



2026 Annual Conference Schedule

October 14–16, 2026 | Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California

Time	Session	Location
Day 1 Wednesday, October 14, 2026		
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Preconference #1: Onboarding for New PD Practitioners	Summit Room I
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Preconference #2: The Power of Facilitation	Summit Room IV
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Preconference West
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Conference Opening	Summit Room III
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Opening Keynote: Quay Dorsey	Summit Room III
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Break	
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	General Session: Updates from the Chancellor's Office	Summit Room III
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Break	
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Breakout Session #1	Summit Rooms I–V
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Connection Hour	Summit Room III
Day 2 Thursday, October 15, 2026		
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Check-in and Breakfast	Preconference West
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Connection Activity, Updates, and Checking In	Summit Room III
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.	Day 2 Keynote: Dr. Denise Maduli-Williams	Summit Room III
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Breakout Session #2	Summit Rooms I–V
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch	Preconference West
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	General Session: The Collective IQ: Launching Our Professional Learning Brain Trust	Summit Room III
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Session #3	Summit Rooms I–V
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Break	
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Breakout Session #4	Summit Rooms I–V

Schedule at a Glance (continued)

Time	Session	Location
Day 3 Friday, October 16, 2026		
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Preconference West
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakout Session #5	Summit Rooms I–V
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session #6	Summit Rooms I–V
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Break	
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Closing Session	Summit Room III
12:00 p.m.	Grab-and-Go Lunch	Preconference West

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California
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Day 1 | Wednesday, October 14, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Preconference Sessions

Preconference #1: Onboarding for New PD Practitioners

Dr. Natalie Vázquez | Riverside City College

Room: Summit Room I

Designed for professionals who are new to the field of professional development, this session provides foundational knowledge, practical tools, and opportunities to connect with colleagues across the California Community Colleges system. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of their role, strengthen their PD planning skills, and build a network of peer support.

Preconference #2: The Power of Facilitation

Ricardo Vidal and Deanna Cherry | R&D Facilitation

Room: Summit Room IV

This interactive workshop explores the art of effective facilitation, helping participants build engagement, navigate group dynamics, and lead meaningful conversations. Through experiential learning and practical strategies, attendees will develop skills to facilitate meetings, workshops, and collaborative campus discussions with greater confidence and impact.

LUNCH | 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. | Preconference West

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. | Conference Opening

Room: Summit Room III

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Opening Keynote

Holding the Moment Together: Professional Development, AI, and Equity-Minded Leadership in a Changing Higher Education Landscape

Quay Dorsey | WestEd Center for Economic Mobility

Room: Summit Room III

Using AI as a timely case study, Quay Dorsey offers a practical sense-making approach for leading through rapid change that centers student voice, equity, and campus context, and positions professional learning practitioners as connectors, culture builders, and sensemakers.

BREAK | 2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

2:15 – 3:00 p.m. | General Session

Updates from the Chancellor's Office

Jessica Fagan, Raul Arambula, and Michelle Pacansky-Brock | California Community Colleges
Chancellor's Office

Room: Summit Room III

BREAK | 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Breakout Session #1

Summit Room I

Closing the Gap: Leading Faculty Toward Evidence-Based, Equity-Driven Teaching

Donna M. Greene | College of the Desert

Learn how College of the Desert partnered with ACUE to equip faculty with research-backed, equity-driven teaching practices, and leave with actionable steps for leading similar change at your institution.

Summit Room II

Igniting and Reimagining Professional Learning

Nadia Khan and Lauren Adams | MiraCosta College

Experience two Lightning Talks in action and explore MiraCosta College's toolkit of engaging formats, including Train and Play sessions and themed learning, that center employee voice and broaden participation. Leave with ready-to-use ideas and templates.

Summit Room IV

Leadership Development Isn't a Curriculum—It's an Experience

Alyssa Graff | College of Marin

Explore how to design leadership learning as an experience rather than content delivery, so classified professionals and emerging leaders see themselves as leaders regardless of title. Leave with tools for building inclusive, equitable leadership programs.

Summit Room V

Project Management Foundations: Intro to Gap Analysis

Aaron Mezzano | Mt. San Antonio College

Turn "where we are" into "where we want to be." This workshop introduces gap analysis, a versatile project management strategy for pinpointing goals, identifying barriers, and mapping the steps to reach them.

CONNECTION HOUR | 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Summit Room III

Day 2 | Thursday, October 15, 2026

CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Preconference West

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Connection Activity, Updates, and Checking In

Room: Summit Room III

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. | Day 2 Keynote

Designing for Everyone: A Human-Centered Approach to Access and Learning

Dr. Denise Maduli-Williams | San Diego Miramar College

Room: Summit Room III

Dr. Maduli-Williams shows how a human-centered approach to accessibility and Universal Design for Learning shifts the conversation from compliance to shared responsibility, with practical examples of small design choices that reduce barriers right away.

BREAK | 10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Breakout Session #2

Summit Room I

Come One/Come All – Let's Have a Ball: Open Forum and Flex for All

Amita Suhrid | North Orange County Community College District

ESS 25-71 expands Flex participation to classified professionals, administrators, adjunct faculty, and student employees. This open forum invites colleges to exchange implementation models, challenges, and innovations, and build a statewide network of support.

