

  
**FALL CONFERENCE**  
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**September 8-9, 2025**

**Renaissance Polaris-Westerville-Columbus**  
Westerville, Ohio

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**Brisk Teaching** is a Chrome and Edge extension that helps teachers with curriculum, feedback, and differentiation — while giving leaders peace of mind with student-safe AI and real-time visibility into how it's being used. Contact Jarrod Roth [jarrod@briskteaching.com](mailto:jarrod@briskteaching.com)



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**Cornerstone of Hope** is the leading provider of traumatic bereavement services in Northeast Ohio, serving 300 clients each week. We offer individuals and families a supportive environment to express their grief and emerge from its pain with a renewed sense of purpose. Our licensed clinicians offer counseling, support groups, memorial programs and camps at our facilities and in the community. Contact Pete Bliss, [pete@cornerstoneofhope.org](mailto:pete@cornerstoneofhope.org)



**SmartStart Education LLC** is a mission-driven organization dedicated to improving student outcomes through high-impact academic support. We provide tailored tutoring programs that align with school goals, using data to drive student success. Our staffing services connect schools with qualified educators and specialists, ensuring every student has access to the support they need. Contact Andee Linn, [ALinn@smartstarteducation.com](mailto:ALinn@smartstarteducation.com)

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**Find Your Grind** helps students discover who they are, explore career pathways, and develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our all-in-one future-ready platform combines self-discovery, career exploration, and real-world skill development to prepare students for future success. Contact Stephanie Kortan, [Steph@findyourgrind.com](mailto:Steph@findyourgrind.com) or Dan Weidmann, [dan@findyourgrind.com](mailto:dan@findyourgrind.com)



**LinkIt!** is a leader in the field of K-12 data-driven technology solutions. Specifically, we offer a data warehouse and reporting dashboard, an assessment platform for local data capture, and an intervention management (MTSS/RTI) solution. We distinguish ourselves with our robust and easy-to-use analytics, integration capabilities, and customer service-driven model. Contact Josh Powe, [sales@linkit.com](mailto:sales@linkit.com)



**Xpel by Forward Edge** understands the critical importance of cybersecurity in K-12 districts, where young learners and sensitive data are involved. Our proactive strategy is meticulously engineered to align with the NIST and CIS cybersecurity frameworks. Contact Dave Gammell, [DGammell@forward-edge.net](mailto:DGammell@forward-edge.net), Denise Caccavari, [Dcaccavari@forward-edge.net](mailto:Dcaccavari@forward-edge.net)



**College Board** reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need for succeeding in college and career. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Contact Autumn Barry, [abarry@collegeboard.org](mailto:abarry@collegeboard.org)



**Dedicated School Staffing** has been delivering innovative substitute management solutions since 2010. Dedicated School Staffing prioritizes recruitment, retention, and high-performance fulfillment results for PreK-12 schools. Contact Parris Killen, [Parris@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com](mailto:Parris@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com) or Krishna McCollins, [Krishna@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com](mailto:Krishna@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com)

**CONNECT  COLLABORATE**  
**OHIO ESC ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE**

# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

5:00-8:30pm  
Admiral Lobby

Exhibitor Set-up

# MONDAY SCHEDULE

All Sessions held in the Admiral Ballroom unless otherwise noted

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                       |                                          |                                         |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 7:00-8:00am     | Exhibitor Set-Up (Admiral Lobby)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 7:30-8:30am     | <b>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</b> (Admiral Lobby)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 8:45-8:45am     | <b>Fall Conference Welcome</b><br>Chad Hilliker, Superintendent Hamilton County ESC & OESCA President<br>Craig Burford, Executive Director, OESCA                                                                                                                                      |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 8:45-9:15am     | <b>Opening Keynote Address</b><br><b>Former Congressman Tim Ryan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 9:15-10:15am    | <b>General Session</b><br><i>"Navigating the Future of Learning"</i><br>Jason Swanson, KnowledgeWorks                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 10:15-10:30am   | <b>Networking &amp; Booth Break</b> Sponsored by:                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 10:30-11:20am   | <b>Breakout Sessions: Round 1</b> - see descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 11:30am-12:20pm | <b>Breakout Sessions: Round 2</b> - see descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 12:20-12:30pm   | <b>Networking &amp; Booth Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 12:30-1:30pm    | <b>Lunch Sponsored by:</b><br><i>"AESA Update: Resources and Opportunities to Strengthen ESAs"</i><br><b>Speakers:</b> Joan Wade, Executive Director, AESA, & Jessica Huizenga, Chief Program Officer, AESA                                                                            |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 1:40-2:30pm     | <b>Breakout Sessions: Round 3</b> - see descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 2:40-3:30pm     | <b>Breakout Sessions: Round 4</b> - see descriptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                          |                                         |
| 3:45-4:30pm     | <b>Regional Networking</b><br>Don't miss the chance to connect with peers who truly understand your role—our job-alike, unconference-style networking sessions give you the freedom to share challenges, swap solutions, and spark new ideas in a dynamic, participant-driven setting! |                                       |                                          |                                         |
|                 | <b>Admiral A</b><br>OESCA Regions 1-4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Admiral B</b><br>OESCA Regions 5-8 | <b>Admiral C/D</b><br>OESCA Regions 9-12 | <b>Captain A</b><br>OESCA Regions 13-16 |
| 4:30-5:30pm     | <b>Cocktail Reception</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                       |                                          |                                         |

