



CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

TWO DECADES OF DIFFERENCE: The Pathways Movement Continues

Share your insights, innovations, and research with leaders who value your commitment to regionally relevant and personally empowering learning pathways that connect K–12 education to postsecondary success and thriving careers.

The Linked Learning Alliance is proud to share this call for proposals for the 2026 Linked Learning Conference, *Two Decades of Difference: The Pathways Movement Continues*—a special convening marking the 20-year anniversary of Linked Learning.

Across California, young people in their formative years are preparing for the future by experiencing it as they learn. They're solving real problems, exploring careers they never knew existed, and graduating with the skills, confidence, and credentials to succeed. For 20 years, Linked Learning has been making this difference—building pathways that connect education to opportunity, today and tomorrow. We've proven that when communities work together with shared purpose, we can transform what's possible for young people. And that excellence and equity are essential priorities on the path to prosperity.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead. To reaching more students. To deepening partnerships. To ensuring that every adolescent in California has access to the transformative power of career-connected, college-bound learning. The future is happening right now, in the work we do together.

This year's conference takes place in **Palm Springs, California, October 21–23, 2026**. It welcomes educators, industry partners, community leaders, policymakers, researchers, and workforce collaborators from California and across the United States—and the knowledge you can share.

SESSION PROPOSALS

We invite you to submit a session proposal showcasing your work in bridging education and workforce systems to deliver regionally relevant, career-integrated, college-connected learning experiences for students—and for the future workforce.

Sessions can include panel discussions, hands-on activities, reflective group discussions, or other focused learning opportunities. All sessions will be 60 minutes in length, including Q&A.

SUBMISSIONS

Session proposals should be submitted via the link below by the end of May.

[Begin Your Submission](#)

SESSION THEMES

We invite session topics that align with two or more of the following themes:

1. **Secondary School Transformation:** How pathway teams drive forward-looking school change—designing innovative programs, building resilient cultures, working with policymakers, and defining new benchmarks for the next era in education.
2. **Cultivating Coherence:** Ways districts and partners braid investments in dual enrollment, community schools, high-quality pathways, after-school time, and other aligned frameworks to drive coherence, ensure sustainability, and amplify impact.
3. **Lessons and Advice:** Hard-won insights from practitioners who have been building pathways for years—what drives and enables the work most profoundly, what they'd do differently, and what they imagine for the next frontier of high-quality college and career pathways.
4. **Pathways to Career:** How educators and community and industry partners build aligned, connected, accelerated experiences that support adolescents through every transition—from exploration during middle school through high school pathways into postsecondary education and high-opportunity careers.
5. **Going for Gold Certification:** The process and lived experience of working toward Gold Certification—how teams use the standards to drive continuous improvement, build shared commitment, and navigate the journey from self-assessment to high quality implementation and recognition.
6. **Data-Driven Equity and Improvement:** How pathway teams collect, disaggregate, and act on student outcome data—building a system where evidence informs decisions and ensures the pathway is working for every student and entire communities.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Sessions can include panel discussions, hands-on activities, reflective group discussions, or other focused learning opportunities. All sessions will be 60 minutes in length, including Q&A.

Strong sessions will:

- Reflect on lessons learned and spotlight forward-thinking strategies shaping the next chapter of this work.
- Incorporate perspectives from a range of backgrounds and experiences—including those of Linked Learning students or alumni.
- Offer, practical, and actionable approaches that participants can adapt and apply within their own communities to strengthen quality, expand access, and deepen impact.
- Encourage active participation, ideation, creativity and sharing among attendees during the session.

INCLUDE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL

- Brief working title that clarifies your topic
- Themes your session will address (two or more, from list on previous page)
- Narrative description of your session conveying:
 - Its value and relevance
 - What you plan to cover and how
 - What attendees can expect of the session experience
 - Key learning objectives and strategies/tools they will take away from it
- Information about each presenter, facilitator, or panelist featured in your session:
 - Full name
 - Professional title or role
 - Organization where they work or affiliate
 - Biographical paragraph about their relevant experience

TIMING AND NOTIFICATION

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Notification of the status of your proposal will be provided by May 29, 2026.

While multiple submissions are welcome, the Linked Learning Alliance is committed to featuring a diverse range of voices across education, industry, policy, research, and community leadership sectors.

For questions, please contact Haley Steinhauser, Vice President of Communications for the Linked Learning Alliance, at haley@linkedlearning.org.