

Path of Choice Mini-Conference

July 12-13, 2018

Music City Center, Nashville

Overview

In conjunction with the 2018 Institute for CTE Educators, the department will offer a two-day mini-conference structured around postsecondary-going culture guide [A Path of Choice](#). The purpose of this mini-conference is to support district- and school-based teams in focusing on school culture as a major factor in students' postsecondary readiness and success. Educators across all content areas and grade bands are invited and encouraged to attend.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants will articulate the role of college-going culture in supporting positive student outcomes in postsecondary education and careers.
- Participants will develop their ideal vision for strengthening the college-going culture in their school or district to better support students and families.
- Participants will use proven tools and strategies to develop customized action plans aimed at increasing the percentage of students who become Ready Graduates.
- Participants will use [A Path of Choice](#) as a key organizing principle for collaborative work between middle and high school personnel across a variety of roles to ensure that all students are on an aligned pathway for postsecondary success.

Registration

All participants must register for the Institute for CTE Educators [here](#). On-site registration for the Institute and/or mini-conference will be on the ground floor of the Music City Center.

Lunch

Lunch will be on your own; there are several restaurants inside the Music City Center and within short walking distance.

Acknowledgements

This event is supported by generous grant funding provided by J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. through the *New Skills for Youth* grant. In 2017, the department was awarded \$2 million to expand high-quality career-focused education programs in order to prepare all students for high-skill, high-wage jobs.

Agenda

Thursday, July 12

8:30-9 a.m.	Special Announcement <i>Accelerating the Drive to 55 & Introduction</i>
9-9:45 a.m.	Opening Session
10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Deep Dive Sessions
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break
12:30-3 p.m.	Partner Kiosks
1:30-2 p.m.	Lightning Sessions
2:10-3 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
3:15-4 p.m.	Panel Discussion

Friday, July 13

8:30-10 a.m.	Keynote Address
10:15-12:15 p.m.	Facilitated Planning Sessions
12:15 p.m.	Dismissal

Session Descriptions

Thursday, July 12

Introduction & Special Announcement: *Accelerating the Drive to 55**

8:30-9 a.m.

Commissioner Candice McQueen and special guests will make a special announcement.

*Coffee and light breakfast will be provided.

Opening Session

What is culture? Why does it matter? How can we influence it?

9-9:45 a.m.

Jerre Maynor, TDOE

Deep-Dive Sessions

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

College Access & Success: Aiming for Equity

Emily Wilcox, TDOE

Zachary Adams, TDOE

Early College & Career Strategies: Accelerating Your Students' Journey to Postsecondary Degrees & Credentials

Jason Parker, TDOE

Ellen Bohle, TDOE

Partner Kiosks

12:30-3 p.m.

Partners in postsecondary access and success in Tennessee will share information about programs, materials, and services.

Lightning Sessions

1:30-2 p.m.

A Targeted Approach to Considering Interest & Aptitude in Student Advisement for Selecting Career Pathways

Philip Hardin, YouScience

Why Every Student Needs Work-Based Learning in Every Grade & How to Identify Your Next Step

Matthew Spinella, TDOE

New Opportunities for Building Aligned Career Pathways for Students in all Grades

Ellen Bohle & Zachary Adams, TDOE

Early Postsecondary Opportunities in Early Grades

Sarah Cook, TDOE

Concurrent Sessions

2:10-3 p.m.

Personalizing Pathways & Preparation with ACT Academy

Donna Mason, ACT, Inc.

Moving More Students to College & Career Readiness through College Board's Linked System of Free Resources

Jim Morris, The College Board

Leveraging Postsecondary Partners to Build Strong Student Pathways

Kevin Edwards, THEC

Thursday, July 12

Panel Discussion

Accelerating the Drive to 55: What's It Going to Take?

3:15-4 p.m.

During this plenary session, a panel will discuss the topic of postsecondary access and success in Tennessee. Our panel participants include:

- Bob Obrohta, Executive Director of the Tennessee College Access & Success Network
- Karla Coleman García, Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy for Conexión Américas
- Julie Roberts, Director of Policy and Research for Complete Tennessee
- Johnny McDaniel, Director of Schools, Lawrence County
- Jerre Maynor, TDOE (panel facilitator)

Friday, July 13

Day 1 Recap & Keynote Address

8:30-10 a.m. *

Johnny McDaniel, director of schools for Lawrence County, will discuss his district's strategy for building a K-12 college-going culture.

*Coffee and light breakfast will be provided.

Facilitated Planning Session

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to collaborate and begin planning how they will bring the knowledge gained from the conference back to their districts and school buildings. Representatives from the department will be present to facilitate this session and provide technical assistance on a variety of topics.