# TUESDAY SCHEDULE

All Sessions held in the Admiral Ballroom unless otherwise noted

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00-8:00am                                 | <b>Breakfast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OESCA Superintendent Business Meeting (Captain A)</li> <li>OTESCA Treasurer Business Meeting (Captain B)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                 |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 8:00-8:50am                                 | <b>General Session</b><br><i>"Federal Legislative &amp; Funding Update"</i><br>Tara Thomas, AESA & AASA                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 8:50-9:00am                                 | <b>Networking and Booth Break</b> Sponsored by:                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 9:00-9:50am                                 | <b>General Session</b><br><i>"Legal Update"</i><br>Erin Wessendorf-Wortman, Ennis-Britton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 9:50-10:00am                                | <b>Networking and Booth Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 10:00-10:50am                               | <b>General Session</b><br><i>"Advancing Ohio's Educational Vision: Priorities, School Improvement, and ESC Partnerships"</i><br>Dr. Stephen D. Dackin, Director, and Colleen D. Grady, Chief of Educational Options and Improvement, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce                                             |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 11:00am-Noon                                | <b>Job Alike Networking Meetings (Admiral Ballrooms &amp; Captain's Ballroom)</b><br>These facilitated networking meetings will offer an opportunity to discuss professional learning over the course of the conference & implications and actions steps in supporting the state's educational vision and ESC partnerships. |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| <b>Admiral A</b><br>Student Support Network | <b>Admiral B</b><br>College, Career & Workforce Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Admiral CD</b><br>Reframing Education Network | <b>Captain A</b><br>SST Fiscal Agents: Superintendents and Treasurers | <b>Captain B</b><br>Superintendents & Treasurers |
| Noon                                        | <b>Lunch &amp; Adjourn</b><br>(Box Lunch Available to Eat or Take with You)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |
| 12:00-2:00pm                                | <b>Executive Committee Meeting (Starboard Room)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  |                                                                       |                                                  |

