

## GENERAL INFORMATION

AACTE 2024 Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Conference Center.

The Annual Meeting is one of AACTE's signature and most popular convening activities that offers engaging general sessions with powerful keynote speakers. It also includes unprecedented opportunities for those attending to learn from and network with colleagues, sponsors, exhibitors, and the AACTE board, volunteers, and staff. The primary objective of the Annual Meeting is to provide those engaged in educator preparation programs with an opportunity to present high-quality content on new and relevant issues affecting the profession.

"Ascending New Heights: Propelling the Profession into the Future" aligns the AACTE 2024 Annual Meeting with the association's vision and mission to revolutionize education for all learners by elevating education and educator preparation through research, professional practice, advocacy, and collaboration. Representing the institutions and programs that prepare the greatest number of professional educators in the United States and its territories, and in partnership with international colleague organizations, AACTE is the incubator for bold ideas and new discoveries to drive impactful applications based on evidence-based reasoning.

AACTE encourages collaboration built on expertise that crosses disciplines, backgrounds, and cultures to enhance knowledge transfer and empowerment for those engaged in educator preparation regardless of what stage they are in their career path. This year's Annual Meeting presents the best research-to-practice methodologies, leadership, and advocacy strategies, mentoring opportunities, and peer networking for students, higher education partners, and deans all under one roof at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora/Denver, Colorado.

### Conference Venue

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center  
6700 N Gaylord Rockies Blvd.  
Aurora, CO 80019

Please consult the [Online Event Planner](#) or Annual Meeting Mobile App to confirm the location of your session.

### Travel Information

The nearest airport is Denver International Airport (DEN), which is 8.5 miles away. While AACTE does not endorse third-party vendors, arrangements can be made with shuttles, taxis, or app-based ride shares to provide you with transportation to and from the airport. The [light rail](#) is also an option from the airport.

Denver really is a Mile High, but most people don't even notice the altitude difference. The air is just thinner and dryer. It's best to follow these tips to stay happy and healthy.

- Drink plenty of water
- Monitor your alcohol intake
- Eat food high in potassium
- Watch your physical activity
- Pack for sun
- Dress in layers

### Time Zone

Denver is located in the Mountain Standard Time Zone (GMT-7).

### Weather

At the mid-February, the average temps are in 40s, and it is forecasted for partly sunny skies during the conference. For the latest weather forecast, visit [accuweather.com](https://www.accuweather.com).

### What to Pack

Attire is business casual for the conference during the day. We do recommend you dress in layers, as temperatures in meeting rooms can vary.

Attire for receptions is business casual. Don't forget to pack your college gear for Sunday!

### **Vaccination and Mask Policies**

The health and safety of all attendees is a priority, and AACTE greatly appreciates your flexibility and understanding as we navigate these times together. This year we will not have any proof of vaccination policies in place and **masks are optional**.

### **Online Pre-Registrations**

Please visit the AACTE Registration Desk where you will be directed to use one of the computers to check in using your barcode (which will be sent to you via email before the conference) or by entering your First Name, Last Name, or Company/Institution Name. Your name badge will be printed onsite for you.

### **On-Site Registration**

For your colleagues who have not yet registered, onsite registration will be available at the AACTE Registration Desk. The on-site member registration rate is \$925. Please visit [here](#) for other rates.

There is no one-day registration this year, and we encourage online pre-registration.

### **Registration Hours**

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15  
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16  
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17  
7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18

### **Conference Venue Maps**

Maps of the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Conference Center are provided in the [Online Planner](#).

### **AACTE Badges**

As there are a variety of events happening at the Gaylord Rockies during the Annual Meeting, name badges are required for entry into all AACTE events.

### **Meals/Breaks**

The following meals/breaks will be provided during the conference:

#### **Friday, Feb 16**

Breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (*new this year*)  
Beverage Break 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Reception 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday, Feb 17**

Breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (*new this year*)  
Beverage Break 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
AACTE After Hours 7:30 – 10:00 pm (*new this year*)

#### **Sunday, Feb 18**

Breakfast 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

### **Attending Concurrent Sessions**

All concurrent sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating begins approximately 15 minutes prior to each session's start time.

