's economy is looking for in the next generation of technical professionals.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · YOUNG ADULT ROOM 202B

**Meeting Youth Where They Are To Get Them To Where They Want To Be**

Kerry Twomey &amp; Max Schelkopf · Metrix Learning

Connecting youth learners with the skills they need to thrive in in-demand occupations

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · CURRICULUM / PBL

ROOM 202C

**Tools for Active Listening to Support Students and Employees**

Jason Filie · Empowered

Discover practical strategies and actionable tools to master the art of active listening, fostering stronger relationships and deeper engagement with both the young people and professionals you lead.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · JAG ADVANTAGE ROOM 203A

### Successful Classrooms Begin with Healed Teachers

Dr. Paulette Brown · JAG New Jersey

Teaching is one of the most impactful professions, yet educators often carry stress, emotional fatigue, and personal challenges that can influence the classroom environment. This workshop explores the powerful connection between teacher well-being and student success.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · AI TRACK ROOM 203B

### The Great Wealth Transfer: Preparing Youth for America's Largest Career Opportunity

Jordan & Deanna Blackwell · Siah Labs

Transform young people from job seekers into business owners by connecting them to 6 million retiring entrepreneurs.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

### The Huddle: An Affiliate Leader Pop-In Space

Jan Ennis & Karin Wu · JAG National Team

No agendas. No formal presentations. Just collective genius. While structured sessions are great, some of the best breakthroughs happen during the casual, unplanned chats between peers. Welcome to The Huddle, a dedicated pop-in workshop designed entirely for JAG Affiliate Leaders.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

## SANDBOX

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101A

### Try AI Coaches That Help Young People Speak Up with Confidence at Work

Eric Shepherd · Foundation for Talent Transformation

Try AI Coaches that help young people practice workplace conversations and build the confidence to ask questions, contribute ideas, and speak up at work.

● 3:00 – 4:00 PM

**IMMERSION**

1

**IMMERSION · DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

CONVENTION CENTER · ROOM 204

## **La Lucha — Documentary Screening**

La Lucha: Getting Schooled in America

Five students fight to graduate against the odds in this nine-time award-winning documentary. Featuring Danny Trejo, Tony Cárdenas, and Dr. Drew Pinsky; directed by Rand Courtney. Watch it with a room full of practitioners who live this work.

● 4:15 – 5:45 PM

# 03

THURSDAY · JULY 16, 2026

## DAY 3 SEND-OFF

3

KEYNOTES

2

LABS

6

WORKSHOPS

1

SANDBOX

### OPENING KEYNOTE

8:00 – 9:00 AM

#### KEYNOTE

1

KEYNOTE · GENERAL SESSION MAIN STAGE

### Day 3 Keynote

**Governor Albert Bryan Jr.** · Governor, US Virgin Islands

Governor of the US Virgin Islands on policy, leadership, and building career pathways for the next generation.

• 8:00 – 9:00 AM

**BLOCK 9** DAY 3 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 – 10:15 AM

## LABS

2

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201A

**Multiply yourself with a gamified micro-coach for each of your students****Amanda Perdaris** · Knowledge as a Service Inc / Ringorang

Create your own micro-coach that delivers personalized paths for each student and never let's them down

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

LAB · CREATIVE LAB ROOM 201B

**Legacy by Design: Owning Your Town, Building What Lasts****Sheila Jones** · Whicked Results

This session is about moving beyond plans and partnerships and stepping into full ownership of your community's future. It challenges leaders to stop tolerating misalignment and start making the decisions required to build lasting impact across education, business, and economic development.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

## WORKSHOPS

6

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 103A

**The 4 Essential Roles of Leadership****Dr. Candace Singh** · Franklin Covey

Empower leaders across education and workforce systems to stop spinning plates and start driving outcomes — with a proven framework that builds trust, sharpens focus, and grows the next generation of leaders.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

WORKSHOP · WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ROOM 103C

**From Exposure to Employment: Building Pre-Apprenticeship that Actually Delivers****Shauna Harman** · CareerWise

Move from exposure to employment by building pre-apprenticeship pathways that deliver real outcomes for students and employers.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

WORKSHOP · SKILLED TRADES ROOM 202A

### Bring Me All of Your Dreams...”: Introducing a new framework and resource kit for Dreamkeepers™ everywhere to activate the dreams of the rising generation

Mike McGalliard (Calvin & Cara) · Free to Dream

Dreams have the power to change life outcomes, and by learning these Five Practices caring adults (“Dreamkeepers”) can support youth in using their dreams for personal and collective transformation.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

WORKSHOP · ALUMNI ROOM 202B

### From Exploration to Experience: Scaling High-Quality Work-Based Learning Through Strategic Employer Partnerships

Melissa Winter, Sarah Wilson, & Wendy Mihm-Herold · Kuder Inc.

A practical framework for program leaders and HR teams to build and sustain high-quality work-based learning and talent-pipeline partnerships.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

WORKSHOP · POLICY / FINANCE

ROOM 202C

### Government Affairs Fishbowl Session

Karin Wu · JAG National Team

Join together with other leaders to discuss best practices and successes in government relations.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

WORKSHOP · LEADERSHIP ROOM 203B

### The Huddle: An Affiliate Leader Pop-In Space

Jan Ennis · JAG National Team

No agendas. No formal presentations. Just collective genius. While structured sessions are great, some of the best breakthroughs happen during the casual, unplanned chats between peers. Welcome to The Huddle, a dedicated pop-in workshop designed entirely for JAG Affiliate Leaders.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

## SANDBOX

SANDBOX · SANDBOX ROOM 101B

### Hands-On Career Discovery: Try the Latest Evidence-Based Assessments

Eric Shepherd · Foundation for Talent Transformation

Try free, evidence-based career discovery assessments and see how they help young people identify strengths, interests, and career direction.

● 9:00 – 10:15 AM

# CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## KEYNOTES

2

KEYNOTE · CLOSING SESSION MAIN STAGE

### Closing General Session

Jason Van Leukelem, Lori McEwen, Janelle Duray · JAG National

JAG leadership closes out the conference with reflections, calls to action, a three-minute clip from Multiple Choice — The Film, and a look ahead.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

KEYNOTE · CLOSING SESSION MAIN STAGE

### Closing Remarks & Send-Off

Ashley Dos Santos

Final spotlight and virtual encore — QR code and screening to extend the EDGE experience.

● 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

— SEE YOU IN LONG BEACH

# WHERE EDUCATION MEETS THE FUTURE OF WORK.

EDGE 2026 brings together JAG affiliates, specialists, educators, alumni, employers, and policy leaders for three days of deep collaboration. We can't wait to build with you.

## DATES

July 14–16, 2026

## VENUE

Long Beach Convention Center  
300 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA

## REGISTER

[jag.org/edge](http://jag.org/edge)

## QUESTIONS

[events@jag.org](mailto:events@jag.org)

### FEATURED PARTNERS



Sponsorship opportunities and booth reservations remain open. See [jag.org/edge](http://jag.org/edge) for the full partner directory.