# MONDAY 10:30-11:20AM BREAKOUT SESSION 1

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Admiral A   | <p><b>Shaping the Future in Regional Contexts</b></p> <p>Building on a keynote, this facilitated workshop offers a deeper dive into how Educational Service Center (ESC) leaders and staff can act as catalysts for future-ready education systems. Through guided exploration and collaborative dialogue, participants will identify emerging opportunities to support students, families and caregivers in a rapidly evolving landscape. Attendees will explore strategies for shaping the future of learning in their regional contexts. This highly participatory session will equip attendees with insights to support foresight-informed planning and responsive leadership in their communities.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Jason Swanson, KnowledgeWorks</p>                                    |
| Admiral B   | <p><b>Ohio's Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (ODEW)</b></p> <p>Ohio's Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (Ohio's Integrated MTSS) is a framework designed to assist districts and schools in developing a local integrated multi-tiered system of supports for providing effective instruction that meets the academic and non-academic needs of all students. Ohio's Integrated MTSS will inform and support districts and schools in strategically integrating and aligning academic and non-academic services and supports for all students and serves as a guide to enhancing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of current systems work in districts and schools across Ohio.</p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b> Kerry Martinez and Tricia Coutts-Everett</p>          |
| Admiral C/D | <p><b>Ohio IDEA General Supervision Oversight with Monitoring and Tools You Can Use!</b></p> <p>Participants will learn about the updates to the Ohio IDEA monitoring processes. This session includes details about the various monitoring structures beyond Special Education Indicator monitoring. Engage with the Office for Exceptional Children team and study the most current trend data from the 2024- 2025 academic school year in the areas of ETR, IEP and transition planning. You will also learn about specific resources and tools that can be used to help improve SWD educational needs will also be provided and discussed.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Chip McCain and Donna Horn, DEW</p>                                                                                        |
| Captain A   | <p><b>Unlocking College Credit: Modern States &amp; CLEP</b></p> <p>ESCs are uniquely positioned to lead the charge in helping schools and districts implement Modern States—free, online college-level courses aligned with CLEP exams that allow students to earn college credit at no cost and accelerate their path to a degree. In this highly interactive session, ESC leaders will unpack the CLEP-related components of H.B. 96, learn from the early launches of Montgomery County ESC, Gallia-Vinton ESC, and Allen County ESC, co-design practical implementation strategies, and help shape statewide Centers of Excellence to ensure student success.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Shaun Yoder, Modern States, and representatives from Montgomery, Gallia-Vinton, and Allen County ESCs</p> |
| Captain B   | <p><b>DEW State Budget &amp; Fiscal Policy Update</b></p> <p>This session is a must for ESC treasurers, leaders, directors, program staff, and anyone involved in school operations or finance. You'll gain up-to-the-minute information on legislative changes, funding allocations, and strategies for accessing federal grants—with practical implications for your ESC, client districts, and region. Don't miss the opportunity to get your questions answered, discuss the future of school funding across Ohio, and network with peers dedicated to advancing educational opportunity through effective resource management.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Aaron Rausch, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Budget and School Funding</p>                                                           |

# MONDAY 11:30AM-12:20PM BREAKOUT SESSION 2

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| Admiral A   | <p><b>AI Power Hour: The Ultimate GenAI Toolkit to Connect Classrooms, Careers, and Communities!</b></p> <p>Get ready to supercharge the future of learning in just 50 minutes! This high-energy session will unleash the power of today's most exciting generative AI tools—ChatGPT, Magic School, Gamma, Bing Image Creator, Suno, Skybox AI, Thinglink, and D-ID—and show you how they can revolutionize classrooms and career readiness. Watch as these tools come together to create jaw-dropping lessons, professional-quality visuals, dynamic presentations, and interactive experiences that spark engagement and save time. You'll walk away with ready-to-use ideas, inspiring examples, and a fresh perspective on how AI can connect classrooms, careers, and communities in ways that feel less like the future—and more like magic happening now.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Wendy Fogle Hanasky, Founder &amp; CEO, AI Learning Solutions/K12 AI</p>                                                                                       |
| Admiral B   | <p><b>Ohio's Literacy Policies and IMTSS (ODEW)</b></p> <p>In this presentation, the literacy team members will explain how new and existing literacy policies fit into Ohio's Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (Ohio's Integrated MTSS) framework. The literacy team will also showcase newly developed resources to help district leaders implement Ohio's literacy policies.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> LM Clinton, DEW</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Admiral C/D | <p><b>Leveraging the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) to Effectively Assist Districts &amp; Schools</b></p> <p>As a regional service provider, where can you find high quality, free resources and tools to assist the districts and schools you support? The Ohio Leadership Advisory Council site, OhioLeadership.org! Join us for our session to discover what great resources(videos, modules, articles, assessments and more) are available to assist you with your work.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Mike Trego and Mark Neal, OLAC</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Captain A   | <p><b>Connecting Classrooms to Careers with BigFuture and Career Kickstart</b></p> <p>As students prepare for life beyond high school, they need opportunities to explore career pathways and develop real-world skills. This session highlights how College Board's BigFuture and new Career Kickstart AP courses, AP Cybersecurity and AP Business with Personal Finance, equip students for lifelong success by connecting classrooms to careers.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Autum Barry, Director K-12 State and District Partnerships, College Board</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Captain B   | <p><b>Navigating Fiscal Impact Due to Legislative Change</b></p> <p>This session will provide a comprehensive overview of Ohio's recent legislative changes impacting school finance and local government taxation, including details from Veto #66 and HB 96. Attendees will learn about significant modifications to property and income tax laws, rules for election timing and ballot requirements, new limitations on levies and fund transfers, updates on administrative expense caps, and future forecasting mandates. The program will also explore new initiatives for addressing housing shortages through Residential Economic Development Districts (REDDs) and rural Residential Development revolving loan funds (RLFs), highlighting grants, loans, and infrastructure support available to eligible subdivisions. Participants will gain actionable insights into compliance, strategic planning, and effectively communicating fiscal intent under the new framework.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Rebecca C. Princehorn, Bricker-Graydon</p> |

