



Conference Agenda

September 13–17, 2026 | Fort William Henry Hotel, Lake George, NY

saadirectors.org | conference@saadirectors.org

Agenda is preliminary and subject to change. Full agenda with speakers and session descriptions coming Summer 2026.

Sunday		September 13	ARRIVAL DAY
Morning	NASTAD Board of Directors Meeting <i>Board Only</i>	Closed session — board members only	
12:00 PM	Conference Registration & Check-In	Pick up your badge and conference materials	
2:00–4:00 PM	Pre-Conference: OA to SAA Transition <i>Pre-Conference</i>	A facilitated session for states currently navigating or exploring the transition from Office of Apprenticeship (OA) to State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) status. Topics may include federal recognition requirements, staffing and systems infrastructure, lessons learned from recently transitioned states, and peer exchange.	
Evening	Dinner on Your Own	Explore Lake George Village restaurants and waterfront	

Monday

September 14

OPENING DAY

8:00–9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:00–9:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks New York State Apprenticeship Director and NASTAD Board President
9:30–10:45 AM	Opening Plenary Session Keynote address — topic and speaker TBA
10:45–11:15 AM	Networking Break
11:15 AM–12:15 PM	State Director Roundtable: Challenges & Priorities <i>SAA Directors Only</i> Facilitated peer discussion on current state agency challenges, emerging trends, and shared priorities
12:15–1:30 PM	Networking Lunch
1:30–2:45 PM	Plenary Session: Federal Policy & Apprenticeship Landscape Updates on federal apprenticeship policy, USDOL priorities, and legislative outlook
2:45–3:00 PM	Break
3:00–4:15 PM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block A) Topics TBA — may include: quality assurance & compliance, sector expansion strategies, data systems & reporting
4:15–5:15 PM	NASTAD Member Business Meeting <i>SAA Directors Only</i> Annual governance, financials, and membership updates
6:00–8:00 PM	Welcome to New York Reception Hosted by the New York State Apprenticeship Agency — connect with colleagues and kick off the week

Tuesday

September 15

7:30–8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:30–9:45 AM	Plenary Panel: Apprentice & Journeyworker Voices Hear directly from apprentices and journeyworkers about their experience navigating the registered apprenticeship system
9:45–10:15 AM	Networking Break
10:15–11:30 AM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block B) Topics TBA — may include: grants management best practices, employer engagement, postsecondary partnerships
11:30 AM–12:45 PM	Networking Lunch
12:45–2:00 PM	Plenary Session: Innovation in Apprenticeship Spotlighting state-led innovations, new models, and emerging practices
2:00–4:00 PM	Apprenticeship Resource Fair Browse exhibitor tables from sponsors, partners, and resource providers
4:00–5:00 PM	Free Time — Prepare for Evening Event
5:00–8:00 PM	Lake George Boat Ride Evening cruise on Lake George with dinner, drinks, and spectacular Adirondack views

Wednesday		September 16	STRATEGY & CELEBRATION
7:30–8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast		
8:30–9:45 AM	Plenary Session: Related Instruction & Employer Partnerships Exploring models for quality related instruction delivery and strengthening employer engagement in registered apprenticeship		
9:45–10:15 AM	Networking Break		
10:15–11:30 AM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block C) Topics TBA — may include: state agency staffing & operations, youth apprenticeship, RAP standards development		
11:30 AM–12:45 PM	Networking Lunch		
12:45–2:00 PM	Plenary Session: Cross-State Collaboration & Partnerships Opportunities for multi-state initiatives, shared resources, and collective impact		
2:00–2:15 PM	Break		
2:15–3:30 PM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block D) Topics TBA — may include: SAA transitions & lessons learned, communications & marketing, interagency coordination		
3:30–4:30 PM	NASTAD Member Business Meeting <i>SAA Directors Only</i> Governance updates, member resolutions, and association business		
4:30–6:00 PM	Free Time		
6:00–8:30 PM	Taste of the States — Networking Dinner Celebrating state and regional flavors — Member States and VIP Guests		

Thursday		September 17	CLOSING DAY
7:30–8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast		
8:30–10:00 AM	Closing Plenary: Looking Ahead Key takeaways, calls to action, and 2027 conference announcement		
10:00 AM	Conference Adjourns — Safe Travels!		
10:30 AM–12:30 PM	NASTAD Board of Directors Meeting <i>Board Only</i> Closed session — board members only		

Questions? Contact us at conference@saadirectors.org

Session topics, speakers, and times are subject to change. Full agenda with session descriptions and speaker bios will be published Summer 2026.

National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD)