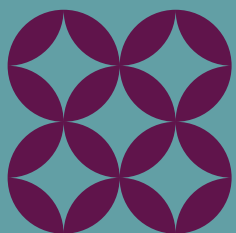




Sponsorship Opportunities

June 3-5, 2026

Gaylord Texas Resort and Convention Center



Rural Empowerment Conference

Contact: Susan Grove
sgrove@edu-nation.org

About Us

Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN) is a nonprofit organization transforming rural education and workforce development through an education-to-career model. By partnering with local school districts, colleges, and employers, CEN builds sustainable pathways that prepare students—from Pre-K through postsecondary—for high-wage, high-demand careers. Our innovative P-20 system equips rural learners with the tools, credentials, and confidence to thrive in their communities—driving local prosperity and national impact.

Meet Our Leaders



Dr. Kim Alexander
CEO



Jeff Walker
President



Michelle Carroll Smith
Chief of Schools



Brittany Bartley-Williams
Chief Partnership
Officer



Kendall Guynes
Chief Financial
Officer



Dr. Susan Grove
Chief Development
Officer





ABOUT REC 2025

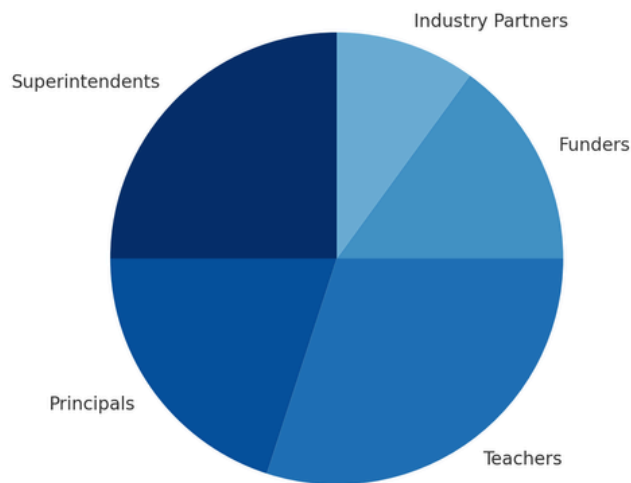
The 2025 Rural Empowerment Conference (REC) marked the inaugural year of Collegiate Edu-Nation’s signature event, uniting rural educators, industry leaders, and community partners. Designed to spark collaboration and innovation, REC sets the stage for transforming education and career pathways in rural communities nationwide.



GOALS FOR 2026

Building on the success of our inaugural year, Collegiate Edu-Nation aims to grow the Rural Empowerment Conference (REC) to **400 attendees in 2026**, with a focused effort to increase participation from workforce partners and postsecondary institutions. This expansion will deepen cross-sector collaboration and strengthen the pipeline from rural education to high-wage, high-demand careers—creating even greater impact for sponsors, students, and communities.

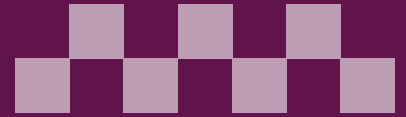
2025 ATTENDEE DATA



TOTAL REACH

- **Email Distribution:** 3000+ direct recipients, over 1000+ indirect recipients
- **Social Media:** 14,000+ impressions across LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter.
- **On-Site Attendees:** 200–250 participants over three days, including rural education leaders, funders, and industry partners.
- **Event Branding:** Sponsor Logos in printed programs, digital agendas, signage, and session screens.

SESSION TRACKS



K–12 EDUCATION TRACK

The K–12 track highlights innovative practices and scalable strategies that are transforming teaching and learning in rural schools. Sessions will focus on student-centered instructional design, data-informed decision-making, and expanding access to rigorous coursework, including dual credit and career-aligned pathways. Educators and leaders will explore how to build strong foundations that prepare students for postsecondary success and meaningful careers while improving student outcomes and accountability measures.

POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS TRACK

The Postsecondary track focuses on strengthening partnerships between school districts, colleges, and universities to expand access to credentials of value. Sessions will highlight dual credit models, P-TECH pathways, Year 13/14 implementation, and strategies to increase college enrollment, persistence, and completion. Attendees will gain insights into how to create seamless transitions from high school to postsecondary education while aligning programs with high-wage, high-demand career opportunities.

WORKFORCE & INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS TRACK

The Workforce track centers on building strong connections between education and industry to develop sustainable talent pipelines in rural communities. Sessions will explore work-based learning, apprenticeships, industry certifications, and employer engagement strategies. Participants will learn how to align education systems with regional workforce needs, ensuring students graduate with the skills, experiences, and credentials required to enter and succeed in the workforce.

CROSS-SECTOR INNOVATION TRACK

The Cross-Sector track brings together leaders from K–12 education, postsecondary institutions, and workforce partners to explore integrated, system-level solutions that drive student success and economic mobility. Sessions will highlight collaborative models, regional partnerships, and aligned pathways that connect learning to careers. Attendees will engage in conversations focused on breaking down silos, scaling what works, and building cohesive ecosystems that support learners from early education through employment.