# MONDAY 1:40-2:30PM BREAKOUT SESSION 3

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| Admiral A   | <p><b>Redefining ESCs in the Age of AI: Humanizing Innovation for Impact</b></p> <p>Join us for an interactive and forward-thinking session designed to empower educational service centers with the knowledge and tools to embrace AI-driven transformation. This session will demonstrate how generative AI can be used to streamline everyday operations, enhance communication, and tell more compelling stories that resonate with district leaders, educators, and community partners. Attendees will gain hands-on insights into crafting impactful narratives, implementing productivity-enhancing techniques, and bridging the divide between cutting-edge innovation and authentic human connection.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Sandy Mers and Tammy Hambrick, South Central Ohio ESC</p>                                                                                                                                                   |
| Admiral B   | <p><b>Ohio's Plan for K12 Mathematics (ODEW)</b></p> <p>This presentation outlines the sections of Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics with a heavy focus on five priorities to ensure rigorous, high-quality mathematics instruction in every classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative conversations to identify their progress against the recommended strategies and identify next steps for improving mathematics learning within their context.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Wendy Jones, DEW</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Admiral C/D | <p><b>How to Leverage Ohio PLD and OLC to Generate Revenue and Grow Professional Learning</b></p> <p>OESCA, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the statewide networks of ESCs and ITCs, have developed a suite of online supports and resources to direct Ohio educators to high quality professional development resources and related professional learning opportunities and networks. See the newest updates and explore fresh ways to leverage these platforms to enhance educator growth, streamline professional learning access, and strengthen statewide coherence.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Gabriella Cajuste, OESCA, David Clark, Butler County ESC</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Captain A   | <p><b>From Classroom to Community: Reimagining Career Exploration</b></p> <p>How do you prepare students for a future that's constantly evolving? Hilliard City Schools and ESC of Central Ohio are answering that challenge by transforming career readiness—both inside and outside the classroom. Discover how Hilliard partnered with Find Your Grind and their ESC to embed a future-ready curriculum that helps students explore their unique strengths, interests, and lifestyles, while building the confidence to chart their own pathways through a dynamic, in-person Lifestyle Fair—a capstone experience where students connect with real-world opportunities, industries, and mentors.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Mark Tremayne, Director of Innovation at Hilliard City Schools, Robb Gonda, Director of College and Career Success at ESC of Central Ohio, and Steph Kortan, Ohio Strategic Account Executive at Find Your Grind.</p> |
| Captain B   | <p><b>Balancing the Talent Equation: Strategies for Recruitment and Retention</b></p> <p>Attracting new talent is only half the battle; keeping your best employees is paramount. In this session, participants will explore practical, research-based strategies for strengthening both recruitment and retention efforts. We'll dig into total rewards structures, workload design, and career pathways that help employees feel supported, valued, and motivated to grow.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Kate Heynoski &amp; Stephen Fujii, Experience Management Institute</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# MONDAY 2:40-3:30PM BREAKOUT SESSION 4

