

VACE 2026 Conference Schedule

Events Subject to Updates



Wednesday, April 22

Time		Event
11:00 am	Pre-Conference Area	Registration Opens
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Blue Ridge	VACE Board Meeting
11:30 am- 1:00 pm	Salon C	Newcomer’s Lunch
1:30 pm- 2:45 pm	Blackfriars Playhouse	<i>Shakespeare & Leadership: Tools for Communication and Collaboration</i> Welcome American Shakespeare Center – Just Next Door!
2:45 pm- 3:00 pm		Travel Time to Hotel 24 South
3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	Salons A, B, C	Breakout #1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salon A: Building Bridges: Mentorship in Action 2. Salon B: Strategic Management of Employer Relations Using an Algorithmic Informed Tiered Structure 3. Salon C: Career Across the Curriculum: Building Faculty Capacity and Community
4:00 pm	Hotel Lobby	Hotel Check In Check into your room and relax for a while before the President’s Employer Networking Reception and Awards Banquet
5:00 pm- 6:30 pm	Colonnade Room	President’s Employer Networking Reception Enjoy networking with your colleagues and take the opportunity to tell local employers how great VACE is! <i>Dress: Business/Business Casual</i>
6:30 pm- 8:30 pm	Ballroom	VACE Awards Banquet Enjoy a delicious dinner followed by our VACE Awards Ceremony <i>Dress: Business/Business Casual</i>
8:45 pm- 11:00 pm	Second Floor Parlor	Hospitality Suite Relax and join us on the balcony for social time!

Thursday, April 23

6:30 am- 9:00 am	Breakfast Gallery	Breakfast Enjoy Hotel 24 South’s famous breakfast buffet at your leisure. A great time to share a table with your VACE friends
7:00 am	Gypsy Hill Park Fun Run	Enjoy the beautiful outdoors with your fellow VACE walkers and runners. <i>(Optional)</i>
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Pre-Conference Area	Registration Opens
9:00 am- 9:50 am	Ballroom	Business Meeting Committee Sign Ups
9:50 am – 9:55 am	Ballroom	Door Prize Drawing
10:00 am- 11:15 am	Ballroom	Fireside Chat with Keynote Speakers Nicole Hall, NACE Chair-Elect and Christian Garcia, NACE Mackes Leadership Award and NACE Mentor of the Year
11:15 am-	Ballroom	Employer Panel

Noon		Discussion with VACE and Local Employer Members
Noon-12:50 pm	Ballroom	Lunch Enjoy a delicious buffet while networking with friends and colleagues
12:50 pm - 1:00 pm	Lobby	Door Prize Drawing
1:00 pm–1:50 pm	Salons A, B, C	Breakout #2 (3 Sessions) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salon A: Expanding Pathways, Expanding Possibilities: Transforming Work-Based Learning Experiences in Higher Education 2. Salon B: The Supervisor’s Toolkit for Creating Career Ready Students 3. Salon C: Lost in Translation: Making Liberal Arts Learning Employer-Ready
2:00 pm-2:50 pm	Salons A, B, C	Breakout #3 (3 Sessions) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salon A: Building a Career Ecosystem: The Future of Career Development in Higher Education 2. Salon B: Beyond the Degree: Work-Based Learning for Liberal Arts Success 3. Salon C: Coaching Students in the Age of AI
3:00 pm		Afternoon Off and Dinner on Own A Great Time to Network While Enjoying Staunton, the Queen City!
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Second Floor Parlor	Hospitality Suite

Friday, April 24

6:30 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast Gallery	Breakfast Enjoy Hotel 24 South’s famous breakfast buffet at your leisure. A great time to share a table with your VACE friends
9:00 am-9:50 am	Salons A, B, C	Breakout #4 (3 Sessions) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salon A: Mandatory Career Prep Classes - The Why and How-To 2. Salon B: Career Services as a Catalyst for the Campus: How to Leverage Career Services to be a Driver for Enrollment, Retention, Student Engagement, and Alumni Relations 3. Salon C: Advancing Internships at Scale: A Statewide Partnership Approach in Virginia
9:55 am	Ballroom	Door Prize Drawing
10:00 am –10:50 am	Ballroom	Round Table Discussions
11:00 am-11:45 am	Ballroom	Ask Me Anything: The Next Generation of You A down to earth conversation with our Gen Z Panel
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	Ballroom	Final Door Prize Drawing Grand Prize Drawing Closing