2016 Conference Tracks

- Leadership Development & Career Enhancement: Community & technical colleges and WorkReady U programs support the leadership and professional development of their employees to energize and enhance our mission and grow our leaders. Topics in this track lead to personal enrichment and focus on career advancement, administrative/management skill development, faculty/staff/leadership development, retirement planning, stress/time management, and health and wellness.

- Teaching & Learning: At the very core of our mission, colleges and WorkReady U programs are teaching and learning institutions. This track provides an opportunity for faculty to showcase the best practices of teaching, learning, and student engagement as well as focus on alternatives to lecture-based classes. Designed to engage a broader cross-section of faculty, this track is primarily focused on research-based instructional strategies and methods that have demonstrated value in teaching and learning to engage students, enhance professional goals, and affect learning outcomes.

- Student Engaged Partnerships: As we focus on the next decade, there will be an emphasis on creating and sustaining a culture of engaged partnerships with students. This track provides an opportunity to feature some of the common issues, latest trends, and best practices related to enrollment management. Areas emphasized include: capitalizing on social media interactions with students, improving conversion of admitted to enrolled students, transitioning WorkReady U students to postsecondary completion and sustainable employment; improving the financial aid delivery system, redefining recruitment and retention strategies, improving student support services to positively impact student success, and building and maintaining relationships with alumni.

- College & Career Readiness: The increasingly competitive global economy makes it imperative that more students enter career fields that enable higher wages and greater potential for growth, however, the business community and higher education institutions are concerned about the lack of preparation of high school students and working-age adults for postsecondary education or training necessary to succeed in these careers. This track will focus on sharing fundamental ideas and practices for engaging students in a College & Career Readiness Program through accelerated training strategies and/or incorporation of the College & Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education.

- Adult Education: The skills gap in Louisiana is a priority. More than 600,000 persons of working age in the state have less than a high school diploma. The community and technical colleges have taken on the responsibility for moving more adults through to completion of a college credential and have become the source of innovation in developing capacity to better serve this population. This track provides an opportunity for colleges and adult education providers to feature some of the best practices in moving adult students through to credential completion.
• Business & Industry Partnerships: Our colleges need members of the community to advise them on, engage them in, and support workforce development programs that are effective, responsive, and relevant. Our colleges also need to identify best practices for building coalitions that help colleges meet industry needs. This track will feature business and industry partners who are helping move Louisiana forward.

• Return On Investment (ROI): Success in delivering the mission to our students is dependent on the effective use of existing resources and the execution of innovative strategies to tap new sources of funding. The ability to develop and access new funding streams, whether grants, workforce training contracts and partnerships, or fundraising strategies and private philanthropy, will be hallmarks of the successful community and technical college of tomorrow. In addition, the ability to leverage resources and funding will also be vital to colleges in this new economic reality. Presentations in this track will focus on grant writing, fundraising, leveraging resources, business administration, etc.

• Workforce & Education Collaboration: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) supports innovative strategies to keep pace with changing economic conditions and calls for improved collaboration between adult education, vocational rehabilitation, and workforce development agencies. Building strong partnerships at both the state and local level can create a more efficient and effective education and training system in Louisiana that expands education opportunities and employment outcomes for individuals. In these sessions, participants will hear from program managers, educational leaders, and workforce partners at the forefront of providing these integrated services to eligible LA citizens under the new law.