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| Admiral A   | <p><b>Leading the Charge: How District Leaders Can Harness AI for Education and Workforce Readiness</b></p> <p>Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the connections between classrooms, careers, and communities. In this session, superintendents, curriculum directors, and instructional coaches will explore how to lead districtwide efforts that prepare students not just for today's learning, but for tomorrow's workforce. Using the CoSN K-12 Generative AI Maturity Tool, with a focus on Domain 7: Schoolwide AI Integration, we'll examine how districts can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build responsible and equitable AI strategies that benefit all learners.</li> <li>• Create authentic connections between academic standards and workforce skills.</li> <li>• Support teachers with professional learning and scalable classroom strategies.</li> <li>• Engage communities to build trust and a shared vision around AI adoption.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Dave Clark, Curriculum and Technology Specialist, Butler County ESC and Rebecca Dwenger, Instructional Technology Consultant, Hamilton County ESC</p> |
| Admiral B   | <p><b>Developing a Shared Vision for Mathematics Instruction</b></p> <p>In this session, instructional leaders will learn how to get started with Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics by engaging educators in developing a comprehensive instructional vision - with ideas, templates, and a facilitation guide specifically tailored for use with their educator teams.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Teresa Castellaneta, Ohio DEW</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Admiral C/D | <p><b>Focusing on Making the Most of District Resources</b></p> <p>The freezing of anticipated Title funds isn't the full story—dropping enrollments, ballooning special education costs, and other compounding factors mean K-12 district leaders are preparing for increased budget scrutiny. From auditing schedules for academic intensity to aligning student pathways around workforce needs, every scheduling decision offers a chance to “do more with less,” by investing existing resources towards the levers that are actually moving the needle on student achievement. Join this session to hear how Ohio districts are partnering with BetterLesson to optimize their teaching and learning structures.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Amy Filsinger, VP of Revenue, BetterLesson</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Captain A   | <p><b>Career Exploration and Planning, Setting the Stage for Ohio's Future</b></p> <p>This session, led by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, will introduce the state's emerging vision for career exploration and planning. As Ohio prepares to launch a comprehensive, statewide effort in the coming years, this session offers an early look at the foundational strategies, goals, and opportunities for districts to support students in discovering and preparing for meaningful careers.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Kayla Mack, Ohio DEW Office of Graduate Success</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Captain B   | <p><b>Management Council Update: Innovative Solutions Empowering Ohio's Education Community</b></p> <p>Join the Management Council at the OESCA Fall Conference as we explore the latest advancements in fiscal software, cybersecurity, and operational best practices. This presentation will highlight essential tools and service to strengthen district operations, enhance digital security, and support collaborative growth across Ohio's educational landscape.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Management Council Representatives</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# KEYNOTES



**Tim Ryan**

Former U.S. Congressman and President & CEO of Celtic Consulting, Tim Ryan offers more than two decades of public service at the state and federal levels with expertise in energy, manufacturing, and technology. He champions education, innovation and collaboration; concepts ESCs can leverage and advance to drive lifelong student success.



**Jason Swanson**

Senior Director of Strategic Foresight at KnowledgeWorks, Jason Swanson inspires educational leaders with his futures-thinking approach, helping districts and educational service providers anticipate change and develop resilient, student-centered strategies for tomorrow's learning landscape.

# GENERAL SESSIONS



**Joan Wade, Ed.D.**

*Executive Director, AESA*

As Executive Director of AESA, Joan Wade leads with vision for operational excellence and educational equity, advocating for service agencies and supporting innovative partnerships that benefit schools and communities nationwide.



**Jessica Huizenga, Ed.D.**

*Chief Program Officer, AESA*

Chief Program Officer at AESA, Jessica Huizenga strengthens regional ESC programs by promoting best practices and strategic innovations, ensuring robust support for educators, students, and local communities.

# GENERAL SESSIONS



**Tara Thomas**

*AASA & AESA*

Federal education policy and funding authority Tara Thomas represents AASA and AESA nationally. She delivers timely updates and strategic insight for ESC superintendents, treasurers and program staff navigating federal funding, grants, and legislative developments.



**Erin M. Wessendorf-Wortman**

*Ennis-Britton*

A shareholder at Ennis-Britton, Erin Wessendorf-Wortman is a leading school law expert. She provides practical updates on recent federal, state, and district court decisions, empowering ESC professionals with critical legal knowledge and guidance.



**Steve Dackin**

*Director, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce*

Director of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), Steve Dackin will address the conference with an overview of key education priorities for Ohio, sharing vision and strategies critical to advancing educational excellence and opportunity in the state.



**Colleen D. Grady**

*Chief of Educational Options and Improvement, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce*

Colleen leads efforts supporting community schools, school sponsorship, nonpublic educational options, and school and district improvement. With experience as a legislator, State Board of Education member, local school board member, senior policy advisor, and policy consultant, she brings a deep commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for Ohio's students.

