
Event Agenda

PAC-TE 2026 Teacher Education Assembly

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Vendor Set-up Location: E
8:30 AM - 5:15 PM	Registration Opens and continues until 5:15 p.m. Location: Hallway in front of Rooms A, B, and C
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Field Directors Meeting Location: A Speaker: Danielle Kearns-Sixsmith
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#109 Facilitating Curriculum Literacy in Every Course: Preparing Teacher Candidates to Plan from Any Curriculum Resource Location: B Speaker: Tiffany Shimmel
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#70 Preparing the First Observer: A Three-Tiered Approach to Suicide Prevention in Teacher Education Location: C Speaker: Tanya Carmella-Beers
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#77 Bridging Theory and Practice Through a Clinical Instructional Playbook Model Location: D Speakers: Jaclyn Kessel, Erica Greer
9:00 AM - 9:50 PM	#65 Sensemaking in the System: Understanding PA STEELS Implementation Location: Keystone Speakers: Amy Long, Monique Alexander, Katie Bateman
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	PASSHE Deans Meeting (Invite only) Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Brooke Langan
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	PAC-TE Journal Editors Meeting (Invite only) Location: McCormick (3rd Floor)
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Field Directors Meeting (continuation from 9:00 hour) Location: A Speaker: Danielle Kearns-Sixsmith
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	#58 Leadership Perspectives on SEL, CRT, and Systems-Level Change in Central Pennsylvania Districts Location: B Speakers: Tugce Tuncdemir, Reuben Asempapa
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	#78 Listening to the Pipeline: What Emerging Educators Can Teach Us About Teacher Leadership Competencies Location: C Speakers: Constance Nichols, Richard Sabousky, Michelle Amodei
10:00 AM - 10:50 PM	#30 ROOTED, RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE: A Development Model Moving Teacher Preparation Programs from Trauma Aware, to Trauma Informed to Trauma Responsive Location: D Speakers: Amber Gentile, Colleen Lelli
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	PA Organization of Middle level Educators Location: Cameron Speaker: Carol Watson

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	#13 From Community Engagement to Practice: Field-Based Learning in Culturally Responsive Teacher Education Location: Keystone Speakers: Dana Reisboard, Allie Liebesman, John Lopez
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	PASSHE Deans Meeting (continuation from 9:00) Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Brooke Langan
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	PAC-TE Journal Editors Meeting (continuation from 9:00) Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speaker: Philip Kanfush
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Welcome to the 55th Annual Teacher Education Assembly Location: A
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	Poster Session Location: A Supporting Teacher Candidates in the Evolving Landscape of Teacher Preparation 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Jennifer Tepe From Core Memories to Growth: Breaking Barriers in STEM Learning Development of Teacher Candidates 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Katie Monahan Teachers' adoption of artificial intelligence and its influence on teacher stress and burnout 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: William Clark Preparing Future Special Educators for Ethical AI Use: Integrating AI Literacy into Teacher Preparation Programs 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Briana Bronstein Promoting an Organizational Climate for Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Workplace 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Kathleen Harris AI Generated Frayer Model Vocabulary Intervention 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Elisa Lawless Their First Instructional Coach: A Strategic District-University Partnership for Teacher Preparation 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Location: A Speaker: Tiffany Shimmel
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	#115 PEDC CRSE Leadership Panel: Advancing Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Educator Preparation Across Pennsylvania Location: B Speakers: Donna-Marie Cole-Malott, Karen Parker Thompson
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	#44 Preparing Teachers for Structured Literacy: Insights from Classroom Implementation Challenges Location: C Speakers: Emily Zambanini, Jessica McCormick
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	Government Relations Open Meeting Location: D Speaker: Stephanie J. Gardner
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	#49 Responsive Educational Practices for Neurodivergent Learners Through Nature and Equine-Assisted Learning Location: Keystone Speakers: Veronica Ent, Laurie Havrisko, Amanda Baker