Summit Room II

Freedom to Develop: Expanding Access, Innovation, and Impact Through the Vision Resource Center

Jung W. Kim and Brian McCaleb | Foundation for California Community Colleges

Discover how the Vision Resource Center is expanding access to professional learning through live training, a statewide events calendar, AI-powered support tools, a growing resource library, and new approaches to compliance training.

Summit Room IV

Elevating Our Campus Cultures through Equity-Minded Employee Mentorship Practices

Nicole Blean, Ed.D. | Mt. San Antonio College

Drawing on dissertation research, this workshop shares practices for building a campuswide culture of employee mentorship that develops equity-minded leaders at every level and strengthens student engagement.

Summit Room V

Building AI Capacity: A Framework for Role-Based Professional Learning

Jennifer Bielman | Riverside City College

Explore how Riverside City College built an AI framework that integrates governance, role-based professional learning, competencies, and communities of practice. Leave with a roadmap for building equitable AI capacity at your institution.

LUNCH | 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. | Preconference West

1:15 – 2:15 p.m. | General Session

The Collective IQ: Launching Our Professional Learning Brain Trust

Room: Summit Room III

Join the launch of our Brain Trust for Professional Learning Practitioners, a standing community for pooling collective expertise. Learn a framework for tapping peer expertise, share a challenge or win, and leave with one action step and a thinking partner.

BREAK | 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Breakout Session #3

Summit Room I

Equity-Minded Leadership: Elevating the Pro Dev Framework Across Campus

Flavio Medina-Martin | North Orange County Community College District

Explore equity-minded leadership as an ongoing journey for professional learning practitioners, with campus community, colleagues, and students at the center, and examine the elements of this work that are unique to the practitioner role.

Summit Room II

The Evidence We Hear Every Day: Turning Student Conversations into Institutional Insight

Dominique Benavides Becerra | RSSC

Classified professionals hear student experiences every day. Learn to recognize patterns in those conversations, connect them with data, and contribute frontline insight to planning, equity initiatives, and institutional decision-making.

Summit Room IV

From Core Values to Culture: Building Engagement Through People-First Professional Development

Cassie Gunter and Mikayla Carey | Merced College

Learn how Merced College's people-first, hire-to-retire engagement model contributed to a 96% employee retention rate, and explore data-informed professional learning practices that strengthen belonging and leadership pipelines.

Summit Room V

Embodied Equity, Real Impact: Practical Strategies for Advancing Neurodiversity Support in Community Colleges

Dr. Cheryl Getz, Dr. Niki Elliot, and Shannon Krajewski | University of San Diego

Drawing from the University of San Diego's NETA certificate program, engage with embodied, equity-centered strategies, including the EI 360 Framework, for creating environments that support neurodiverse students and employees.

BREAK | 3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m. | Breakout Session #4

Summit Room I

Flying Together, Rising Together: Building Collective Leadership

Lita Abella | Mt. San Antonio College

Identify barriers, practice mindset tools such as gratitude and affirmations, and build accountability plans and mentorship circles in this interactive session on collective leadership.

Summit Room II

Emerging Technologies...Get Inspired

Donna Gustafson | Palomar College / CCC TechConnect

Get an overview of no-cost tools and services available to the California Community Colleges, including AI features in Zoom and Canvas, video integrations, and captioning options. Send questions in advance to support@ccctechconnect.org.

Summit Room V

Project Management Foundations: Charting the Course for Success

Aaron Mezzano | Mt. San Antonio College

Learn to craft a clear, compelling project charter that aligns your team and secures stakeholder buy-in from day one, before your next initiative begins.

Day 3 | Friday, October 16, 2026

BREAKFAST | 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Preconference West

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Breakout Session #5

Summit Room II

Two Academies, One Mission: Building Equitable Professional Learning for Faculty and Classified Professionals

Dr. Trishana Norquist | Southwestern College

Explore how Southwestern College's parallel equity academies for faculty and classified professionals strengthen collaboration and expand access to professional growth. Leave with adaptable strategies and ready-to-use tools.

Summit Room IV

Ready, Set, Succeed! Creating a Cohort-Based Classified Employee Orientation Program

Vicky Valle, Sarah Schmidt, and Parwana Ayobi | Chaffey College

Learn how a six-session, cohort-based orientation for classified professionals integrates mentorship and community-building. Leave with adaptable tools for onboarding that fosters inclusion and long-term success.

BREAK | 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. | Breakout Session #6

Summit Room I

Who's at the Table? Co-Designing PL That Actually Works for Everyone

Dr. Natalie Vázquez | Riverside City College

Examine who is centered, and who is missing, in your institution's professional learning ecosystem. Through structured dialogue and equity-focused protocols, co-create strategies for more inclusive design and leave with concrete next steps.

Summit Room II

Investing in Classified Professionals: A Leadership Academy Model for Equity and Advancement

Ty Thomas, Ed.D. | Citrus College

Go behind the scenes of Citrus College's year-long Classified Leadership Academy, from concept to implementation, and leave with strategies and sample resources to design and sustain a similar program on your campus.

BREAK | 11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Closing Session

Room: Summit Room III

GRAB-AND-GO LUNCH | 12:00 p.m. | Preconference West

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