# EXHIBITORS



**Ashland University** has been actively offering a range of outreach programs. With over 40 years of experience, PLS takes pride in delivering high-quality professional learning opportunities for educators in Ohio and globally. Dr. Jim Powell, [Jpowell1@ashland.edu](mailto:Jpowell1@ashland.edu)



**Better Lesson** is the premier partner for K-12 states and districts, providing data-driven professional learning and strategic scheduling solutions designed to enhance college and career readiness (CCR) and optimize resource allocation for cost savings. Ashley Vilte, [ashley.vilte@betterlesson.com](mailto:ashley.vilte@betterlesson.com)



**BloomBoard** partners with Educational Service Centers to strengthen teacher pipelines through on-the-job degree and licensure programs in collaboration with Lake Erie College. Dan Faciana, [dan.faciana@bloomboard.com](mailto:dan.faciana@bloomboard.com)



**Brisk** is a Chrome and Edge extension that helps teachers with curriculum, feedback, and differentiation — while giving leaders peace of mind with student-safe AI and real-time visibility into how it's being used. Jarrod Roth, [jarrod@briskteaching.com](mailto:jarrod@briskteaching.com)



**Centric Learning** supports educators and students with project-based learning online solutions, creating a new way of learning that has positive student outcomes for schools and districts across the globe. Jeremy Johnson, [jeremy.johnson@centriclearning.net](mailto:jeremy.johnson@centriclearning.net)



**Cornerstone of Hope** is the leading provider of traumatic bereavement services in Northeast Ohio, serving 300 clients each week. We offer individuals and families a supportive environment to express their grief and emerge from its pain with a renewed sense of purpose. Pete Bliss, [pete@cornerstoneofhope.org](mailto:pete@cornerstoneofhope.org)



**ClassLink** is a global education provider of identity, access, and analytics products that create more time for learning and help schools better understand digital engagement. As leading advocates for open data standards, we offer instant access to apps and files with single sign-on, streamline class rostering, automate account provisioning, and provide actionable analytics. ClassLink empowers 22 million students and staff in over 3,000 school systems. Fred Wolfe, [fred.wolfe@classlink.com](mailto:fred.wolfe@classlink.com)



**College Board** reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need for succeeding in college and career. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Autumn Barry, [abarry@collegeboard.org](mailto:abarry@collegeboard.org)



**Dedicated School Staffing** is a privately held HR service firm devoted strictly to serving Schools and Education Service Centers. Established in 2010, we are proud to bring strength, expertise, and deep-rooted experiences as recruiters in the field of Education. Krishna McCollins, [krishna@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com](mailto:krishna@dedicatedschoolstaffing.com)



**Find Your Grind** helps students discover who they are, explore career pathways, and develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Dan Weidmann, [dan@findyourgrind.com](mailto:dan@findyourgrind.com)



**Xpel by Forward Edge** understands the critical importance of cybersecurity in K-12 districts, where young learners and sensitive data are involved. Our proactive strategy is meticulously engineered to align with the NIST and CIS cybersecurity frameworks. Jeff Langdon, [jlangdon@forward-edge.net](mailto:jlangdon@forward-edge.net). Madeleine Marrs, [mmarrs@forward-edge.net](mailto:mmarrs@forward-edge.net)



**Gaggle** has been a trusted partner in K-12 student safety, working with over 1,500 school districts nationwide. Our AI-driven monitoring, expert human review, and 24/7 crisis intervention help identify and support students in crisis. Jessica Cobello, [jcobello@gaggle.net](mailto:jcobello@gaggle.net)



**Highlights** offers award-winning content trusted by parents and kids alike. Shop now! We help children become their best selves by engaging in joyful learning. Mary Gantzer, [mary.gantzer@highlights.com](mailto:mary.gantzer@highlights.com)

# EXHIBITORS



**Imagine Learning** creates K–12 digital-first solutions fueled by insights from educators. We work alongside educators to support 15 million students, in over half of the districts nationwide, with school services and core, courseware, and supplemental solutions. Amy Kruse, amy.kruse@imaginelearning.com



**LinkIt** is a leader in the field of K-12 data-driven technology solutions. Specifically, we offer a data warehouse and reporting dashboard, an assessment platform for local data capture, and an intervention management (MTSS/RTI) solution. Katee Meese, katee@linkit.com



**MindPlay Literacy** is an age-appropriate literacy intervention that automatically analyzes student skills, assigns individualized instruction, and delivers targeted practice for students across your school or district. Danny Gibson, dgibson@mindplay.com



**National Math Stars** is a non-profit organization with a goal of ensuring that mathematically extraordinary students from all communities have the resources and opportunities they need to reach the frontiers of math and science. Troy Scott, troy.scott@nationalmathstars.org



