



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Enhancing the Educational Experience

Northeast Region

2026 Northeast Region CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Introduction and Presenter Acceptance

CONFERENCE THEME: Small Resources, Big Impact: Reimagining More with Less celebrates creativity, innovation, and resourcefulness in designing learning environments. This emphasizes that impactful, transformative spaces do not require unlimited budgets — thoughtful planning, collaboration, and imaginative problem-solving can turn limited resources into powerful opportunities for student growth. By challenging traditional assumptions and rethinking how space, materials, and design strategies are used, educators and designers can create environments that inspire learning, foster equity, and maximize potential. Even with modest means, bold ideas and purposeful design can leave a lasting impact on the future of education.

The 2026 Northeast Region conference committee is now accepting submissions for speaking engagements for the in person conference June9-11, Rochester, NY.

*****PLEASE NOTE, YOU CAN EDIT YOUR SUBMISSION UNTIL YOU HIT SUBMIT.**

Conference Theme:

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

All speakers must be available to speak on all or any of the session days as sessions will be assigned time slots.

All speakers MUST register for the conference. A discount of \$75 will be offered to selected speakers for FULL conference registrations (does not apply to daily rates). No compensation will be provided for speaking, expenses, travel, or lodging.

Primary preference will be given to submissions:

**Related to the conference theme.
Offer a fresh perspective.
Are relevant and of interest.**

Have measurable and achievable learning objectives and call to action.
Proposals that include students, teachers, or administrators.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: ~~January 31, 2026~~ FEBRUARY 13

Speakers notified on/about: MARCH 2

Please note the sessions are to be educational in nature. Sales, product, or marketing presentations will not be accepted.

Presenter Acceptance

Each speaker, including all co-speakers agree to the terms below when submitting a presentation.

I will participate in this program and understand my submission indicates my commitment to participate, my permission for A4LE and its agents to use my name and to reproduce and distribute all or selected portions of my presentation in printed, audio video or electronic format. I hereby waive all right of payment for this license.

I further agree to register and pay for the conference and to notify any co-presenters of this same obligation.

I understand that A4LE will provide a projector, screen, and microphone for the room. I further understand that I am required to supply a laptop or device with applicable adapters to run my presentation.

Additional equipment needs must be submitted and will be at my expense. The Association for Learning Environments will make every effort to accommodate special requests; however, we do not guarantee it. I also understand there is a charge for a room change, additional equipment and that if I change the room from the original set up the charge will be at my personal expense.

PRESENTATIONS: Presentations for posting to the website for attendees are *due 2 weeks prior to the event in a PDF format* totaling no more than 10 MG. Anything received after the deadline will be posted as quickly as possible post event.



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Presentation Information

* 1. Please indicate you agree to the AIA Commitment Statement. Your acceptance below indicates that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms listed in the commitment statement. [CLICK HERE TO READ AIA COMMITMENT STATEMENT](#)

☐ Yes

☐ No

* 2. A4LE provides educational credits for AIA. Please select the most appropriate learning units.

Learning programs directly covering Health, Safety, and Welfare topics will receive LU|HSW credit. For a learning activity to qualify as HSW, it must meet the following criteria:

1. Content must directly support the HSW definition
2. Content must include one of more of the AIA CES acceptable HSW topics
3. At least 75 percent of the content must be on HSW topics

[CLICK HERE TO READ WHAT QUALIFIES FOR HSW CREDITS.](#)

☐ Learning Units (LU)

☐ Learning Units/Health, Safety, Welfare (LU/HSW)

Please indicate how the topic is applicable to Health, Safety, Welfare Design credits (as described in the link). You must clearly demonstrate and explain how the program will meet the HSW criteria

* 3. What is the title of your session?

* 4. Please provide a full abstract AND 4 Learning Objectives (in bulletpoint format) of your session. This will be posted on the website and event app. Please be sure to accurately describe your session- attendees will select which sessions to attend based on title, abstract and objectives.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE FIRM OR SPEAKER NAMES IN THE ABSTRACT OR THE SESSION MAY BE REMOVED.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write the abstract and learning objectives. It is positioned below the instructions.

* 5. Please select the PRIMARY Competency which the presentation addresses.

