



NLx Research Hub

Connect 2026

July 7-8, 2026 | Washington, DC | Grand Hyatt Washington

Agenda

TUESDAY, JULY 7

		Independence DE
8:00 – 9:00a	HOSTED BREAKFAST	Independence DE
9:00a	WELCOME & OVERVIEW Paul Daniels , Senior Manager, NLx Research Hub, NASWA Scott B. Sanders , President and CEO, NASWA	
9:15a	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Donald Haughton , Supervisory Workforce Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor	
9:30a	UNDERSTANDING NLx JOB POSTINGS Tammy Flynn , Senior Manager, NLx, NASWA Mike Witt , Community & State Outreach Manager, DirectEmployers Association	
10:00a	UNDERSTANDING NLx JOB POSTINGS IN A RESEARCH SETTING Marissa Hashizume , Economist, NLx Research Hub, NASWA	
10:30 – 10:45a	NETWORKING BREAK	Independence DE
		Independence DE
10:45a	STRUCTURING THE NLx DATA	

Marissa Hashizume, Economist, NLx Research Hub, NASWA

11:05a

USER SPOTLIGHTS: PARSED DATA

Dr. Ishrat Alam, Ph.D., Senior Data Scientist, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

Ross Katz, Principal and Data Science Lead, CorrDyn

Tucker Plumlee, Director of Data and Analytics, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

Deena Schwartz, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research

12:00 – 1:00p

HOSTED LUNCH

Independence DE

Independence DE

1:00p

PANEL: HOW DO WE SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE SKILLS?

Amanda Welsh, Associate Dean, Workforce and Economic Development, Northeastern University (*Moderator*)

Frank C. Cicio, Jr., CEO and Founder, iQ4

Peter Norlander, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management, Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago

Mike Sanders, Senior Research Associate, George Washington University

2:15p

LAB: DESIGNING YOUR SKILLS STRATEGY

Paul Daniels, Senior Manager, NLx Research Hub, NASWA

3:00 – 3:15p

NETWORKING BREAK

Independence DE

Independence DE

3:15p

PANEL: COLLECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING: HOW COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AND COLLABORATION CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DATA

Emma Northcott, Senior Manager, Multistate Data Collaborative, NASWA (*Moderator*)

Jessica Cunningham, Director of Data and Cloud Technology Solutions, WestEd

Jeff DeBellis, Director of Economics & Policy Analysis, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Analyst Resource Center

Deborah Everhart, Chief Strategy Officer, Credential Engine

4:30p

COMMUNITY INCUBATOR INTRODUCTION AND DAY 1 WRAP-UP

5:00– 6:30p

RECEPTION

Independence DE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

7:30 – 8:30a

HOSTED BREAKFAST

Independence DE

Independence DE

8:30a

NLx RESEARCH HUB COMMUNITY INCUBATOR

Paul Daniels, Senior Manager, NLx Research Hub, NASWA

Marissa Hashizume, Economist, NLx Research Hub, NASWA

10:00 – 10:15a

NETWORKING BREAK

Independence DE

Independence DE

10:15a

ASK US ANYTHING WITH THE NLx LEADERSHIP

Amber Gaither, Senior Director of Data Partnerships, NASWA

Shannon Offord, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Alliances, DirectEmployers Association

11:00a

THE NLx RESEARCH HUB ROADMAP: WHAT'S NEXT?

Paul Daniels, Senior Manager, NLx Research Hub, NASWA