**Newsela** is an education technology company dedicated to meaningful classroom learning for every student. Its products are purpose-built to inspire teachers, unlock student motivation, and drive long-lasting learning outcomes. Austin Garza-Kilcullen, austin.garza-kilcullen@newsela.com



**NWEA** provides reliable and valid assessments that help educators and learners improve instruction and outcomes. We work shoulder to shoulder with educators across schools, systems, and states to foster student growth through evidence-based assessment and learning solutions that respond to the needs of all learners. Bronwyn Kotarski, bronwyn.kotarski@hmhco.com



**PowerUpEDU** is an Award-Winning Education Solutions provider for classrooms in the Southeast. PowerUpEDU creates innovative learning environments that engage students, empower teachers & help bridge the gap between technology and transformative learning. Debbie Gaillard, debbie@powerupedu.com



**Presence** is a leading provider of teletherapy to PreK-12 schools in the US, innovating how clinicians assess and address student special education and mental health needs through an elevated approach to teletherapy. Caitlin Radish, caitlin.radish@presence.com



**Prometric K12** is transforming education with Prometric Pathways™, a patented AI-powered platform that aligns curriculum, instruction, and assessment to drive student success. Dawn Essig, dawn.essig@prometric.com



**Red Rover** is built by the leaders in the K12 software space with a new, modern design. It's simply the best technology for your employee management needs, including absence/sub management, time tracking, applicant tracking, onboarding, forms, PD and more. Theresa Goodlett, tgoodlett@redroverk12.com



**Right At School** delivers fully-managed, hassle-free enrichment programming — including before and after school, summer camp, and break camps — conveniently hosted on-site at your schools. Sarah Noffert, sarah.noffert@rightatschool.com



**SmartStart Education** is a mission-driven organization dedicated to improving student outcomes through high-impact academic support. We provide tailored tutoring programs that align with school goals, using data to drive student success. Andee Linn, mvalenzuela@smartstarteducation.com



**Stages Learning** is building wonderful relationships across the state of Ohio to support students who are developmentally 18 months - 9 years who have autism or related early intervention support needs. Dr. Kari Stubbs, kari.stubbs@stageslearning.com

# EXHIBITORS



**Starling Minds™** is a digital mental health platform that delivers immediate, unlimited, and personalized support and training for stress, anxiety, burnout and depression. Based on the principles of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Starling empowers educators to proactively build the knowledge, tools, and skills they need to foster healthier life-long habits in and out of the classroom. Anthony Sam, [anthony.sam@starlingminds.com](mailto:anthony.sam@starlingminds.com)



**The Ohio Academy of Science** is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, or their applications for the benefit of society. Alyson Gruber, [alygruber@ohiosci.org](mailto:alygruber@ohiosci.org)



**Veregy** accelerates the Energy Transition by offering turnkey engineering and construction services to reduce energy and operating costs through efficiency upgrades, smart building technology, EV infrastructure, clean energy generation, and sustainability. Lisa Schultz, [lschultz@veregy.com](mailto:lschultz@veregy.com)



**Yondr** Phone-Free Schools Program has been chosen by thousands of schools across the nation for expert policy consultation, seamless operational planning, and comprehensive training and support. Susan Giasson, [susan@overyondr.com](mailto:susan@overyondr.com) or Stephen Blackburn, [stephen@overyondr.com](mailto:stephen@overyondr.com)



**YouScience** is the leading college and career readiness technology provider, addressing the skills gap with AI-driven insights to help students discover their aptitudes, validate industry skills, and create personalized career pathways. Robbie Rauzi, [robbie.rauzi@youscience.com](mailto:robbie.rauzi@youscience.com)



**Zaner-Bloser** provides resources for educators like ready-to-use handwriting, spelling, grammar, writing, and reading curriculum. Shannon Sharkey, [shannon.sharkey@zaner-bloser.com](mailto:shannon.sharkey@zaner-bloser.com)

