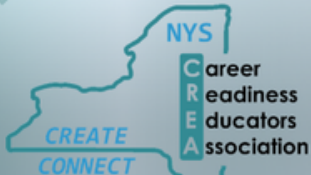


2026


NYS CREA
Conference

MAY 20 - MAY 21

LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT
 UNIONDALE, NEW YORK

We are excited to bring together educators, industry partners, and leaders from across the state for a day of learning, collaboration, and innovation. Throughout the conference, you will have the opportunity to engage in interactive sessions, connect with colleagues, and explore resources that support career-connected learning and student success.

✉ President@nyscrea.org
 🌐 NYS CREA.Org

Thank you for being part of a community committed to preparing learners for meaningful futures.

Wednesday, May 20th, 10am to 1:45pm

Time	Session	Presenter	Location
10am - 10:30am	Conference Registration		Main Hall
10:30am - 10:45am	Conference Welcome	Stephen Casa NYS CREA President	Montauk Room
10:45am - 11:45am	Keynote Speaker - Shané Beauford, Ed.D Vice President of Learning Design and Equity The Human Advantage: Thriving in a Work-Based World Shaped by AI	Dr. Shané Beauford Vice President of Learning Design and Equity IDE Corp	Montauk Room
11:45am - 12:30pm	Young Professional Panel Skills in Action: How Work-Based Learning Elevates Student Potential	Moderator: Eli Johnson, Executive Director, The Too Alive Tour, Harborfields HS alumni Young Professional Panelists: Oceanside High School, Sewanhaka High School CTE	Montauk Room
12:30pm - 12:45pm	NYS CREA Partner Lightning Introductions Learn about NYS CREA's valued partners and how they can support your programs!	NYS CREA Partners	Montauk Room
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Lunch with your Zones (Google Drive folder to be provided for meetings) - Zones 1 & 2: Western and Central - Zone 3: Capital Region - Zone 4: Hudson Valley - Zone 5 & 6: Long Island and NYC	Zone 1 & 2: Hillary Colombo and Jill Kean, Gold Coast Room Zone 3: Jon Levine, Hamptons Room Zone 4: Katie Flanagan, Fire Island Room Zone 5 & 6: Bridget LoPiccolo and Ryan Vollmuth, Montauk Room	
12:45pm - 1:45pm	A Conversation for Administrators: Work-Based Learning Impact (invitation-only session)	Stephen Casa, NYS CREA President	NYC Room
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Young Professional Leadership Session (invitation-only session)	Moderator: Eli Johnson, Executive Director, The Too Alive Tour	Jones Beach Room

Thank you to our valued NYS CREA Sponsorship Partners

Cocktail Hour Sponsor



NYS CREA Award Sponsors



NYS CREA Sponsorship Partners



2026


**NYSCREA
Conference**

MAY 20 - MAY 21

**LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT**
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK

Wednesday, May 20th, 2pm to 7pm

Time	Session	Presenter	Location
2pm - 3pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS IT Support provided by Nassau BOCES Computer Technology Young Professionals		
	Keynote Follow-Up: The Human Advantage	Dr. Shané Beauford Vice President of Learning Design and Equity IDE Corp	Jones Beach Room
	School Spotlight: Sewanhaka CSD Career-Ready CTE in Action	Dr. Patrick Dunphy District Director of CTE, Sewanhaka CSD Mr. John Koscinski Architecture Teacher, Sewanhaka CSD	Gold Coast Room
	Grow Your Own: How Brentwood Is Developing the Next Generation of Educators	Dr. Karen Gross, Transition Coordinator, Brentwood UFSD Melissa Johnston, Office of Special Initiatives, NYSDOL Erin DeRouville, Project Coordinator, NYSDOL	Hamptons Room
3pm - 3:45pm	Start Early, Dream Big: Introducing Elementary Students to the World of Work	Ms. Jessica Elliott and Ms. Donna Spotton Cornell University	Fire Island Room
	NYSCREA Partner Scavenger Hunt	NYSCREA Partners	Main Hall
3:50pm - 4:50pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Tips and Tricks for Integrating Journalism and Publicity into CTE and WBL programs	Ms. Iris Wiener, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Oceanside School District Andrew Hackmack, Syntax	Jones Beach Room
	Collaborating for Career Readiness: A Regional CTE Approach	Ms. Lori Rodriguez, Ms. Lee DeStefano, Mr. Joe Tagliaferro Valley Stream CSD Ms. Renee Power, WBL Coordinator Hicksville Public Schools Mr. Jonah Kann, WBL Coordinator, Nassau BOCES	Hamptons Room
	Building High-Impact Advisory Boards and Industry Partnerships	Dr. Alison Matthews, WBL/CTE Coordinator, Harborfields School District Mr. Phil Como, IAB Executive Director, Smithtown Schools Mr. Matt Fiasconaro, WBL Coordinator and Business Educator, Syosset Schools Jason Smiloff, WBL Coordinator, Patchogue-Medford Schools	Gold Coast Room
5pm - 5:30pm	Transition to Employment: Aligning Work-Based Learning and Workforce Development for Students with Disabilities	Dr. Karen Gross, Transition Coordinator Brentwood UFSD Mekhi Bradford, Brentwood High School Alumni Center for Community Inclusion at Long Island University	Fire Island Room
	Visit NYSCREA Partners, Hotel Check-In, Headshot pictures available and taken by Ariana Maniscalco, LIHSA Alumni		Main Hall
5:30pm - 6:00pm	Cocktail Reception, Sponsored by NAF <i>Headshot pictures available from Ariana Maniscalco, LIHSA Alumni. Videography provided by Logan Hobbs, Valley Stream CHS Alumni</i>		Boardwalk Room
6:00pm - 6:15pm	Student Awards, Sponsored by Vector Solutions, Schoolinks and NAF Diamond Achievement Award, Sponsored by Schoolinks	Stephen Casa NYSCREA President	Montauk Room
6:15pm - 7:00pm	NYSED and CTETAC Updates Dinner and Networking	Dr. Michael LaMastra, Office of Career and Technical Education, NYSED Mr. Michael K. Woods, Director, CTETAC	Montauk Room

