

# CFNC Countdown to College (C2C) Regional Training

AB Tech Community College  
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025



8:30 a.m. Check-In

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Dr. John Gossett, President,  
AB Tech Community College

9:10 a.m. CFNC 25<sup>h</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Continues and CFNC Updates  
Brenda Valdez, CFNC Associate  
Outreach Director, Western Region

9:20 a.m. NC College Connect  
Estefane Santiago-Lopez,  
College Access and Success Manager  
GEAR UP NC

9:35 a.m. Federal and State Financial Aid Updates  
Kathy Hastings, Director of Outreach  
and Communication, NCSEAA

9:50 a.m.. Local Financial Aid Updates  
Megan Triplett,  
Associate Director of Financial Aid,  
AB Tech Community College

10:00-10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Countdown to College (C2C)  
Overview and Best Practices 101  
Main Conference Room

Dr. JuanEs Ramirez, CFNC Associate Outreach  
Director, Special Populations West

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Virtual Reality College Tours  
Breakout Room 1

Estefane Santiago-Lopez,  
College Access and Success Manager  
GEAR UP NC

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NC Careers and Career  
Development Plans  
Breakout Room 2

Aanchal Gupta, NCcareers Content  
and Engagement Coordinator

10:45-11:00 a.m. Break

<b>11:00-11:55 a.m.</b>	<b>General Session</b>	
	<b>College Application Week, C2C Group Strategizing, and Partnership Planning</b>	<p>Brenda Valdez, CFNC Associate Outreach Director, Western Region &amp; Dr. JuanEs Ramirez, CFNC Associate Outreach Director for Special Populations, West &amp; Pam Hartley, myFutureNC Regional Impact Manager, Western Region</p>
<b>12:00-12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>12:30-1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>	
	<b>ProTools Updates / Next Step Program for Juniors Main Conference Room</b>	Brenda Valdez, CFNC Associate Outreach Director, Western Region
	<b>MFNC FAFSA Pilot: What We Learned Breakout Room 1</b>	Pam Hartley, myFutureNC Regional Impact Manager, Western Region
	<b>Military Resources to Help with College/Career Planning Breakout Room 2</b>	Heather D. Pack, Director of Support Services, AB Tech Community College
<b>1:15-1:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>1:25-2:25 p.m.</b>	<b>General Session</b>	
	<b>Supporting Special Populations with the College and Career Process</b>	<p>Allana Wagner-Robinson, McKinney-Vento and Foster Care District Coordinator, Asheville City Schools &amp; Sarah King, McKinney Vento Youth in Transition Specialist, Asheville City Schools &amp; Jordan Meeks, Youth Programs Manager, Goodwill Industries of NWNC &amp; Celina Valdez, La Promesa Coordinator, TrueRidge &amp; Athena Roesch-Colekman, Pre-ETS Regional Specialist, Watauga Opportunities, Inc. &amp; Heather D. Pack, Director of Support Services, AB Tech Community College</p>
<b>2:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Wrap Up/Exit Surveys/C2C Materials</b>	