



# 2026 Winter Policy Forum

February 25, 2026 | National Harbor, MD

Agenda

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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2:00p – 5:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b>	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
	*Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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7:00a – 7:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b>	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
	*Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	

7:30a – 8:30a	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS BREAKFAST</b>	Woodrow Wilson B
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8:30a – 5:00p	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson CD
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5:30p – 7:00p	<b>WINTER POLICY FORUM WELCOME RECEPTION</b> <i>with Exhibitors</i>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
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<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b>	*Check in & pick up your name badge	
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## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | WINTER POLICY FORUM

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7:30a – 5:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
7:30a – 4:00p	<b>EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE</b>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
7:30a – 8:30a	<b>HOSTED BREAKFAST</b>	Woodrow Wilson A
8:30a – 10:15a	<b>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</b>	Woodrow Wilson A

### WELCOME & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Cami Feek**, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Department

### 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

10:15a – 10:45a	<b>BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS</b>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
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10:45a – 12:00p	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	Woodrow Wilson A
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### FEDERAL LEADERSHIP SESSION

**Henry Mack III**, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

### 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
- Julie Hatch Maxfield**, Associate Commissioner for Employment and Unemployment Services, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
- Nick Moore**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education
- Kim Vitelli**, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment & Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

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 (NAMMD)

**Casey Cameron**, Executive Director, Utah Department of Workforce Services

**Caprice Knapp, PhD**, Principal Deputy, 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: **Cody Waits**, Executive Director, Workforce Connections, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

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

**Emily Passias, Ph.D.**, Deputy Executive Director, Advance CTE

**Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Ph.D.**, Director, Office of Adult Education, Virginia Department of Education; Immediate Past Board Chair, National Association of State Directors of Adult Education (NASDAE)

**OVERVIEW OF NASWA'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND CLOSING REMARKS**

**Cami Feek**, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Department

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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7:30a – 5:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
7:30a – 9:00a	<b>HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST</b>	Woodrow Wilson A
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 3-4
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Baltimore 3-4
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 1-2

8:30a – 5:00p	<b>PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson C
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson B
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>WORKFORCE &amp; LABOR MARKET INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Baltimore 1-2
9:00a – 5:00p	<b>COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson D
12:00p – 1:30p	<b>HOSTED COMMITTEES LUNCH</b>	Woodrow Wilson A

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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7:30a – 9:00a	<b>HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST</b>	Baltimore 1 Foyer; Woodrow Wilson B Lobby
8:30a – 12:00p	<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 3-4
8:30a – 12:00p	<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Baltimore 3-4
8:30a – 12:00p	<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 1-2
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9:00a – 12:00p

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Woodrow Wilson D