May 25-26, 2016 with tours on May 24 and 26, 2016. Conference sessions will be at the United States Coast Guard Academy, 31 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320. Conference lodging will be at the Hilton in Mystic, CT. New London and Mystic area map

Register online for your room at our conference hotel (pictured to the right):

**Hilton Mystic Hotel**
20 Coogan Blvd.
Mystic, CT 06355
860.572.0328

Use group code NAWI. The group rate will be honored past the May 13 group rate reservation deadline on a space available basis, please contact the hotel if you need assistance using our $129 group rate. Note that the discounted
room rate might be available before and after the conference if space is available, starting Monday night, 5/23 and through Friday night, 5/27. The United State Coast Guard Academy, site of the conference sessions, is approximately five to ten minutes driving time from the Mystic Hilton Conference Hotel.

For additional hotel accommodation information, as well as information about submitting conference speaking proposals, exhibitor and sponsor information, registering for the 2016 conference, and the fascinating cities of Mystic and New London, Connecticut, scroll down this page or use the jump links to your right.

“NAWI’s Next 50 Years – Looking to the Future of CTE”

You are invited to participate in this year's National Association for Workforce Improvement conference in historic Mystic and New London, Connecticut, May 24, 25, and 26. NAWI just celebrated its 50th year and this year NAWI members will be taking a serious look at CTE of the future.

Do you have ideas how Career and Technical Education can better support workers, innovators, creators, entrepreneurs, and producers? What lies ahead for CTE delivery? How does CTE align with the new Maker Movement? To what extent does CTE support the workforce as well as the innovationforce and entrepreneurs? We would love to hear from you!

This year's conference in Connecticut brings together practitioners who will share their experience and expertise to help you grow a renewed culture of innovation in your region. We will have an interactive session on the future of CTE to include engaging discussion on topics such as: What will CTE look like? How do we shape CTE to serve the needs of Millennials and beyond? What are ways to integrate career clusters so that for example, how does engineering coincide with art and entrepreneurship? Skills are important however how do we create MacGyvers of the world?

We will also be showing, by permission, the film "Most Likely to Succeed."

**Modern CTE/"Innovationforce" Presentation Focus Areas:**

**Youth Customer**

- What motivates the millennial generation?
- What will be the livelihood of millennials?
- What does it mean to be "pigeon holed" in education?
- How do we apply empathy in addressing student needs and desires?
Economic Reality

• What are the broad economic trends and what does the emerging economy look like?
• What role does innovation and entrepreneurship play in future economics?
• How is sustainability and carbon reduction helping to grow the economy?
• What is a Maker City and how is it fueling the undercurrent of economic development?

Ways that CTE Professionals can Respond

• How can Design Thinking be applied to CTE?
• What role can making and innovation play in CTE?
• Solutions in every pathway...examples of student developed projects.
• In what ways can CTE evolve to support the economy of the future?

Key Perennial CTE Focus Areas:

• Implementing differentiated teaching methods that work;
• How can we integrate skills and experiences across Career Clusters?
• Creating and maintaining business/industry/education partnerships and internships as a part of a meaningful and applied education experience for students;
• Project and problem based learning approaches;
• Economic development: ways CTE contributes;
• Ways industry can share their talents, resources, expertise, and real world projects.

In addition, these areas will be discussed, debated, and decided:

• What is the new economy? Is CTE ready for the Third Industrial Revolution?
• What are the limits of Certs and Certifications: What are emerging market needs?
• MacGyverism: How do you develop MacGyvers in the classroom? How do you measure it?
• Work based learning that improves engagement, access and speed. What is changing?
• Peer Recognition: the ultimate motivator. How do badges help?
• Knowing the millennial customer. What do students want?
• Makerspace Mania: What are your creative spaces?
• Workforce and Innovationforce: What are the points of intersection and differences?
• Inter-program Projects: Why should CTE adopt inter-program projects?
• Engineering, art, entrepreneurship: Why are these important together?
• The Art of Exhibition: Why is exhibiting one of the most important things you can do?
• Short courses: it there a renewed need and interest?
• What is lies beyond Career Clusters?
• Should Making be in all CTE programs?

Registration (onsite conference check-in) will be at the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), McAllister Hall, Room M-201 from 7:15 - 8:30 am EDT on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The USCGA is at 31 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320.