- ☐ **Educational Visioning:** Exhibits an understanding of best and next practices related to educational leadership, programming, teaching, learning, planning and facility design. Establishes credibility with educators, community members and design professionals while conceiving and leading a community-based visioning process. Demonstrates the ability to articulate the impact of learning environments on teaching and learning and uses that ability to facilitate a dialogue that uncovers the unique needs and long-range goals of an educational institution and its stakeholders – translating that into an actionable written/graphic program of requirements for the design practitioner.
- ☐ **Community Engagement:** Leads the internal and external communities through a discovery process that articulates and communicates a community-based foundational vision, forming the basis of a plan for the design of the learning environment. The vision is achieved through a combination of rigorous research, group facilitation, strategic conversations, qualitative and quantitative surveys and workshops. Demonstrates the skill to resolve stakeholder issues while embedding a community's unique vision into the vision for its schools.
- ☐ **Educational Facility Pre-Design Planning:** Manages a master planning process that combines educational planning, facilities assessment and utilization, demographic research, capital planning and educational specifications with a community-based vision to establish a plan for learning environments. This includes the ability to translate existing or aspirational instructional models to specific programming and spatial relationships.
- ☐ **Design of Educational Facilities:** Acts as a resource to the design team in providing ongoing guidance and support to ensure that the emerging and ultimate design aligns with the established community vision, education goals, future programming, written design standards, best/next practices and education policy.
- ☐ **Educational Facility Implementation, Project Management/Project Delivery:** Has a working understanding of how the following areas impact the facility program: regulations and policies; project delivery methodologies; scheduling; preventative maintenance; life-cycle planning; and systems commissioning.
- ☐ **Assessment of the School Facility:** The ability to objectively evaluate a learning environment post-occupancy and utilize that data to improve future projects. Implements a plan for educational commissioning that provides guidance on how to use and maximize the learning environment to meet the foundational vision established in the planning phase.
- ☐ **Ethics/Professionalism:** Provides leadership and stewardship for the responsible investment of public and private funding into school facilities – while being a known advocate for the importance of the learning environment on a child's future. They lead and have a record of leading transparent processes that help communities find common ground in developing solutions to complex and sensitive issues – advocating for long term solutions that address the needs of all children and stakeholders including underserved groups.



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Speaker Information and Requests

1. Special Requests: The Association for Learning Environments will make every effort to accommodate room set up requests; however, we do not guarantee it. I understand there is a charge for a room change, additional equipment and that if I change the room from the original set up the charge will be at my personal expense.

Please select your room set up preference.

- ☐ Workshop Style (round tables)
- ☐ Classroom Style (oblong tables)
- ☐ Theater Style (seating in rows)
- ☐ Furnished with school furniture by vendor partner (if available)

2. Sessions are a max of 60 minutes. Longer sessions will not be considered. Please agree below.

- ☐ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree

3. **Audio Visual Requests:** The Association for Learning Environments will make every effort to accommodate special requests; however, we do not guarantee it. I understand that A4LE will provide a projector, screen, and microphone for the room. A4LE **does not** supply other supplies needed for your presentation such as easel paper/post it paper or markers, etc. I further understand that ***I am required to supply a laptop*** or device with applicable adapters to run my presentation.

Please indicate any additional requests here:

* 4. Speaker 1: Please provide the following information for the PRIMARY SPEAKER of the session.

First Name:

**Last Name &
Designation(s)(AIA,
NCARB, LEED etc):**

Title:

Company:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

* 5. Speaker 1: Please provide a brief bio of the primary speaker of the session. This should highlight your career or educational experience, awards, etc. (75 words maximum)

6. Speaker 1: Please upload the speaker photo according to these requirements, if the photo does not meet these requirements, we will be unable to utilize on the mobile app or website

PNG or JPEG image; best results at 240px square and under 100kB.

TITLE OF PHOTO MUST BE: SPEAKER FULL NAME YEAR

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

7. Speaker 2: Please provide information for the second speaker, if applicable. Please remember to fill out all information on co-speakers.

First Name:

**Last Name &
Designation(s)(AIA,
NCARB, LEED etc):**

Title:

Company:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

8. Speaker 2: Please provide a brief bio of the second speaker, if applicable. (75 words maximum)

9. Speaker 2: Please upload the speaker photo according to these requirements, if the photo does not meet these requirements, we will be unable to utilize on the mobile app or website

PNG or JPEG image; best results at 240px square and under 100kB.

TITLE OF PHOTO MUST BE: SPEAKER FULL NAME YEAR

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

10. Speaker 3: Please provide information for the third speaker, if applicable. Please remember to fill out all information on co-speakers.

First Name:

**Last Name &
Designation(s)(AIA,
NCARB, LEED etc):**

Title:

Company:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

11. Speaker 3: Please provide a brief bio of the third speaker, if applicable. (75 words maximum)

12. Speaker 3: Please upload the speaker photo according to these requirements, if the photo does not meet these requirements, we will be unable to utilize on the mobile app or website

PNG or JPEG image; best results at 240px square and under 100kB.

TITLE OF PHOTO MUST BE: SPEAKER FULL NAME YEAR

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

13. Speaker 4: Please provide information for the third speaker, if applicable. Please remember to fill out all information on co-speakers.

First Name:

Last Name & Designation(s)(AIA, NCARB, LEED etc):

Title:

Company:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

14. Speaker 4: Please provide a brief bio of the third speaker, if applicable. (75 words maximum)

15. Speaker 4: Please upload the speaker photo according to these requirements, if the photo does not meet these requirements, we will be unable to utilize on the mobile app or website

PNG or JPEG image; best results at 240px square and under 100kB.

TITLE OF PHOTO MUST BE: SPEAKER FULL NAME YEAR

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

16. Additional Contact: If you would like someone in addition to the presenter(s) to be contacted regarding this session, please enter their contact information below.

PLEASE NOTE: All of the presenters will also be notified directly in regards to this session.

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:



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A4LE Event

The Association for Learning Environments thanks you for submitting your presentation for consideration for the 2025 NORTHEAST REGION conference

We appreciate your commitment to bringing quality sessions to our event.

Speakers will be notified via email if the session was accepted on/or about February 28

For any questions, please contact Julie Fried, Julie@A4LE.org

PLEASE NOTE: You will not receive a confirmation of submittal, once you click submit below, your submission has been received.