

EXPO SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

FOCUS:
Grades 9-12

7TH ANNUAL
LET'S GROW STEAM^x YOUTH COLLEGE & CAREER EXPO

Time (all EST)	Seminar Name	Seminar Description	Presenter(s)	Location
10:00am	KEYNOTE SESSION Flip the Script: Engineering IRL	Think engineering is just math? Think again. STEM is about ideas, creativity, and solving real problems. In this keynote, you'll see how curiosity and preparation can open doors, create opportunities, and put you in position to lead. This is about turning what you know into what's next.	Dr. Calvin Mackie (STEM NOLA)	Ballroom
11:00am	AI Unplugged: Will You Lead?	Artificial Intelligence is changing the game—are you ready to play? This session dives into what AI really means for your future and how YOU can lead the revolution.	Alexis Simmons (Workday)	Sycamore C
11:00am	Hometown Hustle: The Blueprint	Success doesn't always start somewhere else—it can start right here. In this bold, no-fluff fireside chat, Jason Gamache breaks down what it really takes to build momentum, bet on yourself, and turn hometown opportunity into real success. Moderated by Dee Marsh, the conversation pulls back the curtain on entrepreneurship, leadership, risk, and resilience.	Jason Gamache (PTAP)	Dining Gallery
11:00am	You-niversity 101	Curious about whether college lives up to the hype in movies? And what about the advice from your teachers? Join us for a panel discussion featuring current and recent graduates, where you'll discover the insights they wish they had known before heading off to college. They'll share what they would do differently, the choices they're grateful for, and the knowledge they wish they had gained beforehand. Get ready for an honest and insightful conversation.	Jonika Smith (FVSU) Distenze Holmes (CSU) Justin Ferguson (KSU)	Sycamore A
11:00am	Level Up!: Importance of Internships	Get ahead by exploring internships and apprenticeships straight from the employers who offer them. Gain real-world experience, build skills, and see how these opportunities can lead to full-time jobs.	Katrina Sabino (Pratt & Whitney) Dannell Mastrean (FIS)	Sycamore D
11:00am	Charting Your Course with Cyber	Tera Ladner, Deputy Global Chief Information Security Officer at Aflac, will discuss the growing Cybersecurity industry and talk about the importance of developing important skills to help break into the field. She'll highlight the need for younger people, especially women, in the field. Tera will also share her professional journey and how her skills developed to prepare her for each "next" role along the way.	Tera Lander	Room 211
11:00am	EarSketch	Do you love music? Want to create your own beats using code? This workshop is for you! By the end of the session, you'll learn how to code your own songs using original beats and sounds from some of your favorite recording artists. You'll have a blast learning EarSketch—a free, online platform that brings coding and music-making together in one creative experience.	Sabrina Grossman	Room 212
Open from 11:00am-1:45pm	Mock Interviews	Job interviews can be challenging. Communicating with confidence takes practice. Area HR and career professionals will offer mock interviews at the YCCEXpo. These volunteers work with you and offer positive, constructive feedback that will help you nail your next "real" interview albeit a job or college admission.	College & University Partners	Sycamore B
Open from 11:00am-2:00pm	Career Fair	Think you're ready for the real world? Prove it! The Career Fair isn't just an event—it's your test. Can you step up, make connections, and grab the opportunities waiting for you? Employers, innovators, and industry leaders are here, but the question is: Are YOU ready to show what you've got? This is your chance to turn ambition into action, ideas into impact, and dreams into reality. Don't wait for the future—OWN it. The challenge starts NOW.	Industry Partners	North Hall Center Hall
Open from 11:00am-2:00pm	College Fair	Your next big move starts here! The College Fair isn't just about brochures—it's about possibilities. This is your chance to meet real college reps, ask the questions that matter, and discover the campus life waiting for YOU. Whether you're dreaming of a big university, a tech school, or a community college, this is where you find your fit and start building the future you deserve. Don't wait for opportunity—grab it.	College & University Partners	South Hall