To see the 2016 NAWI Conference program, subject to revision, click on this: NAWI 2016 Conference program.

Keynote sessions

Conference welcoming address at the United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT (Wednesday, May 25, 2016)

Dr. Ronald Adrezin of the United States Coast Guard Academy will give the conference opening address.

Time Traveler guru Dr. Ron Mallett. (Morning Keynote, Wednesday, May 25, 2016)

Dr. Ron Mallett

Professor Ronald L. Mallett received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from the Pennsylvania State University. He worked for United Technologies from 1973-1975, and in 1975 he joined the physics faculty at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where he is currently a research professor of physics. Professor Mallett has published numerous papers on black holes and cosmology in professional journals. His breakthrough research on time travel has been featured extensively in the media around the world, including print media such as New Scientist, the Village
Voice, the Boston Globe, the Hartford Courant, Rolling Stone magazine, and The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News/BusinessWeek and Huffington Post. He has also been featured on broadcast media, such as NPR’s This American Life, the History Channel, Science Channel, the National Geographic Channel, ABC’s Good Morning America, NBC’s Today Show and CNN’s Erin Burnett OutFront.

Professor Mallett’s recently published memoir “Time Traveler: A Scientist’s Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality” has been translated into Korean, Chinese, and Japanese. The filmmaker Spike Lee has written a script for a feature film of the book. Mr. Mallett will be available for book signing of his new book, “Time Traveler: A Scientist’s Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality.” You may also be interested in this movie trailer.

Matthew J. Tarascio (Evening Keynote, Wednesday, May 25, 2016)

Mr. Tarascio will discuss the challenges and opportunities of leading the highly technical and critical engineering management program and the workforce requirements that are a must.

Matthew J. Tarascio is Director, iNTelligent Technologies, Analytics and Sustainability. In this position, Matthew is responsible for Fleet Management Engineering / Analytics, Reliability & Maintainability, HUMS, Diagnostics & Prognostics, Technical Training / Simulation & Publications, Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Technical Support, and Product Support Technologies. Matt also provides executive leadership for the Impact Technologies business. He serves as the principal representative to Sikorsky programs and the customer on technical matters, and provides management oversight to all program engineering activities and requirements in this field.

Matthew Tarascio’s complete bio
Hannah Gant: An entrepreneur's story of blazing a straight line (Morning Keynote, Thursday, May 26, 2016)

Hannah Gant shares her story and observations as someone who has forged her own path into entrepreneurship. She worked in different arenas within the food system before getting an MBA. She now focuses beyond solo entrepreneurship by working with groups that leverage the talents of many to make things happen. Sometimes this results in new businesses.

Spark Makerspace is a new community-run workshop and learning center in New London featuring shared workspaces that include a woodshop, electronics & 3D printers, commercial kitchen, art workstations, shared office, meeting, and classroom space as well as member-led classes and meetup groups.

Fascinating Mystic and New London, Connecticut!

With history, entertainment, and attractions of all kinds, Mystic, Connecticut is a wonderful place to be in May for our conference. NAWI conference attendees will have many interesting venues to visit in Mystic after conference sessions are done each day!

New London and Mystic area map

Enjoy a visit to Mystic Seaport, the world’s largest maritime museum. Step back in time in its recreated 19th century coastal village that is a living museum where you can explore real 1800s trade shops and businesses, take a horse and carriage ride, and communicate with folks “from 1876.”

You can also visit the Mystic Seaport's preservation shipyard to gain an insight into the skills and crafts of wooden boatbuilding and board the four national Historic Landmark vessels: The 1908 wooden, coal-fired steamboat Sabino, the Dunton, the Emma C. Berry and the Charles W Morgan, the world’s last wooden whaling ship.

View the fascinating Titanic exhibit at the Mystic Aquarium and witness the human drama and the astounding discovery of the Titanic in its watery grave by Dr. Robert Ballard.
The city of New London, CT, has been an important port since the Revolutionary War, when it served as a base for American privateers raiding British ships. In the 19th century, the revenues brought into the city by whalers helped build what now forms the city’s charming center, filled with historic homes, taverns and shops. The masts of tall ships can still be seen passing through the harbor, the home of Coast Guard ships. There are many other fascinating places to visit in New London, as shown on the rotating marquis at New London's official Web site. Here are two of their interesting venues:

The United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) in New London, CT will be a venue for our conference sessions. The USCGA offers a quality higher education experience that emphasizes leadership, physical fitness and professional development. Their cadets devote themselves to an honor concept and go directly into positions of leadership in service to others. We are honored to be able to be at the USCGA.

