



# NATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE CONFERENCE

# 2026 TENTATIVE

# AGENDA

The 2026 National Health Science Conference is designed to be flexible, engaging, and practical. Each day includes a mix of keynote experiences, concurrent learning sessions, and time to connect with colleagues and partners. Attendees may choose the sessions most relevant to their role, interests, and classroom needs. Built-in breaks, meals, and networking moments provide space to share ideas, explore the exhibit hall, and build connections across the health science education community. Pre-conference sessions extend the learning experience for those arriving early. This agenda is tentative and subject to refinement as speakers and sessions are finalized.

## AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

All times listed are Central Time  
All rooms locations are to be determined

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

- 4:30 – 6:30 PM                      NHSC Help Desk Open
- 4:30 – 6:30 PM                      Conference Registration

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

- 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM                NHSC Help Desk Open

#### Pre-Conference Session Attendees Only                      \*Pre-Conference Registration Required

- 7:30 – 9:00 AM                      Pre-Conference Registration\*
- 7:30 – 8:45 AM                      Breakfast (included with Pre-Conference registration)\* Lunch
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM                      (included with Pre-Conference registration)\*
- 9:00 AM– 4:00 PM                      Pre-Conference Sessions (Rotating Morning and Afternoon)\*

**See It. Touch It. Teach It. Bringing Health Science Education Back to Life**  
Robbi Rauzi, Co-Founder , Activities in a Pinch  
Melissa Hodges, Director – Core Product Management and Innovation,  
Carolina Biological Supply Co

Experience health science in action through an immersive, hands-on dissection workshop featuring the cardiovascular, visual, and nervous systems. Using Carolina's preserved sheep heart and brain and cow eye specimens, participants will not only explore structure-function relationships, but also experience the power of Activities in a Pinch —bringing complex health science concepts to life through tangible, real-world application.

Rooted in the engagement strategies, this session demonstrates how to craft powerful instructional "hooks" that spark curiosity before the scalpel ever touches the specimen. Educators will rotate through guided dissections to identify key anatomical structures, trace blood flow and neural pathways, and connect anatomy to clinical relevance and health careers. Along the way, participants will model ready-to-use classroom engagement strategies, formative learning checks, and memorable reinforcement activities.

Aligned with the National Health Science Standards, this session equips educators with practical tools to elevate anatomy and physiology instruction —transforming lessons from passive content delivery into interactive, standards-aligned experiences that drive deeper understanding, retention, and career connections.

**Precision in Practice: Integrating Suturing Competency into Health Science Education**

Christy Shaw, Instructor & NPCSI Coordinator, University of South Alabama  
Dr. Anjie Davis, University Of South Alabama

This pre-conference session provides health science educators and practitioners with a robust blueprint for integrating basic suturing skills into their curriculum to ensure clinical competency.

Participants will engage in a dynamic lecture on wound assessment and an immersive, hands-on laboratory practicing simple interrupted and running sutures on porcine tissue.

Ultimately, the workshop equips attendees with simulation strategies and standards-aligned assessment tools to build students' cognitive confidence and manual dexterity for real-world medical environments.

- 2:00 – 8:00 PM                      Exhibitor Set Up
- 2:00 – 5:00 PM                      Conference Registration (Attendees, Exhibitors, and Sponsors)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM | NHSC Help Desk Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7:00 – 8:00 AM    | Conference Registration & Breakfast (included with registration)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7:00 - 12:00 PM   | NCHSE Store                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8:00 – 8:30 AM    | Opening Session: Orientation & Announcements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8:30 – 9:30 AM    | Keynote Speaker: Gerry Brooks<br>Gerry Brooks is a veteran educator from Lexington, Kentucky, with experience spanning the classroom, intervention services, and school administration. He is now a nationally known speaker who motivates teachers and administrators through practical strategies, positive leadership insights, and widely followed humorous content about real-life education experiences. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:30 – 10:00 AM   | Dedicated Exhibitor Visit Time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Health Science Certificate Lab                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Sponsored By:          |
| 9:30 AM – 4:15 PM | Exhibits Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:00 – 10:45 AM  | Concurrent Sessions (1 of 12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:45 AM  | Concurrent Sessions (2 of 12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM   | General Session: Lunch (included with registration), Announcements & Exhibitor Visits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1:00 – 1:45 PM    | Concurrent Sessions (3 of 12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2:00 – 2:45 PM    | Concurrent Sessions (4 of 12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2:45 – 3:30 PM    | Snack Break with Exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:30 – 4:15 PM    | Concurrent Sessions (5 of 12)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5:30 – 8:30 PM    | Networking Reception & Social at McWane Science Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sponsored By:    |

