

FETC 2027 Names CTE Featured Speakers to Address the K-12 Skills Gap

FETC responds to the growing demand for Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities by introducing a new CTE track featuring four national CTE educators.



WEST PALM BEACH, FL, UNITED STATES,
June 5, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ --

Eighty-seven percent of businesses reported to McKinsey that they are facing a skills shortage or expect to within the next five years. Data from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce projects that an additional 5.25 million workers will be needed by 2032. [The Future of Education Technology Conference \(FETC\) 2027](#) is responding to growing demand by introducing a new CTE track

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CTE has never been more powerful or more essential and every student deserves a clear path from the classroom to a career with transferable skills. FETC 2027 is where leaders come to build their plan.”

Jennifer Womble, FETC Chair

featuring four national CTE educators who haven't just studied the problem; they've built student-centered solutions.

“CTE has never been more powerful or more essential. Every student deserves a clear line of sight from the classroom to a career with transferable skills that lead to opportunities in their own communities. FETC 2027 is where leaders come to build a strategy for career pathways and CTE centers, expand their thinking on innovative ways to teach modern skills, and go home with a plan to implement effective programs,” FETC Chair

Jennifer Womble stated.

The FETC 2027 CTE Featured Speakers are:

Joe McBreen, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation, St. Vrain Valley Schools – Founder of the world's first high school drone performance team and a pioneer in K-12 Quantum Information Science, McBreen is a nationally recognized voice on future-ready learning.

Janel Humphries, Director of CTE, Dallas ISD — Former financial services professional turned

educator, Humphries is building districtwide career pathways connecting students in one of the country's largest urban districts to real economic opportunity.

Dr. Christopher Nesmith, Superintendent, Elma School District (WA) – Architect of Washington State's first in-school manufacturing youth apprenticeship and co-designer of Career Connect Washington, Nesmith studied the Swiss dual education model at ETH Zurich and translated it into working programs for students.

Dr. Sandra Adams, Area CTE Director, Fort Wayne Community Schools / ACTE Vice President – Author of four books on CTE instruction and a national speaker on work-based learning, Adams has driven 10% annual growth in college completions across 10 career pathways for five consecutive years.

The FETC CTE Featured Speakers will be joined by peers to elevate professional learning and discussions around CTE during concurrent sessions, roundtables, hands-on workshops, and deeper learning seminars, offering attendees multiple entry points to build, refine, or scale workforce-ready programs in their districts.

FETC 2027 runs January 26–29 in Orlando, FL. Registration is open at [fetc.org](https://www.fetc.org).

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About FETC

The Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) (<https://www.fetc.org/>) (<https://www.fetc.org/>) is the premier gathering and year-round professional learning network for education technology leaders, innovators, and educators dedicated to achieving measurable results. Through deep-dive seminars, collaborative roundtables, hands-on workshops, and rigorously vetted sessions, FETC equips K-12 leaders and educators with proven strategies and tools for immediate implementation. The event's expansive exhibit hall showcases more than 450 leading solution providers, while FETC's collaborations with industry partners and state education technology associations amplify diverse perspectives and foster grassroots innovation.

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