

ESC19 HOSTS 2026 CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUMMER CONFERENCE FEATURING NATIONAL AI AND WORKFORCE LEADER RACHEL MANN

El Paso, Texas (March 2026) – Education Service Center Region 19 (ESC19) will host its **2026 Career and Technical Education Summer Conference** on **June 18, 2026**, at the **Starlight Event Center, 6650 Continental Drive**, in El Paso.

The conference, scheduled from **7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, will bring together Career and Technical Education teachers, counselors, administrators and workforce partners to focus on preparing students for an evolving workforce influenced by emerging technologies.

The keynote speaker will be **Rachel Mann**, a nationally recognized leader in artificial intelligence, education and workforce development.

Mann is the executive director of NCLA, host of an education and technology podcast, and the author of six books, including *"Pack Your Bags for an AI-Driven Future."* She has developed university-level artificial intelligence courses and created three AI micro-credentials for the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

"Artificial intelligence is already reshaping how we work, live and learn," Mann said. "Educators play a critical role in helping students understand that shift and preparing them with skills that will remain relevant in the future workforce."

ESC19 officials said the annual conference emphasizes direct connections between education and industry.

"As we prepare students for careers that may not yet exist, it's essential that educators have access to real-world perspectives and emerging workforce trends," said **Dr. Angelica Haro**, ESC19 Director of Information and Instructional Technology. "This conference helps bridge that gap by connecting classroom instruction with industry innovation."

Conference organizer **Dr. Oscar Carrera**, ESC19 Professional Development Consultant, said the event is designed to move beyond awareness and toward practical application.

"We cannot afford to wait for change to happen around us," Carrera said. "Our goal is to ensure educators are not only informed about artificial intelligence and workforce shifts, but confident in using practical strategies they can apply immediately in their classrooms and CTE programs."

The conference will feature main-stage presentations, breakout sessions and professional learning opportunities focused on workforce readiness, instructional innovation and industry alignment.

To register and for more information, please visit: <https://www.esc19.net/conferences/cte-summer-conference>.