### **Wi-Fi**

If you made your hotel reservation within the AACTE room block, you will receive complimentary, in-room Wi-Fi included in your room rate.

## SESSION CONTENT

**AACTE Learning Labs** are sessions organized by AACTE Staff & Board, AACTE Programmatic Action Committees (PACs), and AACTE Topical Action Groups (TAGs).

**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 the Annual Meeting. 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 16, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- Featured Keynote is Saturday, February 17, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- Closing Keynote is Sunday, February 18, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Learning Labs** are concurrent sessions selected through the 2024 Call for Proposals via a blind, peer-review process. These learning experiences incorporate a variety of formats, including (but not limited to) case studies, peer-to-peer learning, small-group interaction, and lecture-based instruction. Session types in the Learning Lab category include Case Stories, Research to Action, Individual Papers, Roundtables, Posters, and Scenario Planning. Learning Labs cover a large spectrum of professional topics in support of the theme and strands of the Annual Meeting.

## 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. The Advancing Innovation and Impact strand features sessions that address the latest practices and advancements in the field and seeks to answer questions that shape the future of teaching and learning.

### **Strand II: Resilient Leadership During Unprecedented Times**

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders at all levels of education from elementary grades to higher education have had to implement new policies and procedures for online learning, technology integration, and student engagement, while navigating censorship efforts that infringe on educators' ability to teach and counsel students as well as efforts to support diverse students, faculty, teachers, principals, school counselors, nurses, and superintendents, to name a few. This strand explores leadership in the 21st century across the education landscape.

### **Strand III: Education Policy and Advocacy in the Era of Inequality**

Education policy impacts the day-to-day learning of students in Pre-K-12 and higher education, the capacity of teachers and faculty to teach, and the experiences of families and communities. The Education Policy and Advocacy in an Era of Inequality strand offers programming that translates research into policy and practice and provides information of relevant state and federal policies impacting the educator profession. This strand also promotes public advocacy and civic engagement with the intent of offering policy recommendations to current challenges in the field including academic censorship, faculty tenure, teacher licensure and certification, critical shortages in all areas of educator preparation, educator enrollment and retention, teacher induction, student and educator mental health, and school safety. The objective is to offer strategies and examples to enhance collaboration between education stakeholders and policymakers.

#### **Strand IV: Deepening the Impact of Education Research and Research to Practice**

The Deepening the Impact of Education Research strand seeks to address the needs of faculty pursuing educational research and those engaged in research to affect practice. This strand includes high-quality, contemporary, and impactful sessions that advance teaching and learning, and how we design, develop, improve, and promote educator preparation programs. Session content is grounded in equity and may include diverse methodologies, in addition to community-based research, conceptual papers, empirical research studies, peer-reviewed scholarly papers, research briefs, and research that increases the use of evidence-based practices.

#### **Strand V: Prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Research has unequivocally proven that all students benefit from diverse educators and inclusive learning environments that are affirming and cultivate a sense of belonging. 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. The Prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strand offers sessions that demonstrate a commitment to preparing diverse and anti-racist educators, recruitment of educators in critical shortage areas, global perspectives in education, inclusive education, equitable engagement of families, and access to high-quality learning environments for all students.

### **STAY CONNECTED**

#### **#AACTE24 on Social Media**

Stay up to date in real time by following the Annual Meeting and sharing your event photos and experiences on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) using #AACTE24.

#### **AACTE Membership Booth**

Please visit the AACTE Membership Booth. Meet with staff and learn about the benefits of AACTE membership and how to maximize your engagement with fellow colleagues. Not a member? Please stop by and learn more!

#### **AACTE Exhibit Hall**

The AACTE Expo Hall offers attendees an experience to discover more about AACTE partnerships and related resources that can be provided. Be sure to stop by often to take advantage of coffee breaks, stimulating conversations, and giveaways.

The Expo Hall hours:

- Friday, February 16, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 17, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### **Connect 360**

You have been added to the [AACTE 2024 Annual Meeting](#) community to engage with fellow attendees— share tips and takeaways, ask and answer questions, or arrange meetups.