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM | NHSC Help Desk Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| 7:15 - 8:00 AM    | HSEA Quarterly Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 7:30 – 8:15 AM    | Networking & Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 8:15 – 8:30 AM    | General Session: Breakfast (included with registration) & Announcements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| 8:30 – 9:30 AM    | Keynote Speaker: Bryant Collier<br>A renowned speaker who is guaranteed to inspire and challenge you to conquer the world! A Georgia native, Bryant travels the country empowering and encouraging leaders to never give up on their journey to success. Bryant Collier has dedicated himself to walking alongside others in the journey of life because he is convinced that with inspiration, affirmation, & mentorship, anyone can become a leader of tomorrow. |  |
| 9:30 AM - 3:15 PM | Exhibits Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 9:30 – 10:00 AM   | Dedicated Exhibitor Visit Time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM | NCHSE Store                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 (CONTINUED)

|                   |                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Health Science Certificate Lab                                         |
| 10:00 – 10:45 AM  | Concurrent Sessions (6 of 12)                                          |
| 11:00 – 11:45 PM  | Concurrent Sessions (7 of 12)                                          |
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM   | General Session: Lunch (included with registration) & Exhibitor Visits |
| 1:00 – 1:45 PM    | Concurrent Sessions (8 of 12)                                          |
| 1:45 – 2:30 PM    | Final Dedicated Exhibitor Visit Time                                   |
| 2:30 – 3:15 PM    | Concurrent Sessions (9 of 12)                                          |
| 3:15 PM           | Birmingham Sightseeing on Your Own                                     |

Sponsored By:



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

|                    |                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM | NHSC Help Desk Open                                                        |
| 7:00 - 10:30 AM    | NCHSE Store                                                                |
| 7:30 – 8:30 AM     | Networking & Breakfast (included with registration)                        |
| 8:30 – 9:15 AM     | Closing Session: Breakfast, Announcements, Door Prizes, and Health Science |
| 9:00 - 11:30 AM    | Hearing Screenings                                                         |
| 9:15 – 10:00 AM    | Concurrent Sessions (10 of 12)                                             |
| 10:00 – 10:15 AM   | Break & Checkout Time                                                      |
| 10:15 – 11:00 AM   | Concurrent Sessions (11 of 12)                                             |
| 11:15 – 12:00 PM   | Concurrent Sessions (12 of 12)                                             |
| 12:00 PM           | Departure & Safe Travels!                                                  |

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER &  
LEARN MORE

### Pre-Conference

Monday, October 19  
Early Bird Registration: \$175 (through 8/7)  
Standard Registration: \$225 (8/8-9/18)  
Late Registration: \$275 (9/19 on)

Sheraton Birmingham  
\$217 per night plus applicable taxes/fees  
2102 Richard Arrington Jr blvd N  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 324-5000  
[Book Here](#)

### Conference

Tuesday, October 20 - Thursday, October 22  
Early Bird Registration: \$575 (through 8/7)  
Standard Registration: \$675 (8/8 - 9/18)  
Late Registration: \$775 (9/19 on)

Westin Birmingham  
\$247 per night plus applicable taxes/fees  
2221 Richard Arrington Jr blvd N  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 307-3600  
[Book Here](#)

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at: [events@healthscienceconsortium.org](mailto:events@healthscienceconsortium.org).