Sponsorship Opportunities



Platinum Sponsor – \$50,000 (Exclusive)

Official Dinner Sponsor

- **10-minute speaking opportunity** during the Dinner Event.
 - Recognized as the **Official Platinum Sponsor** throughout the 2026 Rural Empowerment Conference.
 - **6 full conference registrations** with VIP seating at keynote and lunch events.
 - **Co-host a breakout session** with a CEN ISD partner.
 - **Logo featured** on attendee badges, conference app, and digital signage across all venues.
 - Public acknowledgment as the **Opening Session Sponsor**.
 - **Premium on-site exhibit location** and virtual advertising placement.
 - **Access to full attendee list** with emails following the event.
 - **Exclusive media visibility:**
 - Dedicated *spotlight article* in CEN's post-conference newsletter.
 - 3 standalone social media posts with logo, tag, and link.
 - Featured "Thank You" with logo in CEN's e-newsletter and press recap.
 - Recognition during CEN's **Fall 2026 Lunch & Learn** webinars.
- Recognition on **CEN website** and in the **2026 Annual Report donor listing**.



Gold Sponsorship Package-\$40,000 (Exclusive)

Official Lunch Sponsor

- **5-minute speaking opportunity** during the Lunch Event.
 - Recognized as the **Official Gold Sponsor** throughout the conference.
 - **4 full conference registrations** with reserved seating at the lunch event .
 - **Co-host a breakout session** with a CEN ISD partner or workforce collaborator.
 - **Preferred on-site exhibit location** and virtual advertising placement.
 - **Access to attendee list** following the event.
 - **Expanded brand exposure:**
 - 2 exclusive social media highlights with logo and link.
 - Recognition with logo in CEN's post-event newsletter.
 - Acknowledgment during one **Fall 2026 Lunch & Learn** webinar.
 - Inclusion on the CEN website and in the 2026 Annual Report donor listing.
- Public acknowledgment as the **Mid-Conference Lunch Sponsor** during general session announcements.



\$30,000

Silver Sponsor—\$30,000 (Exclusive)

Official Reception Sponsor

- **5-minute speaking opportunity** during the Reception Event.
 - Recognized as the **Official Silver Sponsor** throughout the conference.
 - **2 full conference registrations** plus 2 complimentary reception guests and lunch event tickets
 - **Public acknowledgment** as the Closing Session Sponsor.
 - **On-site exhibit location** and digital advertising.
 - **Visibility enhancements:**
 - 1 featured social media thank-you post with logo.
 - Recognition with logo in post-event newsletter and Annual Report.
 - Logo displayed on reception signage and slides.
 - **Access to attendee list** following the event.
-

\$20,000

Bronze Sponsorship Package—\$20,000

- Recognized as an Official Bronze Sponsor throughout the conference.
 - 2 full conference registrations and 2 lunch tickets
 - On-site exhibit location and virtual advertising placement.
 - Recognition touchpoints:
 - Group social media “thank-you” post.
 - Logo displayed on sponsor signage and digital agenda.
 - Inclusion on the CEN website and in the 2026 Annual Report donor listing.
 - Public acknowledgment during at least one general session.
 - **Access to attendee list** following the event.
-

\$10,000

Rural Advocate Sponsor—\$10,000

- Recognized as an Advocate Sponsor supporting the Rural Empowerment Conference.
- 1 on-site exhibit location with priority placement.
- 2 full conference registrations and lunch event.
- Recognition in social media “thank-you” post and post-event newsletter.
- Logo featured on conference signage and slides.
- **Access to attendee list** following the event.
- Recognition on CEN website and in the 2026 Annual Report donor listing.



\$5,000

Rural Supporter Sponsor – \$5,000

- Recognized as a Supporter Sponsor throughout the conference.
- 1 on-site exhibit location.
- 2 full conference registrations and lunch event.
- Group recognition in social media and digital thank-you listings.
- Logo displayed on conference signage and sponsor slides.
- Inclusion on CEN website and in the 2026 Annual Report donor listing.

\$500

Exhibit Opportunity – \$500

Showcase your programs, products, or services directly to more than 400 attendees from across rural education, workforce, and community development sectors.

Includes:

- One exhibit space during the conference.
- Participation in the Conference Passport Program, designed to drive attendee engagement and increase booth traffic throughout the event.
- Recognition as a Participating Exhibitor on digital materials and the CEN website.
- Group social media “thank-you” listing.
- One complimentary event registration for exhibit staff, which includes full access to the conference sessions, reception, and lunch event.
- Additional conference registrations may be purchased separately if desired.

Additional Conference Details

- **Early Bird Registration: \$199 per attendee through April 15, 2026.**
- **Final Registration Deadline: May 15, 2026.**
- **Exhibit Registration Deadline: May 1, 2026, or until all spaces are filled.**
- **Exhibit spaces are limited to approximately 30 booths and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.**