

**MCACS Adult Learner Summit
2026 Agenda**

Time	Session
Day 1	Feb. 4, 2026
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon	Registration
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Welcome Lunch
1:00 to 1:15 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
1:15 to 1:45 p.m.	Opening Keynote: The Future of Adult Learning in Michigan Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison Kadlec, Senior Partner at SOVA
1:45 to 2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00 to 2:45 p.m.	Plenary: Adult Learner Success Data in Michigan Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt DeMonbrun, PhD, Research Director, MCACS • Andy Carlson, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships CollegeAPP
2:45 to 3:00 p.m.	Snack Break
3:00 to 3:45 p.m.	C-BEN Session Designing for Competence: Building Adult Pathways That Count Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Specht-Boardman, Director of Higher Education Solutions, C-BEN
3:50 to 4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Breakout sessions <i>Track A: C-BEN Design Studio: Mapping Competency-Based Pathways</i> Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Specht-Boardman, Director of Higher Education Solutions, C-BEN <i>Track B: Detroit Drives Degrees & Regional Re-Engagement</i> Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber Neher, Director of Student Success & Postsecondary Partnerships for the Detroit Chamber • Vester Waters, Manager of Adult Degree Completion for Detroit Reconnect • Courtney Holland, Success Coach for Detroit Reconnect • Susan Reynolds, Academic Advisor with Wayne State University
5:10 to 5:20 p.m.	Reflections and preview of Day 2

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Networking Reception
Day 2	Feb. 5, 2026
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 to 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Framing
9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	<p>From Insight to Implementation: Results from the AL360</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Wallace, Senior Vice President for Initiatives & Membership, CAEL • Scott Campbell, Vice President for Partnerships, CAEL
10:15 to 10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:30 to 11:45 a.m.	<p>Breakout sessions: Building Momentum with Adult Learners</p> <p><i>Track A: CAEL: Scaling Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Wallace, Senior Vice President for Initiatives & Membership, CAEL • Scott Campbell, Vice President for Partnerships, CAEL <p><i>Track B: MiLEAP: CPL and the State of Michigan</i></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alisha Cederberg, Program Administrator, Office of Higher Education, MiLEAP <p><i>Track C: Sova: Building Student Momentum with a Focus on Developmental Education Reform</i></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Vandal, Senior Consultant, SOVA Solutions
11:45 to 12:45 p.m.	<p>Lunch and Presentation</p> <p>Adult Learners, Reimagined: Insights from Michigan</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Hedges, Executive Director, MCACS • Andy Carlson, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships CollegeAPP
12:45 to 1:00 p.m.	Break
1:00 to 2:15 p.m.	<p>Breakout sessions: Aligning Credentials with Workforce Needs</p> <p><i>Track A: CAEL: Crosswalking Employer Training</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Wallace, Senior Vice President for Initiatives & Membership, CAEL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Campbell, Vice President for Partnerships, CAEL <p>Track B: MWTEC: Workforce - Aligned Credentials</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Lee, EdD, President, MWTEC • Paul Kirk, Chief Strategic Partnership & Growth Officer, MWTEC <p>Track C: Detroit Chamber: Incumbent worker progression and microcredentials in partnership with Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber Neher, Director of Student Success & Postsecondary Partnerships for the Detroit Chamber • Vester Waters, Manager of Adult Degree Completion for Detroit Reconnect • Cheria Adams, Workforce Development at Henry Ford Health • Brianna Brazell, Senior Director of Strategy & Operations at the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership
2:15 to 2:45 p.m.	Snack break
2:45 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Breakout sessions: Other Avenues for Credit and Momentum</p> <p>Track A: CAEL: Decoding Military-CPL</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Wallace, Senior Vice President for Initiatives & Membership, CAEL • Scott Campbell, Vice President for Partnerships, CAEL <p>Track B: MiLEAP: Maximizing Transfer Pathways for Adult Learners in Michigan</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Giardello, PhD, Transfer Success Project Manager, Office of Higher Education, MiLEAP <p>Track C: (Workshop) C-BEN: Using CBE as a Degree Attainment Strategy</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Specht-Boardman, Director of Higher Education Solutions, C-BEN
4:00 to 4:10 p.m.	Break

4:10 to 4:30 p.m.	Closing Reflections & Next Steps
Day 3	Feb. 6, 2026- OPTIONAL
8:00 to 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 to 11:30 a.m.	Data & Design Lab- Hands-On Implementation Clinic