Spark Makerspace is a new collaborative workspace in downtown New London opening this summer as a community-run workshop and learning center with two adjacent spaces filling over 10,000 square feet with a woodshop, electronics, commercial kitchen, artspaces, a retail outlet, and shared office, meeting, and classroom space. We will have an optional tour of this makerspace at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, May 24!

Additional Lodging Information

Rooms are being held at our Hilton Mystic, Connecticut conference hotel for $129 per night, king or double room, use group code NAWI. The group rate will be honored past the May 1 group rate reservation deadline on a space available basis, please contact the hotel if you need assistance using our group rate. Note that the discounted room rate might be available before and after the conference if space is available, starting Monday night, 5/23 and through Friday night, 5/27. New London and Mystic area map

You may book your hotel room by clicking this Hilton Mystic, Connecticut conference hotel registration link. If rooms at our Hilton Mystic conference hotel are fully booked, please consider these additional hotel accommodations in the greater Mystic, CT area as well as these additional Norwich, CT hotel accommodations.
How to submit a 2016 NAWI Conference speaking proposal

Please note that NAWI conference proposals for our 2016 conference are no longer being accepted.

This year’s conference will focus on "NAWI’s Next 50 Years – Looking to the Future of CTE." We are seeking to identify a variety of approaches that support the conference theme to help teachers, workforce developers, counselors, administrators, and business partners meet the challenges of the future. Conference attendees include staff from secondary schools, community colleges, and technical institutes, as well as government leaders in workforce development and representatives of business, industry, and labor. You are invited to submit a proposal for presenting at the 51st Annual NAWI Conference.

We invite you to participate in the conference and to submit your most innovative idea as a possible presentation. Session proposals that include supporting data/statistics will receive top consideration. The deadline for non-keynote speaking proposal consideration was the end of the day Pacific time, April 18, 2016. Please click to start your submission of your conference presentation proposal. If you have questions regarding your presentation proposal please contact Laurie Kash, Ph.D. at petrachslaurie@aol.com

An interesting optional tour of a new makerspace will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 and an optional tour of the United States Coast Guard Academy will be on Thursday, May 26!

For those registered for the NAWI Conference, we will have complimentary bus transportation for tours.

Spark Makerspace is a new community-run workshop and learning center in New London featuring shared workspaces that include a woodshop, electronics & 3D printers, commercial kitchen, art workstations, shared office, meeting, and classroom space as well as member-led classes and meetup groups. We will get a sneak peek at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, May 24! If you need transportation to get to this tour, please meet at the front door of the conference hotel at 1 pm., otherwise, we will join you at the Spark Makerspace at 1:30! New London and Mystic area map
The United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) in New London, CT will be a venue for our conference sessions and we are pleased to also have a tour of their facilities. Dr. Ronald Adrezin will direct a tour of the United States Coast Guard Academy on Thursday, May 26, 2016. The time for this tour will be announced later; but, it is likely to be after the last conference session for the day. The USCGA offers a quality higher education experience that emphasizes leadership, physical fitness and professional development. Their cadets devote themselves to an honor concept and go directly into positions of leadership in service to others. We are honored to be able to be at the USCGA.

We will also be showing during the conference, by permission, the film "Most Likely to Succeed."

Conference Registration Information

The online conference registration system for our 51st Annual Conference is now available. This system will allow you to register for the conference and pay via a credit card. Payments via checks and institutional purchase orders can also be accommodated. Click here to register for our conference.

Note that hotel sleeping room registrations are done separately from registering to attend the conference, although there is a link at the NAWI 2016 Annual Conference registration site to our conference hotel registration page.

Exhibitor and Sponsor Information

Please click here if you would like information on becoming an exhibitor or sponsor for our 51st Annual NAWI Conference. Please click here to register to become a sponsor or an exhibitor for our 51st Annual NAWI Conference.

Thank you to our sponsors!