

**Innovation and Best Practices for Teaching and Learning Fall PDI 2026
Crowne Plaza Lansing West – October 7th and 8th**

Wednesday October 7th

7:30 – 8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast – Conference Lobby

Following are located in Ballrooms ABC

8:30 – 8:35 am Welcome and Agenda Overview – *Mark Forbush*

8:35 – 8:45 am Institute of Agricultural Technology –

8:45 – 9:00am *AFNRE Update –*

9:00 – 9:15 am FFA Foundation and 100 Year Update– *Alex Schnabelrauch, Executive Director Michigan FFA Foundation*

9:15 – 9:45 am Session I - CDE/LDE Updates for 2026-27 –
Kevin Nugent, Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph and Mark Forbush

In this fast-paced session, teachers will have the opportunity to learn about the updates and changes from each contest which was reviewed this summer and approved by the Board of Directors in September.

Contests: Tractor Driving, Parliamentary Procedure, Meats Judging, Marketing, Land Conservation, Job Interview Farm Business Management AFNR Education. (Vet Science will be later in the agenda)

9:45 – 10:00 am NASA Research Opportunities for Students and Programs -
Kaitlyn Lemon ARSET Trainer & Partnerships Specialist. *NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET, NASA EarthRISE Developers Academy, Analytical Mechanics Associates*

10:00 – 10:15 am Break

10:15 – 10:50 am Michigan FFA Update – *Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph and Kevin Nugent*, Michigan FFA Participants will be provided with information on State FFA activities.

10:50 – 11:20 am National FFA Update – *Jason Gore*, State Relations Specialist National FFA Participants will be provided with an update on National FFA activities, National Convention and general updates related to FFA.

11:20 – 11:35 am ICEV Credential Recognition - *Tammy Hyatt*

11:35 – 11:45 am Michigan FFA Alumni Update – *Burt Henry*

11:45 – 12:15 pm Michigan Department of Education Updates – *Mark Forbush*, MDE & CSUS/AFNRE Participants will be provided with information on trends at the State and National level related to AFNRE key topics.

12:15 – 12:50 pm Networking Luncheon – Sponsored by iCEV – **Ballrooms ABC**

1:00 – 1:45 pm Session II- Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Innovation Convention World Wide

SAE Award updates on new Proficiency and Updates to Agriscience Fair

1:50 – 2:35 pm Session III- Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Innovation Convention World Wide

SAE Award updates on new Proficiency and Updates to Agriscience Fair

2:35 – 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 3:45 pm Session IV – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

3 rooms for MA projects **Ideas on Ones to put together would be very helpful**

Group 1: CDEs/LDEs with Kassie Acker (Agronomy workbook) and Sarah Albrecht (LDE student tools)

Group 2: Curriculum and Neurodivergent learners with Nathan Snow (Natural resources), Nicholas Prestly (Middle school), and Kyle McFarren (Neurodivergent Learners)

Group 3: Science integration with Zoey Hrabal (Ag bio labs), Cassie Stone (Stream monitoring), Megan LoPresto (Agriscience Fair)

3:45 – 4:30 pm Session V – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

3 rooms for MA projects

Group 1: CDEs/LDEs with Kassie Acker (Agronomy workbook) and Sarah Albrecht (LDE student tools)

Group 2: Curriculum and Neurodivergent learners with Nathan Snow (Natural resources), Nicholas Prestly (Middle school), and Kyle McFarren (Neurodivergent Learners)

Group 3: Science integration with Zoey Hrabal (Ag bio labs), Cassie Stone (Stream monitoring), Megan LoPresto (Agriscience Fair)

4:30 – 4:50 pm Break room check in

5:00 – 6:00 pm MAAE Meeting (*Reo Room - Tentative*)

6:00 – 6:30 pm Connecting and Reconnecting with AFNRE colleagues – **Ballrooms ABC**

6:30 – 8:00 pm Teacher Award Dinner – MAAE and MHTA – **Ballrooms ABC**

8:30 – 8:45 pm State Officers Reflections – **Royale Atrium**

9:00 - 9:30 pm MHTA Meeting – **Ballroom A- Tentative**

8:45 – 10:15 pm FFA Dance (**Ballrooms DEF**) /Game Night (**Ballrooms B/C**)

Teachers/Advisors with students, please supervise the dance and game night.

Thursday October 8th

7:00 – 7:40 am Networking Breakfast – **Ballrooms ABC**

7:40 – 7:50 am **DTE Energy - *DJ Ikeler* – Ballrooms ABC**

8:00 – 8:55 am Session VI – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Greenhouse Management – Ballroom A -

Rabbit Contest – Ballroom B

Vet Science - Ballroom C

9:00 – 9:55 am Session VII – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Greenhouse Management – Ballroom A

Rabbit Contest – Ballroom B –

Vet Science - Ballroom C

9:55 – 10:10 am Break

10:10 – 10:40 am Session VIII - MDARD Survey to help develop Worker Protection Standards Ready Materials – *David Creswell, Emily Pochubay and Antonio Escobar*

10:40 – 11:10 am Session VIII - Idea Expo - Freely move around to different opportunities

Teachers will rotate through the following potential topics:

Urban and Rural Conflict Management,

Secondary/Postsecondary Program of Study,

CDE/LDE Material Swap,

World Food Prize,

Biotech Programs,

11:10 to 11:50 am Session IX – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Integrating NGSS and Stem – *Eric Moser* – Ballroom A -

Forestry VR Field Trips - Ballroom B –

National Chapter Application – *Cindy Walker* - Ballroom C

Having judged at the national level Cindy brings perspective on how to complete the National Chapter Application and have it well received at that level.

11:50 to 12:30 pm Session IX – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Integrating NGSS and Stem – *Eric Moser* – Ballroom A -

Forestry VR Field Trips - Ballroom B –

National Chapter Application – *Cindy Walker* - Ballroom C

Having judged at the national level Cindy brings perspective on how to complete the National Chapter Application and have it well received at that level.

12:30 – 12:35 pm Keystone Cooperative - *Sarah Morehouse*

12:35 to 1:30 pm **Networking Lunch – Ballrooms ABC**

1:30 to 2:15 pm Session XI

CIP Self Review Tips and Secondary Post-Secondary Program of Study– *Mark Forbush MDE OCTE MSU* – Ballroom

- How to help you complete the needed material for your CIP Self Review and have your students help!

Program Round Tables – Teacher Exchange

- Following the presentation ideas will be exchanged and you will be able to build evidence to put into your CIP Self Review!

2:15 pm Adjourn

Fall PDI Sponsors

Michigan Department of Education
Michigan State University
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Community Sustainability
Michigan FFA Association
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