

NLCC 2026

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Engaged Community

Wednesday, April 22

5:30pm – 7:30pm	Board of Directors Dinner
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Thursday, April 23

8:00am – 4:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting
1:00pm – 6:30pm	Attendee Registration
4:00pm – 5:00pm	SAE Meeting (Invite Only)
4:30pm – 5:30pm	First-Time Attendee Orientation
5:30pm – 7:30pm	Welcome Reception

Friday, April 24

7:30am – 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
7:30am – 5:00pm	Attendee Registration
8:30am – 5:00pm	Future Leaders Program
8:30am – 4:30pm	Headshot Lounge Open
8:30am – 9:45am	Welcome/Leadership Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashley Powell, PhD, RD, SNS, FAND, President-Elect Keynote Address – SPONSORED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rediscover Your Play <i>Jeff Harry, Founder & CEO, Rediscover Your Play</i>

	<p>This session explores how shifting from achievement-only mindsets to intentional play can build belonging, spark creativity, increase focus through flow, and strengthen intrinsic motivation, reducing burnout and improving staff retention. Attendees will help their teams identify unique play styles and understand how play fosters belonging and purpose, learn the science of flow and how play boosts focus, productivity, and satisfaction at work, and practice positive psychology techniques that connect employees' roles to their intrinsic motivation.</p>
9:45am – 10:00am	Break
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Curated Education Sessions
10:45am – 11:00am	Break
11:00 am-11:45 am	Curated Education Sessions
11:45am – 12:00pm	Break
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch w/ SNA Update</p> <p>Stephanie Dillard, MS, SNS, SNA President, and Patricia Montague, FASAE, CAE, SNA Chief Executive Officer</p>
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	<p>“Hear from your Peers” Sessions</p> <p>The “Hear from Your Peers” sessions will provide a forum for attendees to share successful practices and knowledge from their state or national leadership experience. They will walk away with strategies for better collaboration while establishing relationships that will transcend the summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Leaders – Future Leaders Alumni Panel, Stephanie Dillard, MS, SNS, <i>SNA President</i>; Ashley Powell, PhD, RD, SNS, <i>FAND, President-Elect</i>; <p>(Future Leaders Program Only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced Leaders • Presiding Leaders
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Curated Education Sessions
2:45 pm – 3:00pm	Break

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Curated Education Sessions
3:50 pm – 5:00 pm	State Planning Time
3:50 pm – 5:00pm	Introduction To DiSC[®] Profiles (Future Leaders Program Only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harmeet Singh, SNA Senior State Relations Associate (Future Leaders Program Only)</i>

Saturday, April 25

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am -12:00 pm	Headshot Lounge Open
8:30am – 11:30am	Future Leaders Program
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPAR, Leading so the best ideas, not the biggest egos, win <i>Chris Failla, Founder & Lead Facilitator at See the Human, LLC</i> In this dynamic, interactive session, we'll explore how to build a culture where people feel safe to speak up, disagree, and debate, so the best ideas rise above the loudest voices. Chris Failla introduces a transformative approach to navigating conflict with dignity, curiosity, and creativity, showing how "sparring - not fighting" can strengthen collaboration, deepen trust, and drive innovation. Attendees will learn to distinguish productive disagreement from destructive conflict, apply practical tools to foster trust and teamwork in high-stakes conversations, and transform competition into cooperation so diverse ideas can thrive.
9:30am – 9:45am	Break
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Curated Education Sessions
10:30am – 10:45am	Break
10:45 am – 11:15 am	"Hear from your Peers" Sessions The "Hear from Your Peers" sessions will provide a forum for attendees to share successful practices and knowledge from their state or national leadership experience. They will walk away with strategies for better collaboration while establishing relationships that will transcend the summit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Leaders – Reflection on yourself using DiSC® Profiles - <i>Harmeet Singh, SNA Senior State Relations Associate (Future Leaders Program Only)</i> • Experienced Leaders • Presiding Leaders
11:30am	Conference Ends
1:00pm – 4:00pm	OPTIONAL – State Planning Time