



2026 Winter Policy Forum

February 25, 2026 | National Harbor, MD

Draft Agenda

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7:30a – 8:30a	BOARD OF DIRECTORS BREAKFAST	Woodrow Wilson B
8:30a – 5:00p	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	Woodrow Wilson CD
5:30p – 7:00p	HOSPITALITY DESK *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
5:30p – 7:00p	WINTER POLICY FORUM WELCOME RECEPTION <i>with Exhibitors</i>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
HOSPITALITY DESK	*Check in & pick up your name badge	

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | WINTER POLICY FORUM

7:30a – 5:00p	HOSPITALITY DESK *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
7:45a – 4:00p	EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
7:45a – 8:45a	HOSTED BREAKFAST	Woodrow Wilson A
8:45a – 10:30a	OPENING PLENARY SESSION	Woodrow Wilson A

WELCOME & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cami Feek, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Division

NASWA WELCOME

Scott B. Sanders, President & CEO, NASWA

A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSORS

THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOR 2026

John Colbert, Co-Founder and Partner, Capitol Hill Partners

THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF 2026

Michael R. Strain, Director of Economic Policy Studies and Paul F. Oreffice Senior Fellow in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute

10:30a – 11:00a **BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS** Woodrow Wilson Lobby

11:00a – 12:00p **PLENARY SESSION** Woodrow Wilson A

FEDERAL LEADERSHIP SESSION *(invited)*

PLENARY PANEL

Moderator: **Scott B. Sanders**, President and CEO, NASWA

Speakers: **Megan Baird**, Acting Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship, Employment & Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor *(invited)*

Julie Hatch-Maxfield, Associate Commissioner for Employment and Unemployment Services, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor *(invited)*

Nick Moore, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education *(invited)*

Kim Vitelli, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment & Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor *(invited)*

12:00p – 1:15p

**WINTER WORKFORCE INNOVATION
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Woodrow Wilson A

12:00p – 12:45p **HOSTED LUNCHEON**

12:45p – 1:15p **INNOVATION AWARDS**

The Winter Workforce Innovations Awards are presented by several of NASWA's national policy committees.

- The **Merrill Baumgardner Innovation in Information Technology Award** is presented by the Technology Committee and a state demonstrating excellence in the field of information technology.
- The **Data Insights and Innovations Award** is presented by the Workforce & Labor Market Information Committee and honors a state workforce agency, or partnership involving a state workforce agency, for achievements related to labor market and workforce information.
- ****NEW**** The **Excellence in Communications Award** is presented by the Communications Committee and recognizes a state workforce agency, or partnership involving a state workforce agency for outstanding achievement in the field of communications, recognizing individuals or teams who have demonstrated creativity, clarity, and impact in their messaging.
- The **William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award** is presented by the Equal Opportunity Committee and recognizes a state or partnership involving a state, for an innovative workforce-related program, project, or initiative which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Business Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and honors a state workforce agency for an innovative business services initiative, framework, or effort of national impact, that addresses the employment / workforce needs of businesses at one or several stages and results in significant positive impacts for businesses.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and recognizes a state workforce agency for an innovative workforce project, strategy, or initiative that involves assisting certain or all customers with career services and/or the attainment of in-demand skills and credentials, and which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of opportunity for customers.

1:15p – 1:30p

NETWORKING BREAK

Woodrow Wilson Lobby

1:30p – 3:30p

PLENARY SESSION

Woodrow Wilson A

HEARING FROM THE HILL

Moderator: **Ben Mays**, Policy Director, NASWA

Speakers: **Scott Estrada**, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce

Jose Garcia, Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Isabel Soto, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAID AND SNAP

Moderator: **Michelle McNertney**, Administrator, Workforce Services Division, Iowa Workforce Development

Speakers: **Lindsey Browning**, Deputy Executive Director of Programs, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMd)

Casey Cameron, Executive Director, Utah Department of Workforce Services

Caprice Knapp, Acting Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Sarah Morrissey, Director, Employment Service Bureau/Operations, New Hampshire Employment Security

3:30p – 4:00p

BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

Woodrow Wilson Lobby

4:00p – 5:00p

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Woodrow Wilson A

STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN 2026 AND BEYOND

Moderator: **TBD**

Speakers: **Corey Gheesling, Ed.D.**, Associate Vice President, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Ph.D., Director, Office of Adult Education, Virginia Department of Education; Immediate Past Board Chair,

OVERVIEW OF NASWA'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND CLOSING REMARKS

Cami Feek, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Division

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7:30a – 5:00p	HOSPITALITY DESK *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
7:30a – 9:00a	HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST	Woodrow Wilson A
8:30a – 5:00p	ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING	Annapolis 3-4
8:30a – 5:00p	EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING	Baltimore 3-4
8:30a – 5:00p	EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING	Annapolis 1-2
8:30a – 5:00p	PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Woodrow Wilson C
8:30a – 5:00p	TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING	Woodrow Wilson B
8:30a – 5:00p	WORKFORCE & LABOR MARKET INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING	Baltimore 1-2
9:00a – 5:00p	COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING	Woodrow Wilson D

12:00p – 1:30p	HOSTED COMMITTEES LUNCH	Woodrow Wilson A
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7:30a – 9:00a	HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST	Baltimore 1 Foyer; Woodrow Wilson B Lobby
8:30a – 12:00p	ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING	Annapolis 3-4
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