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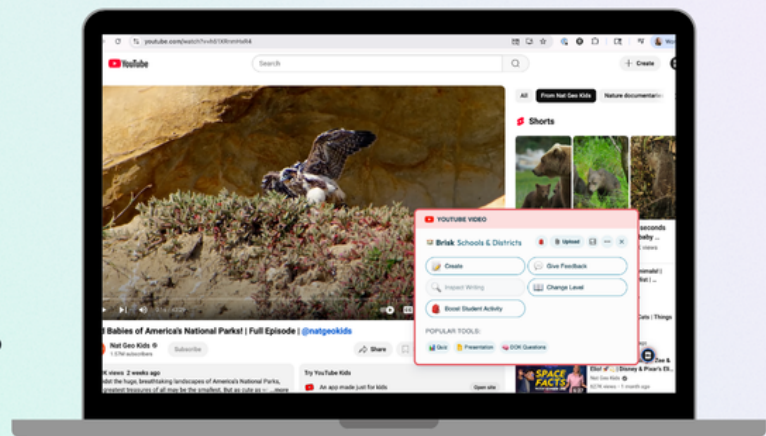
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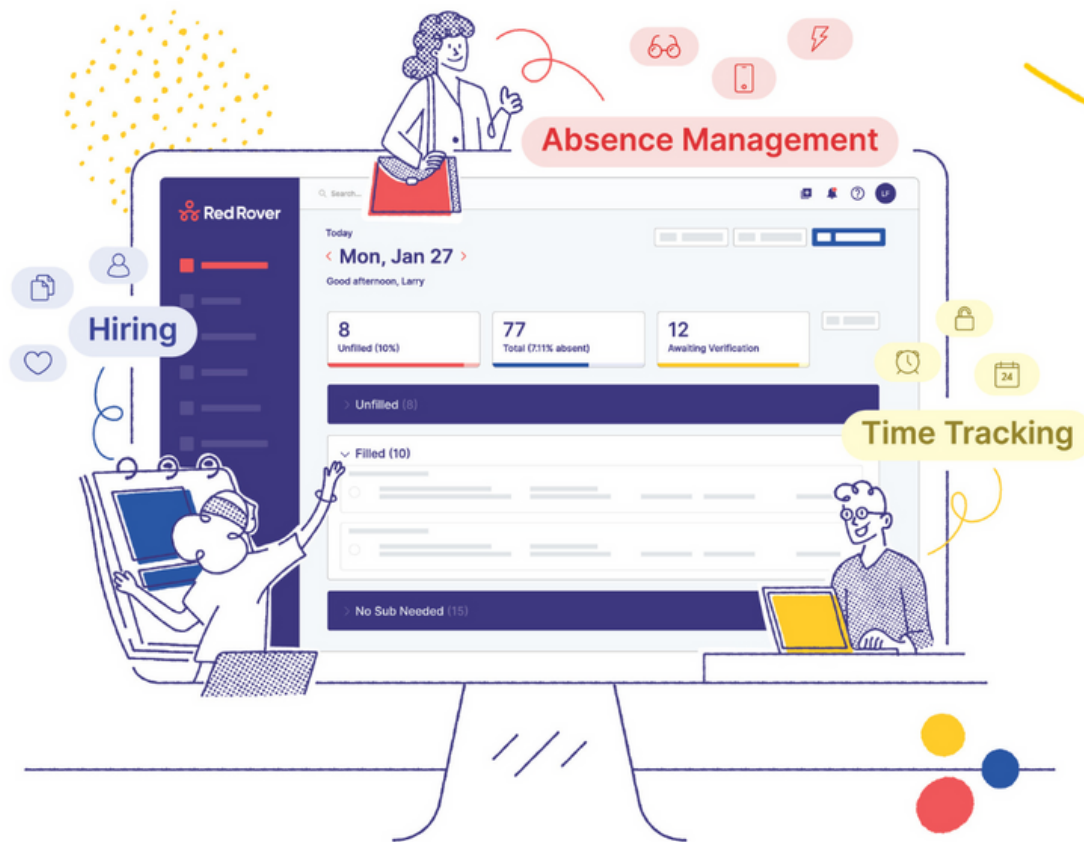
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# **OESCA Awards & Recognition Program November 17, 2025**

**Hilton Columbus Downtown  
Registration 8:15am, Brunch 9:00am**

Each year, OESCA holds a recognition program at the OSBA Capital Conference.

Honorees are individuals and groups nominated by ESCs for service, leadership and achievement awards.

**[www.oesca.org](http://www.oesca.org)**



The Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) provides support, professional learning and legislative advocacy for the 51 Ohio educational service centers (ESCs) that serve school districts statewide. OESCA represents ESCs on the state and national levels and seeks to promote excellence in education through the quality services provided by its member organizations. OESCA also partners with the Ohio Department of Education on a variety of projects and grants.

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