Cocktail Hour Sponsor



NYSCREA Award Sponsors



NYSCREA Sponsorship Partners



2026

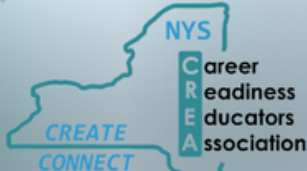

**NYSCREA
Conference**

MAY 20 - MAY 21

**LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT**
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK
Thursday, May 21st

Time	Session	Presenter	Location
8am - 8:50am	Breakfast		Montauk Room
9am - 9:15am	Calm, Confident, Career-Ready: Mindfulness in Work-Based Learning	Nassau BOCES Child Care Skills Students Taught by Andrea Kominski, Nassau BOCES	Montauk Room
9:15am - 10am	Moving Past the Traditional Model of Work-Based Learning	Stephen Casa, NYSCREA President	Montauk Room
10:10am - 11:10am	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Work-Based Learning as a Path to Financial Confidence	Ms. Marsha Iverson, Associate Professor and Program Director at Hofstra University and Finance Specialist for Next Gen Personal Finance	Jones Beach Room
	ASVAB Reimagined: Helping Students Find Their Path • Part one of Career Exploration Program (CEP) training	Ms. Emirita DeSouza, ASVAB CEP Program Manager, US Army	Fire Island Room
	NYSERDA Workforce Development & Training Career Pathways Funding Programs	Beth Offenbacker, Senior Project Manager NYSERDA Workforce Development & Training	Gold Coast Room
11:10am - 11:30am	Pick-up boxed lunch/Visit NYSCREA Partners/Go to 11:35am breakout session		Main Hall
11:35am - 12:35pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	AI for Career Success: Practical, Ethical Skills for Resumes, Cover Letters, and Interviews	Dr. Tamarah President, WBL Coordinator Health, Arts, Robotics and Technology High School, NYC Public Schools	Jones Beach Room
	Navigating the New ASVAB Career Exploration System • Part two of Career Exploration Program training (CEP)	Ms. Emirita DeSouza, ASVAB CEP Program Manager, US Army	Fire Island Room
	What's new in WBL: NYSACTE Advocacy Kit, Student Contest and CTSOs, Impact Study Cohort	Michele Leonardo, Adjunct Professor for WBL, Hofstra University Regina Bast, WBL Coordinator Nassau BOCES, GC Tech	Gold Coast Room
12:35pm - 1:35pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Work-Based Learning as an Engine for Community and Economic Development	Stephen Casa, Supervisor of Workplace Learning, NYSCREA President Ulster BOCES Workplace Learning Team	Jones Beach Room
	Teaching for Work and Life: Dual-Purpose Curriculum in Special Education WBL	Dr. Pauline Shea, Transition Coordinator Commack UFSD	Hamptons Room
	Past, Present and Future of WBL Leadership in New York State	Dr. Alison Matthews, WBL Coordinator/CTE Coordinator, NYSCREA 1st Vice President, Harborfields School District Ms. Mary Pat Grafstein, Past NYSCREA President	Gold Coast Room
1:40pm - 2:20pm	Closing • Work-Based Learning Coordinator of the Year Award, Sponsored by Pathful • CTE Excellence Award, Sponsored by Pathful • Rookie of the Year Award, Sponsored by McGraw Hill • Friend of CREA Award, Sponsored by Vector Solutions • Retiree Award, Sponsored by McGraw Hill • Lifetime Achievement Awards, Sponsored by Pathful and YouScience • Zone Raffle Gifts	   	Montauk Room

2026



**NYSCREA
Conference**

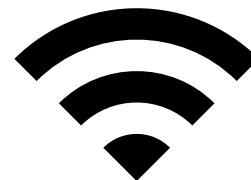
MAY 20 - MAY 21

**LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT**
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK



WIFI INFORMATION

Network: NYSCREA



Password:Conference2026*

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram!



QR CODE TO AGENDA



LINKED IN

Join our LinkedIn Group!



WBL INFOGRAPHIC



VENUE MAP AND BREAKOUT ROOMS



NEW MERCH STORE

SHOP HERE FOR T-SHIRTS,
VESTS AND MORE!



SHOP HERE FOR
PROFESSIONAL
ACCESSORIES



NYSCREA IMPACT STUDY INTEREST FORM



CONFERENCE FEEDBACK PLEASE COMPLETE TO RECEIVE YOUR CTLE CERTIFICATE



NYSCREA WEBSITE



Thank you for your participation!

2026



**NYSCREA
Conference**

MAY 20 - MAY 21

**LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK**

SUBMIT YOUR SCAVENGER HUNT HERE

2026



**NYS CREA
Conference**



MAY 20 - MAY 21

**LONG ISLAND
MARRIOTT**
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK

VENUE MAP

