



FOR THE
FUTURE OF WORK
FLORIDA

Xello Florida Summit 2026

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Cohort:

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS



Date:

February 19–20, 2026



Location:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake
Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34746

Welcome to the 2026 Xello Florida Summit: Connect, Collaborate, Celebrate

We're so glad you're joining us!

You'll join a community of Florida educators, counselors, administrators, and workforce partners who share a common goal, ensuring every student is future-ready.

This year's Summit is designed to celebrate your impact while equipping you with fresh ideas, proven strategies, and connections that will strengthen college, career, and life readiness across our state. You'll notice that each workshop session is organized by cohort, the one you selected during registration. These tailored sessions are meant to help you connect with peers who share your focus area and explore approaches most relevant to your role.

We encourage you to participate fully, ask questions, and share your own experiences. Together, we'll continue building a stronger, more connected Florida workforce pipeline, one student at a time. We're thrilled to have you with us.

Let's connect, collaborate, and celebrate!

Sincerely,
The Xello Team



🕒 5-6 PM

📍 Palms ABC Foyer

Welcome reception

🕒 6-7 PM

📍 Palms ABC



Todd Speciale

KEYNOTE

🕒 7-9 PM


📍 Palms ABC

Xello Awards Dinner & Celebration

 6:30-9:30 AM Bar and Complimentary
Breakfast


Drop-in breakfast

Drop in for breakfast anytime during the morning window.

 9:45-10:15 AM Palms ABC

Opening Session, Shedly Casseus


KEYNOTE

 10:30-11:15 AM The Cove


The Partner Perspective: Defining the Conditions for Success


Community organizations, workforce boards, and industry partners play a critical role in preparing Florida's future talent. In this session, partners will reflect on the experiences and conditions that helped them succeed, and imagine what Florida could look like if every learner had similar opportunities.

Through an interactive activity, participants will co-create a shared vision of "workforce success" and identify the conditions that enable readiness, access, navigation, and capacity. These insights shape the partner voice carried into cross-cohort sessions with CTE and administrators and help build strong classroom-to-career pathways. The session also highlights how Xello supports these conditions at scale.


 11:15-11:30 AM**Break** 11:30 AM-12:15 PM Cypress 1-2**From Classrooms to Careers**

CTE leaders and community partners will explore how students move from classroom learning to real careers by showcasing or imagining the experiences and supports that make this transition meaningful. In a collaborative makerspace environment, participants will model a current practice from their community or create an ideal one they wish existed. Together, they will identify the essential elements that make these models effective and determine the partnerships and system supports needed to strengthen and scale them. This session blends creativity and collaboration to shape Florida's classroom-to-career pathways.

 12:15-1:15 PM Palms ABC**Lunch: FDOE address**


 1:15-1:30 PM

Break


 1:30-2:15 PM Cypress 1-2

The Power of Alignment

Administrators and community partners will explore how data can reveal alignment between learner interests, school programs, and workforce needs. Participants will examine where strong pathways already exist, where opportunities are emerging, and where new partnerships could strengthen WBL, CTE, advising, and postsecondary transitions. Through interactive, hands-on activities, teams will define clear success measures and identify the systems, supports, and resources needed to deliver coordinated, high-quality pathways that help students move confidently from the classroom into in-demand careers.



 2:15-2:30 PM

Break


 2:30-3:15 PM The Cove

From Ideas to Action: Planning What Comes Next

Participants will bring together the insights, best practices, and designs from earlier sessions to create practical next steps for strengthening student pathways across WBL, CTE, advising, and postsecondary transitions. Each person will outline individual actions they feel ready to explore, supported by the collective expertise and relationships built throughout the day. Together, participants will clarify priorities, identify needed supports and partnerships, and consider how tools like Xello can enhance coordination and visibility, focusing on meaningful steps that build momentum and expand opportunities for Florida's learners.

 3:15-3:30 PM Palms ABC

Break

 3:30-4 PM Palms ABC

Closing: Thank yous & goodbyes



KEYNOTE

Todd Speciale, MSGA Consulting

Todd Speciale, CEO MSGA Consulting, is a renowned motivational speaker, sales/business and leadership expert, and three-time best-selling author. Known as "The Culture Creator," he transforms teams with integrity-driven leadership, training c-suite executives and inspiring thousands with his authentic results-focused approach.



KEYNOTE

Shedly Casseus, The Scholarship Plug

Shedly Casseus Parnter is a national trailblazer in education and entrepreneurship, guiding over 8,500 students to secure millions in scholarships. As founder of The Scholarship Plug, she leads 60+ annual workshops that ignite ambition, build community partnerships, and turn college dreams into funded realities.



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Rachel Ludwig**Vice President, Florida Chamber Foundation**

Rachel Tease Ludwig is Vice President of Talent Development at the Florida Chamber Foundation. She leads statewide initiatives to strengthen Florida's talent pipeline, aligning education and workforce strategies with the Florida 2030 Blueprint. Rachel is passionate about expanding opportunities and helping learners become earners in a growing, competitive economy.



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Mistie Palmer**Workforce Development Programs Manager, AdventHealth**

Mistie Palmer, Workforce Development Programs Manager at AdventHealth, leverages 20 years of clinical and operational leadership to build inclusive, future-focused healthcare talent pipelines. She holds a Master's in Healthcare Administration and has volunteered with youth for 15 years. Mistie is also a wife and mother of three teenage sons.

**COMMUNITY & BUSINESS****Lisa Butler****Program Developer, Florida Energy Workforce Consortium**

Lisa began her career with Procter & Gamble, leading a commercial business unit and developing national training programs. With experience in recruitment, onboarding and business management, Lisa now serves as a consultant, building strategic plans and developing programming for the Florida Energy Workforce Consortium, PBC STEM Ecosystem and FIRST robotics.

**COMMUNITY & BUSINESS****Mark Howard****Director, Cox Science Center and Aquarium PBC STEM EcosySTEM**

Mark Howard recently served as Chief of Performance Accountability for Palm Beach County Schools, leading formative assessment design, equity-focused data tools, and principal dashboards that identify opportunity gaps. A former teacher and coach, he's a respected facilitator and FOIL advisory board member known for making complex data clear and actionable.

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