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	#91 Rooted in Respect, Responsive in Practice: Equipping Student Teachers with the LAFF Active Listening Strategy for Family Collaboration Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speaker: Bethany McConnell
12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	#24 Rooting Responsive Discussions about Text in Grades K-8 Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speakers: Diane Santori, Olivia Hocker
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	#84 Beyond the Syllabus: Rooting High Expectations and Reflective Teaching to Develop Culturally Responsive Student Teachers Location: A Speaker: Bethany McConnell
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	#71 The Hidden Curriculum of Professionalism: Explicitly Teaching What We Often Assume Location: B Speaker: Christine Cuzzo
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	#14 Advancing Innovative Approaches in Educator Preparation: Building Foundations in Multicultural Education Through Literature Location: C Speaker: Rachel Slaughter
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	#68 Beyond Checking the Boxes: Partnerships with Purpose Location: D Speakers: Stephanie J. Gardner, Amanda Stutzman, Jennifer Gurski, Erin Demcher
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	#108 Moving From Placements to Partnerships: A Tale of Two Schools Location: Keystone Speakers: Karen Levitt, Rachel Ayieko
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Vendors Visitation & Beverage Break Location: E
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#94 Meeting Diverse Student Needs in Times of Change: Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Education in 2026 Location: A Speaker: Luca Poxon
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#42 Pathways to Leadership in Early Childhood Education: Building Inclusive, Advocacy-Focused Leaders for the Future Location: B Speakers: Priscilla Jeter-Iles, Gerry Fitzpatrick-Doria
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#108 Linguistic Equity in K-2 Literacy: Addressing Teacher Beliefs and Instructional Responses to African American English Location: C Speaker: Kady Taylor
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#11 Bridging Systems: The Role of Intermediate Units in Strengthening School–University Partnerships Location: D Speaker: Theresa Bartholomew
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#86 Understanding and Including Jewish Identity & Antisemitism when Challenging Bias in School Communities Location: Keystone Speaker: Randi Boyette
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	#33 What We Wish We Knew: A Faculty & Pre-Service Teacher Conversation on Becoming a Teacher Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speakers: Amy Orville, Jenna Copper, Elizabeth LaGamba
3:00 PM - 3:40 PM	PAC-TE Business Meeting--All are encourage to attend! Location: A Speaker: Jim Preston

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM	PAC-TE Founders Lecture with Keynote Speaker Bill Isler Location: Heritage Speaker: Bill Isler
5:00 PM - 5:50 PM	No Scheduled Sessions. Smaller Breakout Rooms may be used for extended follow-ups with today's speakers. Location: Harris, Keystone, McClay (2nd Floor), McCormick (3rd Floor)
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	55th Celebratory Banquet and Awards Program Location: A, B, C

Thursday, October 22, 2026

8:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Registration Location: Hallway in front of Rooms A, B, and C
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#7 Becoming a Professor: Supporting K-12 Educators' Transition to Higher Education Location: A Speakers: Tina Keller, Sarah Fischer, Bonnie Jenkins, Jeanette Monteith, Christina Simmons, Laurie Zaring
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#15 Supporting Teacher Candidates with Neurodiversity Location: B Speakers: Aileen Hower, Lara Willox, Tiffany Wright, Allura Ralston, Sarah Brooks, Kimberly Heilshorn, Buck Rodgers, River Hower, Jennie Burke
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#96 Coaching the Future: Reimagining Year-Long Student Teaching Through Immersive Clinical Practice and Collaborative Mentorship Location: C Speakers: Cathy Taschner, Catherine McGeehan, Darlene Schoenly
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#8 From Regulation to Relationship: Integrating Yoga and Mindfulness into Educator Preparation for Sustainable Practice Location: D Speaker: Phyllis Hurwitz
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#41 From Reflection to Coaching: Empowering Instructional Coaches and Faculty to Cultivate Culturally Responsive Practice in Pre-Service Educators Location: Keystone Speakers: Priscilla Jeter-Iles, Gerry Fitzpatrick-Doria
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#17 The Journey from Student to Teacher: Embedding Social-Emotional Learning into Clinical Supervision and Reflection in Teacher Preparation Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Kathy Melago
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	#27 Beyond Training: Connection, Affirmation, and Support in Leadership Development Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speakers: Tricia Shelton, Kalani Palmer
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#80 Building a Sustainable Special Education Workforce Together Location: A Speakers: Carol Good, Christine Moon, Gina Scala
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#72 Rooted in Relationships: Collegiality, Mentorship, and Leadership Development in Educator Preparation Location: B Speaker: Michelle Amodei
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#99 Rooted in Belonging, Responsive to the Shortage, and Responsible for the Profession: A Dual Enrollment + Mentorship + Microteaching Pathway for Pennsylvania's Future Educators Location: C Speakers: Miriam Witmer, Lara Willox

