

# 2026 Conference Program

One-Pager Schedule



PREPARING THE  
WORKFORCE OF  
TOMORROW!

**Registration & Breakfast**  
Starlight Event Center | 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

## RIO GRANDE SUMMIT ROOM #1

**Opening Ceremony & Welcome**  
8:30 AM – 9:10 AM

**Keynote Address – Rachael Mann**  
Pack Your Bags for an AI-Driven Future  
9:10 AM – 10:00 AM

**Special Presentation – Lauren Mason, PhD**  
Building AI-Ready Career and Technical Education Pipelines:  
An Applied Co-Intelligence Approach  
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

**Mainstage Breakout Presentation – Rachael Mann, Keynote Speaker**  
Beyond Prompting: Training Your AI Teammate  
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM



# One-Pager Schedule

## ROOMS

<b>Rio Grande Summit Room #1</b>	<b>Sunset Room #2</b>	<b>Scenic Drive Room #3</b>	<b>Mission Trail Room #4</b>	<b>Trans Mountain Room #5</b>	<b>Sky View Terrace</b>
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### LUNCH & EXHIBITOR EXPO | 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

#### Breakout Sessions #1 1:00 PM-1:50 PM

<p>Aislinn Hargadon, Education Outreach Specialist at Texas Workforce Commission</p> <hr/> <p><b>Teaching for Tomorrow: AI, Skills, and the Evolving Workforce</b></p>	<p>Colleen Cannon-Ruffo, Solutions Architect &amp; Carrie Aviles, Key Account Manager at LEGO Education</p> <hr/> <p><b>Hands-on Computer Science &amp; AI Learning with LEGO® Education</b></p>	<p>Lauren Discher, Senior Network Coordinator &amp; Jasmine Paiz, Implementation Coordinator at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reimagining Tomorrow's Workforce with My Texas Future</b></p>	<p>Claudio Zavala Jr., Education Evangelist at Adobe</p> <hr/> <p><b>Marketing &amp; Branding with Adobe Express</b></p>	<p>Lupe Mares, President; Dianica Jaquez, Education Director &amp; Brianna Hernandez, Education Specialist at Junior Achievement of the Desert Southwest (El Paso)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Preparing Workforce-Ready Students: Innovative CTE Solutions Through Junior Achievement</b></p>	<p>Marcette Kilgore, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education - College Career and Military Preparation Division at TEA   Erica Bates, Statewide CTE Coordinator at TEA</p> <hr/> <p><b>CTE Administrator Briefing: Updates and Dialogue with TEA</b></p>
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#### Breakout Sessions #2 2:00 PM-2:50 PM

<p>Allison Nys, Partner Success Manager at Discovery Education</p> <hr/> <p><b>From Classroom to Career: A Guided Adventure with Career Connect &amp; Careers Hub</b></p>	<p>Micah Shippee, PhD, Director of Education at Samsung</p> <hr/> <p><b>2059: The Future of Education</b></p>	<p>Lisa J. Ehlers McCuller, Ed.S, Strategic Integration Liaison-MTSS and Inclusive Practices at ESC19 SPED</p> <hr/> <p><b>Beyond Barriers: Designing the Future of CTE with UDL and Human-Centered Technology</b></p>	<p>Jeni Long, MagicSchool AI Solutions Architect &amp; Justin Yopez, EPISD Educator</p> <hr/> <p><b>From classroom to career: Using MagicSchool AI to build workforce ready students!</b></p>	<p>Heidi Flynn, Regional Vice-President, Eddie Alaniz, Partnership Manager, &amp; Gwyn Benton, Partnership Manager at Edmentum</p> <hr/> <p><b>Where Pathways Become Possibilities</b></p>	<p>Janell Valles, NextForce Manager   Dezeree Fraga, Workforce Program Specialist   Daniel Hernandez, CEO at Phi-Tech, LLC</p> <hr/> <p><b>The Next Workforce: Hot Jobs, Real Skills, Real Employers</b></p>
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#### Breakout Sessions #3 3:00 PM-3:50 PM

<p><b>Israel Castro, Founder; Raul Garcia, Program Coordinator &amp; Erika Rivas, Strive Instructor at Strive Now</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>The Future of Education Starts With You - Session Exclusively for Education &amp; Training HS Students</b></p>	<p>David Warren Hernandez Ed.D., Ernesto Ayala, Aaron Rogers, K-12 Education Leadership Executives &amp; Brannon Stegall, Systems Engineer at Apple</p> <hr/> <p><b>Career Readiness with Apple: Skilling the Future Workforce</b></p>	<p>Anna Crockett, Senior Advisor, Community Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas</p> <hr/> <p><b>Young Adults in the Age of AI: Labor Market Challenges and Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Maria "Sharo" Dickerson, Director of Teaching &amp; Learning - AARSI at Las Cruces Public Schools</p> <hr/> <p><b>Prompt to Portfolio: AI-Powered Project-Based Learning in CTE</b></p>	<p>Obed Hernandez, Instructional Technology Coordinator at Clint ISD</p> <hr/> <p><b>From Takeoff to Transition: CoDrone EDU for CTE</b></p>	<p>Jason Slabodsky, Lead Teacher Success Specialist at UTeach Computer Science</p> <hr/> <p><b>Leading with HEART: Ethical AI for Future Ready Schools</b></p>
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### Closing Session & Door Prizes at Rio Grande Summit | 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM