



TEAM-UP TOGETHER

LEAD PARTNERS



TEAM-UP Together Student Experience Conference (TUTSEC) 2026 Conference Program

<https://www.teamuptogether.org/student-experience-conference-2026>

Location: The Royal Sonesta Capitol Hill, (20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

Friday, September 25, 2026		
Time (Mountain)	Session/Activity	Location
12:00 – 6:00 PM ET	TUTSEC Registration (light snacks available from 1-3pm)	Outside of Crown Ballroom
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Focus Group Interviews - Optional Student Interviews with TU-T Evaluation & Research Teams <i>Jaclyn Tejwani, West Ed</i> <i>Selena Cartznes, West Ed</i> <i>Brittany Chambers, TEAM-UP Together Researcher</i>	Jewel B
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Welcome Reception - Remarks	Sapphire Room
6:00 – 9:00 PM	Conference Opening Session & Dinner Opening Plenary (7:00-8:00) Dr. Julianne Pollard-Larkin, UT MD Anderson Career Center	Crown Ballroom
9:00 – 11:00 PM	Fun activities – Optional - Karaoke Late night Snacks Available	Sapphire Room
9:00 – 11:00 PM	Study Lounge	Jewel B
Saturday, September 26, 2026		
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration	Outside of Crown Ballroom
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Buffet)	Hallway Outside Crown Ballroom
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Welcome and Framing of the Day TEAM-UP Together Leadership	Crown Ballroom
9:00 -10:00 AM	Morning Plenary “Curiosity Redefines the Limits” Mr. Rodney C. Adkins, Avnet Inc.	Crown Ballroom

10:00 -10:15 AM	Coffee Break	Hallway
10:15 - 11:30 AM	Career Pathways Panel Moderator: TBD Dr. Lynnae Quick , <i>Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab</i> Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins , <i>Rowan University</i> Dr. Thomas Searles , <i>University of Illinois, Chicago</i>	Crown Ballroom
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Networking Session	
12:00 – 1:45 PM	Lunch (Buffet) – Luncheon Plenary (12:45-1:45) “A Road Less Traveled: The Nonlinear Life of a Public Scientist” Dr. James Dickerson , <i>ASTM International</i>	Lunch- Hallway Crown Ballroom
1:45 – 3:15 PM	Physics & Astronomy Identity Workshop Dr. Geraldine Cochran , <i>The Ohio State University</i> Discussion facilitated by Dr. Cochran and former TU-T Scholars, Christopher Ezike & Blessing Akinro	Crown Ballroom
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Break & Poster Setup	West Atrium Gallery (2 nd Floor)
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Poster Session & Table Exhibits	West Atrium Gallery (2 nd Floor)
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Table Exhibits Continue	West Atrium Gallery (2 nd Floor)
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Focus Group Interviews - <i>Optional</i> Student Interviews with TU-T Evaluation & Research Teams <i>Jaclyn Tejwani, West Ed</i> <i>Selena Cartznes, West Ed</i> <i>Brittany Chambers, TEAM-UP Together Researcher</i>	Jewel B
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Break	
6:00 – 9:00 PM	Celebratory Dinner (plated) Keynote Speaker (6:45-7:45 PM) Dr. Dakotah Tyler , <i>Astrophysicist & Science Creator</i> Celebration and Acknowledgements	Crown Ballroom
9:00 – 11:00 PM	Fun activities – <i>Optional</i> – <i>Game Night</i> Late night Snacks Available	Crown Ballroom
9:00 – 11:00 PM	Study Lounge	Jewel B
Sunday, September 27, 2026		
8:00 – 11:00 AM	Hotel Checkout	Front Desk

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Buffet)	Hallway Outside Crown Ballroom
9:00 -10:00 AM	Morning Plenary Professionalism in the Workforce Dr. Millicent Ruffin, Corning Inc.	Crown Ballroom
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Student Breakout Sessions Graduate School Panel – Jewel A Room Moderator: TBD -Jasmine Freeman, University of Georgia -Cristopher Thompson, The Ohio State University -Dr. Chris Carr, Princeton University -Savaria Parrish, University of Alabama, Huntsville Dealing with Burnout Student Discussion – Crown Ballroom -Separate Sessions for students and professionals	
10:00 – 10:45 AM	Session 1 – Students Select Grad School or Burnout Session	Jewel A or Crown
10:45 – 11:30 AM	Session 2 – Students Switch to second session	Jewel A or Crown
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Professionals: Dealing with Burnout	Jewel B
11:30 – 11:45 AM	Break	Hallway
11:45 – 12:45 PM	Career Opportunities for Physics & Astronomy Majors Panel Moderator: TBD Dr. Jamie Porter, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab Dr. Kandis Boyd, US Environmental Protection Agency Mr. Dorian Bohler, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	Crown Ballroom
12:45 – 2:15 PM	Lunch (Boxed Lunch) – Closing Plenary (1:15-2:15) Ms. Ayanna Mann, Graduate Student Astronomy, Columbia University & Former TU-T Scholar	Crown Ballroom
2:15 – 2:45 PM	Conference Closing	Crown Ballroom
TU-T Evaluation Student Interviews to be held in Jewel B at designated times		