



**TN Workforce Development Academy
Holiday Inn Cookeville
March 3-5, 2026**

Tuesday, March 3 (Central Time)

9:00-9:30	Registration	Saffron Hall
9:30-10:00	Welcome & Introductions	Paul Jennings, PhD Autumn Derrick, TCEcD <i>UT CIS</i>
10:00-11:00	Trends and Challenges in a Changing Economy	Rue Ramsey <i>Tulsa Regional Chamber</i>
11:00-12:00	Overview of the Workforce Development Ecosystem	Rue Ramsey
12:00-1:00	Lunch/Networking	1091 Rooftop
1:00-2:00	Linkages Between Economic and Workforce Development	Amy New, TCEcD <i>Cookeville Chamber</i> Corey Johns, CEcD <i>Wilson County JECDB</i> Anne Hosea-Majors, TCEcD <i>Coffee County Industrial Board</i>
2:00-3:15	Public Workforce System Framework	Marla Rye <i>Workforce Essentials</i>
3:15-3:30	Break	
3:30-4:30	Serving Business and Industry	Beth Duffield <i>Williamson Health</i> Deborah Knoll <i>TN Board of Education</i> Joy Rich, EdD <i>Nissan North America</i> Patrick Wade <i>TCAT Murfreesboro</i>
4:30-6:00	Networking Reception	1091 Rooftop



TN Workforce Development Academy
Holiday Inn Cookeville
March 3-5, 2026

Wednesday, March 4 (Central Time)

7:30-8:15	Full Breakfast Buffet	1091 Rooftop
8:30-8:45	Day 1 Recap & Announcements	Autumn Derrick, TCEcD Rue Ramsey
8:45-10:00	Alignment Strategies for Economic and Workforce Development	Rue Ramsey
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-11:30	Labor Market Intelligence	Don Bruce, PhD <i>UT Boyd Center</i>
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Networking	1091 Rooftop
12:30-1:30	Addressing Barriers to Education and Employment <i>Advancing Economic Mobility</i>	Patty Weaver, EdD <i>Pellissippi State CC</i>
2:00-3:15	Solutions to Impact Labor Force Participation <i>(Breakout Session)</i>	Rue Ramsey Course Participants
3:15-3:30	Break	
3:30-5:00	Promising Practices and Useful Resources	Alex Sadler <i>TVA</i> Lauren Longmire <i>Knoxville Chamber</i> Tyra Pilgrim, PhD <i>Rutherford County Schools</i> Jeremy Kourvelas <i>UT IPS SMART Initiative</i>
5:00-5:15	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Autumn Derrick, TCEcD
6:15	Optional Dinner Gathering	



Center for Industrial Services
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

TN Workforce Development Academy
Holiday Inn Cookeville
March 3-5, 2026

Thursday, March 5 (Central Time)

7:30-8:00	Full Breakfast Buffet	1091 Rooftop
8:00-9:30	Unlocking Your DiSC Style: <i>The Key to Building Stronger Relationships</i>	Alex Sadler TVA
9:30-9:45	Break	
9:45-11:00	Generational Harmony <i>Orchestrating Success Across Five Generations</i>	Kelly Drummond, PhD <i>My Soul in Bloom</i>
11:00-11:30	Telling Your Workforce Story (Breakout Session) <i>Communicating Workforce Strengths and Strategies</i>	Rue Ramsey <i>Tulsa Regional Chamber</i>
11:30-12:15	Team Report Out	Course Participants
12:15-12:45	Servant Leadership	Herb Byrd, III, PhD <i>UT Institute for Public Service</i>
12:45-1:00	Break (Graduation Setup)	
1:00-2:00	Graduation/Box Lunches	Saffron Hall