



Washington Week 2026

**Yours Truly Hotel
1143 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, DC 20037**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Monday, June 1

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration Open**
- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast for Returning Attendees & First-time Attendee Breakfast Briefing**
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome to Washington Week**
Opening Conversation:
Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, President & CEO, AACTE
Kathlene Campbell, CEO, National Center for Teacher Residencies
Valerie Sakimura, Executive Director, Deans for Impact
Interactive Role Play Activity
Agenda Review and Announcements
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break**
- Holmes Scholars & Other Students Depart for Advocacy Organization Meetings**
- 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Session I: The Appropriations “Process”: Rules, Norms, and Reality (Room 9/10)**
Moderator: Erica Romero, National Center for Teacher Residencies
Panelists:
Jared Bass, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding
Amanda Beaumont, Professional Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee
Bethany Little, Managing Principal, Education Counsel

All confirmed speakers listed. Additional speakers forthcoming.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch**

11:45 – 4:00 p.m. **State Leaders Institute**

Facilitated by the AACTE Advisory Council of State Representatives, this session is for officers in AACTE-affiliated state associations.

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

Session IIA: Introduction to Advocacy – The Elevator Pitch

Facilitated by members of the AACTE Government Relations & Advocacy Committee, this session provides attendees the opportunity to practice using data and storytelling to craft an effective elevator pitch.

Session IIB: Advanced Advocacy Techniques: Expanding Influence Beyond the Hill

Facilitated by AACTE communication staff, this session provides seasoned advocates practice in using legacy and social media effectively to advance their advocacy efforts.

Session IIC: Grounding in the Why: Anticipating and Responding to Questions

Facilitated by DFI and NCTR, this session provides deeper background and rationale for the policy priorities so leaders can productively anticipate and respond to questions from congressional offices.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Networking Break**

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Session III: Understanding the Administration's Actions on Federal Grants, Research, and Apprenticeships**

Moderator: Patrick Steck, Deans for Impact

Panelists:

Steve Pierson, American Statistical Association

Amber Northern, Fordham Institute and Dept. of Education

Megan Baird, Acting Administrator, Apprenticeships National Office,
U.S. Department of Labor

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. **Holmes Scholar/Student Off-site Meetings Debrief**

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. **Distribution of Day on the Hill Final Schedules & Briefing for Team Leaders**

All confirmed speakers listed. Additional speakers forthcoming.

4:45 – 5:30 p.m. **Day One Closing Address**
Kirsten Baesler
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

Evening **On Your Own**

Tuesday, June 2

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast for all Attendees**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Overview of Advocacy Priorities**
Jacqueline King, AACTE
Erica Romero, National Center for Teacher Residencies
Patrick Steck, Deans for Impact

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break**

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Keynote Address or Washington Week Veterans Panel**

11:30 a.m. **Instructions for Day on the Hill Preparation**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch**

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **State Team Preparation for Day on the Hill**

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **20-Minute State Team “Office Hours” with Raben/AACTE/NCTR/DFI**

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Closing Address:**
Representative Lucy McBath, D-GA

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Networking Reception**

Wednesday, June 3

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Grab n’ Go Breakfast, Hotel Check-out, and Luggage Storage**

8:00 a.m. **Transportation departs to Capitol Hill**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Day on the Hill: Meetings with House and Senate Offices**
(Transportation after Day on the Hill is on your own)

Monday, June 8

3:30-4:30 p.m. ET **Virtual Debrief for All Attendees**

All confirmed speakers listed. Additional speakers forthcoming.