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#112 A series of professional seminars - Developing professional dispositions and executive functioning skills in teacher candidates Location: D Speakers: Karen Levitt, Amy Olson
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#69 Beyond Silos: Teaching Functional Skills Through Interdisciplinary Collaboration (Art, Music, Speech, and Nursing) Location: Keystone Speaker: Tanya Carmella-Beers
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#87 The Bridge to Innovate Post-Secondary Transition for Students with Disabilities: A Partnership with Educator Preparation Programs Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speakers: Kimberly Kohler, Tamara Tressler-Blewitt
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	#111 A Nonpartisan Classroom Practice for Teaching Current Events: Using Alternate Framing to Foster Media Literacy and Civic Discourse Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speakers: Yun-chen Yen, Pete Frengel
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Newcomer Session for First-time Attendees Location: Cameron Speaker: Jim Preston
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Vendors Visitation & Beverage Break Location: E
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Plenary Session: Remarks from Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, Dr. Carrie Rowe Location: Heritage Speaker: Dr. Carrie Rowe
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Plenary Session: PA Teacher of the Year and PA Principal of the Year Location: Heritage
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Buffet Luncheon Location: Hallway in front of Rooms A, B, & C (Seating available in A, B, & C)
12:20 PM - 1:05 PM	Data, Culture, and Courage: Lunch and Conversation for Education Leaders Location: D Speakers: Marlen Megos, Kathleen Post
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Afternoon Beverage Break and Vendor Visits Location: E
1:25 PM - 2:15 PM	Supporting Queer Teacher Candidates Location: D Speakers: Sarah Brooks, Kimberly Heilshorn, Aileen Hower, Allura Ralston, Buck Rodgers, Lara Willox, Tiffany Wright
1:25 PM - 2:15 PM	#60 Building a Sustainable Teacher Pipeline Through School-University Partnerships: A Grow Your Own Teacher Academy Model Location: Cameron Speakers: Kristen Misutka, Mark Spinola
1:25 PM - 2:15 PM	#28 Teaching Mathematics in the Age of AI: A Systematic Review of Preservice Teacher Education Research Location: Harris Speakers: Amber Torrance, Kyle LaPaglia
1:25 PM - 2:15 PM	#81 Rooted in Learning, Responsive to Change: Making Thinking Visible and Honoring Human Flourishing in Teacher Education Speaker: Constance Nichols
1:25 PM - 2:15 PM	#92 Supporting Those Who Support Students: Understanding and Addressing Special Education Teacher Burnout Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Kristopher Davis

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

#19 Keys to Success: Adult Learners and Degree Completion

Speakers: Sheri Kurczewski, Ingrid Everett

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Poster Session (Different Presenters from Wednesday!)

Location: Heritage

Honoring the Legacy of Yearlong and Professional Development School (PDS) Partnerships

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Tina Selvaggi

Responsible Innovation in Educator Preparation: Building A Sustainable Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Korie Munley

Step Into the Profession: Building Future Educators Through Mentorship and Professional Association Membership

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Amy Orville

Unleashing Potential: How a Teaching Lab Sparks Confident, Creative Educators

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Andrea Lindsay

Dismantling the Ivory Tower: Redesigning the Teacher Candidate Ecosystem

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Amy Long

Building Bridges Through Bilingual Family Literacy Workshops: From University Coursework to Community Impact

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Susan Pierson

Between Classrooms and Campuses: A Self-Study of Identity Reconstruction in the Transition from PK-12 Leadership to Educator Preparation

1:25 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Tracy Driehaus

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#75 The Ground Keeps Moving: Sensemaking, Signals, and Redesigning Teacher Preparation in the Age of Intelligence

Location: A

Speakers: Randy Ziegenfuss, Carolanne Carty, Bess Van Asselt, MaryJo Rosania Harvie

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#105 Building Pennsylvania's Teacher Pipeline Together: A Scalable Dual Enrollment Partnership Model

Location: B

Speakers: Rebecca Burns, Tracy Driehaus, Cathy Taschner

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#116 Responsible Advocacy: Engaging Teacher Educators and Candidates in Pennsylvania Education Policy

Location: C

Speakers: Juliet Curci, Andrea Mead

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

Discover PAC-TE's Professional Journal & Meet Its Authors

Location: D

Speakers: Philip Kanfush, Tracy McNelly, Dawn Turkovich

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#45 The Crumbling Relay: An Analogy for the Adolescent Literacy Gap

Location: Harris

Speaker: Andrea Rutledge

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#113 "Miss, I Saw You at the Supermarket": One Online M.Ed. Course's Approach to Help Teachers Center Communities

Location: Keystone

Speaker: Tabettha Bernstein-Danis

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

#10 Responsible for Supporting the Whole Pre-Service Teacher: SEL Implementation in Teacher Preparation

Location: McClay (2nd Floor)

