

2026 ALASKA WORKFORCE CONVENING

CONVENING AT A GLANCE



OCTOBER 7-8, 2026



THE NAVE



3502 SPENARD ROAD, ANCHORAGE

DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7



8:00 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast



8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Address

Commissioner Cathy Muñoz - Alaska DOLWD
Randy Sulte, COO - Kakivik/CCI Industrial and ASA Board Chair Elect



9:00 a.m.

Wicked Problem Session 1: Career Pathway Mentorship

A brief panel presentation with Zach Stension of Pathfinder Solutions and Demetria Veasy, AKDOLWD, followed by small-group discussion on building systems and mentorship that bridge gaps along career pathways.



11:30 a.m.

Lunch



12:00 p.m.

Lunch Presentation: Alaska's Workforce Future Topics

Workforce Pell - Jeff Steeprow, Alaska Workforce Investment Board Assistant Director
Untapped Immigrant Workforce Panel - Amy Facklam, Alaska Literacy Program and Nicole Penny, Office of Citizenship Assistance



1:00 p.m.

Regional Workforce Highlights

A panel discussion featuring regional economic development organizations, training centers, and education partners.



2:15 p.m.

Break



2:30 p.m.

Regional Workforce Breakout Sessions

Facilitated discussions on regional workforce needs, promising practices, and opportunities for greater coordination.



3:30 p.m.

Small-Group Reports and Day One Closing



4:00 p.m.

Adjourn for the Day

DAY TWO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8



8:15 a.m.

ASA/AWA Annual Membership Meeting & Breakfast

Building on Progress: Our Path Forward - ASA/AWA Board members reflect on the organization's work and growth over the past year, share what's ahead for 2027, and highlight ways members and partners can get involved.

ASA/AWA Board Elections - Brief introduction of the candidates nominees for the Board of Directors. Voting is open through noon for ASA/AWA members.



9:15 a.m.

Break and Networking



9:45 a.m.

Featured Statewide Workforce Session

2026 AKLNG Workforce Trends & Opportunities Report - Dirk Craft, AWIB Director
Alaska Critical Minerals Accelerator Engine: A New Initiative for Alaska - Lee Ann Munk, Ph.D., CEO, NSF Critical Mineral Accelerator Engine in Alaska



10:45 a.m.

Industry Breakout Sessions

- Healthcare
- Skilled Trades
- Energy
- Critical Minerals



12:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch and Breakout Reports

- Healthcare
- Skilled Trades
- Energy
- Critical Minerals



1:30 p.m.

Wicked Problem Session 2: CTE Faculty Recruitment

A brief panel presentation followed by facilitated small-group discussions examining Alaska's CTE faculty recruitment challenges, promising approaches, and exploration of potential strategies for strengthening Alaska's pipeline of qualified CTE instructors.



3:30 p.m.

Small-Group Reports, Final Comments and Convening Wrap-Up



4:00 p.m.

Convening Adjourns

The Alaska Workforce Convening presented by ASA/AWA in cooperation with the Alaska DOLWD.



Thank you!
Convening Sponsors!

