SESSION CONTENT

Business Meetings are generally working sessions for AACTE members, committees, task forces, and grant projects.

Featured Sessions are highly interactive and timely learning experiences that target the development of skills and exploration of practices and dispositions crucial to educator preparation in today's world. Topics at these sessions reflect work that is central to AACTE's mission and its ongoing initiatives, including presentations from collaborating institutions, affiliate organizations, government agencies, think tanks, and thought leaders from the field. Attendees are sure to walk away with innovative and inspiring content to apply in their own work.

Keynote Sessions are the highlights of AACTE 2026. So that all may attend, no other conference sessions are scheduled during the times while these plenary events take place.

- Opening Keynote is Friday, February 20, from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
- Closing Keynote is Sunday, February 22, from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Spotlight Sessions are multifaceted, hour-long experiences designed to shift perspectives in educator preparation. Carefully curated to showcase groundbreaking research, innovative practices, and visionary leadership, these sessions highlight the work shaping the present and future of the field.

Concurrent Sessions are sessions curated through a blind, peer-reviewed Call for Proposals process and organized by AACTE staff, Board members, Programmatic Action Committees (PACs), and Topical Action Groups (TAGs). These sessions offer diverse learning formats — such as peer-to-peer exchanges, small-group discussions, and lecture-style presentations — and may include Individual Papers, Roundtables, and Poster sessions.

SESSION STRANDS

Strand I: Advancing Innovation and Impact

Educators are no longer content providers; they are skills-based, student-centered, personalized learning experts. The skills and knowledge that educators need to succeed in the 21st century is changing. Future educators need to be prepared to teach and work in rapidly changing educational landscapes requiring innovative and impactful approaches to education.

Strand II: Education Policy and Advocacy

The Education Policy and Advocacy strand seeks proposals that 1) translate research into policy and practice and provide information of relevant state and federal policies impacting the educator profession and 2) promote public advocacy and civic engagement. Successful advocacy is characterized by long-term relationship-building positioning you as a trusted expert. Examples of engagement may demonstrate establishing and sustaining connections with policy makers, agency leaders, and even the media, while developing alliances with other education stakeholders to support and amplify your message. Proposals should offer strategies and examples to enhance collaboration between education stakeholders and policymakers.

Strand III: Deepening the Impact of Education Research

Research in education has tackled significant challenges, driving innovation, and transformation in the field. Despite facing reduced funding, limited access to methodological resources and technology, and time constraints, high-quality and innovative education research continues to evolve, addressing the challenges and opportunities for educators, families, and policymakers.

Strand IV: Prioritizing Opportunity for All
The Prioritizing Opportunity for All strand seeks proposals that demonstrate a commitment to:
1) preparing diverse and anti-racist educators,
2) recruitment of educators in critical shortage areas,
3) global perspectives in education,
4) inclusive education,
5) equitable engagement of families, and
6) access to high-quality learning environments for all students.

To holistically address diversity, equity and inclusion, educators should consider any community that has been historically and systematically denied access to quality education or communities that have been discriminated in the education system, including but not limited to Black and Brown communities, low-income, migrant, limited-English proficiency, Native, AAPI, disability and LGBTQIA+ communities.

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Stay up to date in real time by following AACTE 2026 and sharing your event photos and experiences on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram using **#AACTE26**.

Connect 360
You have been added to the AACTE 2026 online community to engage with fellow attendees — share tips and takeaways, ask and answer questions, or arrange meetups.