Speaker: Brittany Severino

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM	#67 Teaching with Primary Sources: Arts-based and Place-based Strategies for Educators Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speakers: Subarna Basu, Pauline Schmidt
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#10 Repair, Reflect, Become: Restorative Dispositions to Shape Professional Identity in the Age of AI Location: A Speakers: Maria Stetter, Matthew Kruger-Ross
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#76 Building Future Educators Through Dual Enrollment, Transfer Pathways, and Ambassador Mentorship Location: B Speakers: Jaclyn Kessel, Erica Greer
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#102 “From Campus to Classroom: Reimagining Teacher Induction Through School–University Collaboration” Location: C Speakers: Cathy Taschner, Catherine McGeehan, Darlene Schoenly
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#6 Motivating Young Readers: Applying Self-Determination Theory to Strengthen Literacy Engagement and Instruction Location: Cameron Speaker: Kara Ratai
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#39 Cultivating Belonging in Higher Education Through ‘Where I Am From’ Poems Location: Keystone Speakers: MaryJo Rosania Harvie, Jane Ammon
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#55 Growing Inclusion: Exploring Diversity and Belonging Through Plant-Based Learning Experiences Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speakers: Nurun Begum, Kate Curry
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#46 Reducing Early-Career Teacher Burnout: A Pennsylvania Policy Proposal Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speaker: Grace McNeil
3:25 PM - 4:15 PM	#50 Beyond the Lesson Plan: Using AI to Scaffold the Cognitive Process Location: D Speaker: Colleen Duffy
4:30 PM - 5:20 PM	Follow-ups from Thursday Sessions (Optional) Location: A, B, D, Keystone, McClay (2nd Fl), and McCormick (3rd Fl)
4:30 PM - 5:20 PM	BSLTQ Update Location: Heritage Speakers: Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Katina Moten
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Conference schedule for Thursday ends. Dinner on your own.
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	PA Deans Forum Location: C Speakers: Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Constance Nichols

Friday, October 23, 2026

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration Location: Hallway in front of Rooms A, B, and C
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#106 Do Good Anyway: Inspiring Teachers to Stay True to Their Values in Challenging Times Location: A Speaker: Diane Manser

8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#73 Rooted in Partnership: PLCs Driving Success for Multilingual Learners Location: B Speakers: Beverly Bryde, Susan Pierson, Alison Allen, Alex Gurn, Erin Moscovici
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#114 Supporting Teacher Candidates' Understanding, Knowledge, and Skills: Using the Backward Design Model to Create and Implement Multidisciplinary Unit Plans in Early Childhood Classrooms Location: C Speakers: Natalie Conrad Barnyak, Mark Conlon, Remi Reininger, Reagan Shartle, Sarah Zacur
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#61 Building Empathy Through Interprofessional Simulation: Examining the Long-Term Impact of Poverty Simulation on Professional Practice, Advocacy, and Equity-Minded Leadership Location: D Speakers: Patricia Kardambikis, Jennifer Tepe, Susan W. Parker
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#47 Hearing Our Voices! Understanding the I/We in Parent Engagement with Early Childhood Students Location: Cameron Speaker: Kathleen Harris
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	Practicing What We Preach — And Studying Whether We Actually Do Location: Keystone Speakers: Tracy Keyes, Christopher Weiler, Roseanne Perkins, SungEun Min, Deborah Sailsbery, Michele White, Meganlyn Norris, Jennefer Gehringer, Robson Araujo-Junior, Michelle Sims, Katie Monahan
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#90 Mentoring Preservice Teachers in Writing Instruction: Feedback, Reflection, and Professional Learning Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Ivonne Miranda
8:30 AM - 9:20 AM	#52 Rooted in Service: Supporting Teacher Candidate Dispositions for Future Community Engagement Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speakers: Stacie Nowikowski, Kathleen Beining
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#21 From Discord to Harmony: Responding to Warring Influences in Education Location: A Speakers: Constance Nichols, Richard Sabousky, Michelle Amodei
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#103 The Power and Possibility of Partnership: Understanding Models that Transform Teacher Education Location: B Speakers: Rebecca Burns, Tracy Driehaus, Cathy Taschner
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#18 Parental Perceptions of Homework and Its Impact on Family Stress: A Mixed Methods Study of Single-Parent and Two-Parent Households Location: C Speakers: Jessica McCormick, Natalie Conrad Barnyak
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#40 Mentorship That Matters: Buliding Teacher Self-Efficacy Through Relationships, Reflection, and Layered Support Systems Location: D Speakers: Patricia Kardambikis, Jennifer Tepe, Susan W. Parker
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	Tips for Getting Published in PAC-TE's Journal Location: Keystone Speakers: Philip Kanfush, Tracy McNelly, Dawn Turkovich
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#100 Building Bridges: Inclusive and Accessible Practices Across Multilingual Learners, Sensory Processing Differences, and Special Education Location: McCormick (3rd Floor) Speakers: Jocelyn Hunt, Erika Christeleit
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	#83 Hosting University-led Regional Professional Development Sessions for K-12 Teachers Location: McClay (2nd Floor) Speaker: Mark Conlon

10:20 AM - 10:45 AM

Break--Hotel Checkout if possible

10:45 AM - 11:35 AM

Invited Speakers: 2025 Winners of the Exemplary Partnerships Award

Location: Heritage

Speaker: Diane Santori

11:40 AM - 12:15 PM

Closing Session and Prize Drawing

Location: Heritage

12:30 PM - 12:30 PM

Official End of the 55th Teacher Education Assembly