

NAJA 42nd Annual National Conference Conference “Tie Dyed - Bringing It All Together” Downtown Dallas
Sheraton, May 11-15, 2026



Monday, May 11, 2026

8:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Registration

11:45 A.M. (plenary) Welcome to NAJA: Macey Prince Swinson, CEO and President, NAJA and General announcements Heddy

12:00 - 12:30 P.M. (plenary) Welcome to Dallas and America’s Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age: USDOLETA Region 4: M. Frank Stluka, Acting Regional Administrator—Dallas & Dudley Light—Regional Director Office of Apprenticeship—Dallas

12:30 - 1:30 P.M. (plenary) Workforce Pep Talk - Jan Vogel, Executive Director - Southbay Workforce Investment Board

1:30 - 3:00 P.M. (plenary) Understanding Your Grant Agreement Retired Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDOLETA Laura P Watson, Conference Keynote

3:00 - 3:15 P.M. Break

3:15 - 4:45 P.M. (fiscal) 2 CFR 200 UG, 2 CFR 2900 & other mandatory requirements: US DOLETA Dallas Region: Glarion Webb, Grants/Financial Management Specialist; and Tamika Wright, Accountant

3:15 - 4:45 P.M. (program) The Current State of AI in Workforce Developmental : The Good, The Bad, and What’s Next - Josh Davies, Workforce Futurist

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. (plenary) RESILity: The Key to Thriving in Uncertain Times" Josh Davies, Workforce Futurist

9:00 - 10:30 A.M. (plenary) “The Top Ten Things To Know About Registered Apprenticeship” Maria Remboulis (formerly Maria Remboulis Brady), M.A. Multi-State Navigator, Office of Apprenticeship, Dallas Regional Office

10:30 - 10:45 A.M. Break

10:45 A.M.- 12:00 P.M. (plenary) “Best Practices to Protect Personal Identifiable Information (PII)” Nancy Meeden, Esq - Sr. Workforce Policy Manager, AZ DES

12:00 - 1:30 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

1:30 - 2:30 P.M. (fiscal) Let’s Talk Fiscal - Zaskia Ruiz, Executive VP, KRA

1:30 - 2:30 P.M. (program) “Challenges and Lessons Learned: Rapid Response” Laura Bishoff, Rapid Response Coordinator and ETPL Coordinator, Southbay WIB

2:30 - 3:45 P.M. (fiscal) Cash Management ETA Region 4: Kristy Woodard, DFMAS Division Chief/Regional Grant Officer; Brian Johnston, Fiscal Management and Program Analyst; and Shalonda Thompson, Fiscal Management and Program Analyst

2:30 - 3:45 P.M. (program) Case Management Including Follow-up Systems emphasizing placement and retention. Akil Bektemba, President/CEO Vanguard Consulting Group, LLC - and Sheron Morgan, Executive Director, Worksource Coastal and SETA President

3:45 - 4:00 P.M. Break

4:00 - 5:30 P.M. (fiscal) Financial Roundtable on Common Findings ETA Region 4: Kristy Woodard, DFMAS Division Chief/Regional Grant Officer and Glarion Webb, Grants/Financial Management Specialist, Lisa Thomas, VP of Finance, Southwest Partnership for Training and Employment; Marilyn Mireles, Sr. Finance Analyst, Workforce Connections, Catherine Bondoc, Retired LA City Finance Director

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

8:00 - 9:15 A. M. (plenary) A Dynamic Conversation with System Leaders and YOU! Richard Maher, Adaptive Human Capital, LLC; John Helton Principle and Founder, Bright Idea Collaborative; and Ron Painter, Principal, Forbes Field Associates

9:15 - 10:30 A.M. (plenary) Audit Resolution w/A New Spin - how to respond (practical advice) how to meet/greet your auditor & how to respond to USDOLETA Retired DAS Laura P Watson

10:30 - 10:45 A.M. Break

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. (fiscal) Cost Principles Ed Donahue Topic

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. (program) Program Monitoring - Krister Engdhal, Retired Federal Project Officer (FPO) USDOLETA, SF

12:00- 1:30 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

1:30 - 2:30 (fiscal) Financial Reporting for Direct Grantees and Subrecipients - Macey Prince Swinson, Sole Proprietor and NAJA CEO and President

1:30 - 2:30 P.M. (program) LMI Session: Patterns in Labor Market Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics Dallas Region: Italina DiFulvio, Branch Chief of Industry and Employment Statistics, and Margaret Humphrey, Branch Chief of Occupational Unemployment, Employment and Wages Statistics

2:30 - 3:45 P.M. (plenary) Fiscal Monitoring ETA Region 4: Glarion Webb, Grants/Financial Management Specialist and Amber Flowers, Accountant and Catherine Bondoc, retired Director of Finance, LA City

3:45 - 4:00 Break

4:00 - 5:30 P.M. (program) The Future of Jobs and Work - John Chamberlin, Esq.

4:00 - 5:30 (fiscal) Procurement - Macey Swinson, Sole Proprietor and NAJA CEO and President

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Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:00 - 9:30 P.M. (program) Board Governance - John Chamberlin, Esq.

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. (fiscal) Administrative vs Program Costs Deep Dive Catherine Bondoc, Retired Finance Director, LA City

9:30 - 9:45 - Break

9:45 - 11:00 A.M. (plenary) Registered Apprenticeship: a discussion about Building Partnerships and Braiding Resources” Maria Remboulis (formerly Maria Remboulis Brady), M.A., U.S. DOL, ETA, Dallas Region 4 and Harry Dispensa, retired Analyst, USDOL, Office of Apprenticeship

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. (plenary) Big Picture Trends in Public Workforce Policy - Robert (Bob) Knight, Equus Senior Advisor and Ron Painter, Principal Forbes Associates

12:00 -1:30 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

1:30 - 3:00 P.M. (plenary) Performance Management USDOLETA Dallas - Region 4: Cliff Atkinson, Performance Management and Program Analyst

3:00 - 3:15 P.M. Break

3:15 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. (plenary) Up-to-date Federal Indirect Cost Requirements Victor Lopez, Retired USDOL – Former Chief of the Division of Cost Determination/S&A/OSPE/OASAM. Also, Victor will assist w/grantee specific meetings Tuesday afternoon - Thursday. Art Campbell, Retired USDOL, OASAM Cost Negotiator Wednesday afternoon - Friday

4:30 - 5:30 (fiscal) Record Retention and Closeout Ed Donahue

4:30 - 5:30 Office hours (fiscal in program space):
Indirect Cost discussions w/Victor Lopez and Art Campbell (if space allows)

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Friday, May 15, 2026

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. (plenary) Compliance to Connection: Data Storytelling and AI to Bridge the Gap - Zaskia Ruiz, Executive VP, KRA

9:30 - 9:45 A.M. Break

9:45 - 11:15 A.M. (plenary) Washington Update Robert (Bob) Knight, Equus Senior Advisor

11:15 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.(plenary) Q&A and closing - Macey Swinson and Art Campbell

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGES