2026 ALASKA WORKFORCE CONVENING

OCTOBER 7–8, 2026 | THE NAVE

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** **Panelists:** Zach Stenson, Pathfinder Solutions, and Demetria Veasy, AKDOLWD. A brief panel and facilitated small-group discussion examine gaps in systems and potential for mentorships to 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, AWIB Assistant Director & Kerry Thomas, ACPE. **Untapped Immigrant Workforce Panel:** Amy Facklam, Alaska Literacy Program, and Nicole Pennie, Office of Citizenship Assistance
1:00 p.m.	**Regional Workforce Highlights** **Kenai Peninsula:** Cassidy Cameron, KPEDD; Annaleah Karron, KBSD; Cory Ortiz, AVTEC **Anchorage:** Jon Bittner, AEDC; Devon Roberts, ASD **Southeast:** Robert Venables, SEC; Amanda Tripplett, SHI; Kristen Majocha, UAS; Zach Stenson, Pathfinder Solutions Regional partners share workforce projects and approaches.
2:15 p.m.	**Break**
2:30 p.m.	**Regional Workforce Breakout Sessions** Tabletop 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**

Presented by ASA/AWA in cooperation with the AKDOLWD.

Sponsored by the CIRI Foundation, Miles Baker Alaska, and Denali Commission.

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DAY TWO — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:15 a.m. — **ASA/AWA Annual Membership Meeting and Breakfast**

Building on Progress: Our Path Forward.
Board members reflect on the past year, share what is ahead for 2027, and discuss ways members and partners can get involved.
Teri Cothren, Associate VP, University of Alaska Office of Academic & Student Affairs & ASA Board Treasurer
Randy Sulte, COO, Kakivik/CCI Industrial and ASA Board Chair Elect.
Board Elections: Candidates are introduced. 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 and Opportunities Report: Patrick Rose, NIT
Alaska Critical Minerals Accelerator Engine: Lee Ann Munk, Ph.D., CEO, NSF Critical Mineral Accelerator Engine in Alaska

10:45 a.m. — **Industry Breakout Sessions**

Healthcare: Jacqueline Summers, AWA Alaska Health Workforce Coalition
Skilled Trades: Tracy Parent, Ahtna Inc.; Cari-Ann Carty, ASA
Resource Development: Beki Toussaint, Alaska Resource Education; Erin Whitney, NSF Critical Mineral Accelerator Engine in Alaska

12:15 p.m. — **Networking Lunch and Breakout Reports**

Healthcare • Skilled Trades • Resource Development

1:30 p.m. — **Wicked Problem Session 2: CTE Faculty Recruitment**

Panelists: Jacelyn Keys, University of Alaska; Cory Ortiz, AVTEC; Cassidy Cameron, KPEDD; Kristen Majocha, UAS.
A brief panel and facilitated small-group discussions examine recruitment challenges, promising approaches, and strategies to strengthen 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**

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