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12:00pm	The Huddle	Welcome to The Huddle—where your goals get louder and your future gets bigger. This high-energy speaking and workshop series from the TWO Foundation is all about sparking new ideas, building real confidence, and helping you unlock what’s actually possible for you. Built just for 9th–12th graders, The Huddle connects you straight to industry pros—the kind of people who are out there making moves and leading the way. They show you what preparation, ownership, and leadership look like in real time, so you can start leveling up your own path today.	Phillip Scotton (Primo Partners)	Sycamore D
12:00pm	Representation Matters: Why Engineering & Math Need You	You’re not just the future—you’re the game-changer. Engineering and math aren’t reserved for “someone else.” They need YOUR ideas, YOUR voice, and YOUR energy to break barriers and rewrite the rules. This session is your chance to hear from trailblazers who turned challenges into opportunities—and learn how you can do the same. Don’t just watch the change. BE the change. The industries shaping tomorrow are waiting for YOU.	Clayton Graham (MCSD/Jordan High) Madison Wheaton (Pratt & Whitney)	Sycamore A
12:00pm	Engineering Unfiltered: Built for This!	This isn’t just a talk—it’s a takeover! Engineering is where bold ideas meet unstoppable energy, and YOU are the spark. We’re tearing down limits, smashing stereotypes, and giving you the inside scoop on how to dominate in STEAM. No filters. No fluff. Just real talk and the confidence to say, “I’m BUILT for this!” Ready to make your mark? Let’s GO!	Dr. Calvin Mackie (STEM NOLA) Stephen Kapp (Pratt & Whitney)	Dining Gallery
12:00pm	Pay Yourself First Seminar Presented by Synovus	In this session, we will help students identify ways to save money. The session introduces savings and investment options that students can use to save toward their goals. We’ll also introduce the Pay Yourself First Action Plan.	Jason Connally Stacey Pritchard	Sycamore C
12:00pm	Fort Valley State University Developmental Energy Program	Want a STEM degree without the financial stress? Learn how the Fort Valley State University Cooperative Developmental Energy Program (CDEP) provides scholarship opportunities and a clear pathway from high school to bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD programs—all while preparing you for exciting careers in the energy and high-tech industries.	Dr. Issac Crumbly (Fort Valley State University Developmental Energy Program)	Room 211
12:00pm	EarSketch	Do you love music? Want to create your own beats using code? This workshop is for you! By the end of the session, you’ll learn how to code your own songs using original beats and sounds from some of your favorite recording artists. You’ll have a blast learning EarSketch—a free, online platform that brings coding and music-making together in one creative experience.	Sabrina Grossman (Georgia Tech EarSketch)	Room 212
1:00pm	You-niversity 101: Athlete’s Edition	Headed to college sports? This session shows student-athletes how to balance classes, training, and life on campus. Learn how to manage your time, use campus resources, advocate for yourself, and succeed on and off the field.	Trey Giles (Scouting America) Corry Black (Emanuel Prep/ Columbus Lions)	Sycamore A
1:00pm	#GotSkillz	Employers all agree that soft skills are a combination of skill sets that are highly valuable in the workplace. This session is going to help identify what soft skills are and show how soft skills can be used to effectively navigate any work environment. This is a session you do not want to miss.	Brian Fitzpatrick (Goodwill)	Sycamore D
1:00pm	ESTEAM	This ESTEAM workshop celebrates the brilliance of Black inventors who shaped history and paved the way for future innovation. Through personal storytelling, I’ll share my journey to becoming an engineer and how embracing problem-solving, creativity, and perseverance helped me break the cycle of poverty. Participants will be inspired to see engineering not just as a career, but as a pathway to opportunity and empowerment.	Dr. Darron Lamkin (Class Matters/Boeing)	Sycamore C
1:00pm	Charting Your Course with Cyber	Tera Ladner, Deputy Global Chief Information Security Officer at Aflac, will discuss the growing Cybersecurity industry and talk about the importance of developing important skills to help break into the field. She’ll highlight the need for younger people, especially women, in the field. Tera will also share her professional journey and how her skills developed to prepare her for each “next” role along the way.	Tera Lander	Room 211
1:00pm	Swipe Right	Let’s be real: Most apps are built by adults who think they know what you want. We’re doing things differently. The Let’s Grow STEAMx app is under construction, and we’re handing you the keys to the site. This isn’t a lecture—it’s a live Design Lab. Tear apart our active build, pitch the features we’re missing, and tell us if our layout is trash. Your input, our code. Let’s build something where you actually belong.	Dheer Madhav Balusu Akshith Nukala Vineetha Bandla	Room 212