



FOR THE
FUTURE OF WORK
FLORIDA

Xello Florida Summit 2026

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Cohort:

COUNSELING



Date:

February 19–20, 2026



Location:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake
Buena Vista South

4955 Kyngs Heath Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34746

Welcome to the 2026 Xello Florida Summit: Connect, Collaborate, Celebrate

We're so glad you're joining us!

You'll join a community of Florida educators, counselors, administrators, and workforce partners who share a common goal, ensuring every student is future-ready.

This year's Summit is designed to celebrate your impact while equipping you with fresh ideas, proven strategies, and connections that will strengthen college, career, and life readiness across our state. You'll notice that each workshop session is organized by cohort, the one you selected during registration. These tailored sessions are meant to help you connect with peers who share your focus area and explore approaches most relevant to your role.

We encourage you to participate fully, ask questions, and share your own experiences. Together, we'll continue building a stronger, more connected Florida workforce pipeline, one student at a time. We're thrilled to have you with us.

Let's connect, collaborate, and celebrate!

Sincerely,
The Xello Team

The logo for Xello, featuring the word "xello" in a lowercase, bold, sans-serif font. The letter "o" is stylized with a green leaf-like shape inside its right half.

⌵ 5-6 PM

📍 Palms ABC Foyer

Welcome reception

⌵ 6-7 PM

📍 Palms ABC

Todd Speciale

KEYNOTE

⌵ 7-9 PM

📍 Palms ABC

Xello Awards Dinner & Celebration

⌵ 6:30-9:30 AM

📍 Bar and Complimentary
Breakfast**Drop-in breakfast**

Drop in for breakfast anytime during the morning window.

⌵ 9:45-10:15 AM

📍 Palms ABC

Opening Session, Shedly Casseus

KEYNOTE

⌵ 10:30-11:15 AM

📍 Palms ABC

CCR Isn't One-and-Done: Building a Sustainable K-12 Xello Roadmap

Being prepared for a career is a journey rather than a single lesson. From elementary school through high school, this session helps school counselors create an age-appropriate, long-term implementation plan that introduces and reinforces CCR skills. Find out how Xello's design helps students at every stage and acquire useful tools to maintain consistency across school years, counseling teams, and grade levels, keeping the momentum going even when staff members change or priorities change.

⌵ 11:15-11:30 AM

Break

⌵ 11:30 AM-12:15 PM

📍 Palms ABC

Leading Change: Building Buy-In for CCR Across Schools and Staff

Change takes collaboration and data that inspires confidence. In this interactive session, administrators and counselors will explore how to use CCR data to evaluate existing programs, pinpoint areas for improvement, and communicate results that motivate staff and stakeholders. Participants will gain practical tools to align CCR goals across campuses, ensuring consistency, transparency, and collective ownership of student readiness outcomes.

⌵ 12:15-1:15 PM

📍 Palms ABC

Lunch: FDOE address

⌵ 1:15-1:30 PM

Break

 1:30-2:15 PM Palms ABC

When CTE and Counseling Collide (in a Good Way)

This session explores practical strategies for fostering collaboration between Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators and school counselors. Participants will examine real-world examples of joint initiatives, from pathway programs to integrated college and career readiness support using Xello. Through interactive activities, attendees map overlapping goals, identify areas of misalignment, and develop shared strategies to unify student support. By aligning messaging, coordinating planning, and leveraging shared tools, districts can transform fragmented support into seamless pathways, ensuring students receive a clear, cohesive roadmap that blends college preparation, career exploration, and work-based learning for meaningful student success.

 2:15-2:30 PM

Break

 2:30-3:15 PM Cypress 1-2

Train-the-Trainer Without Burning Out

This training session will develop counselors' skills on the Xello platform and equip them with the tools they need to teach Xello to school staff on a 'light touch, minimal time needed' philosophy. Focusing on models and case study approaches, the participants will identify ways to optimize time for onboarding, micro PD, onboarding self-service calendars, Xello self-service use, and time saving on their own time and energy.

 3:15-3:30 PM Palms ABC

Break

 3:30-4 PM Palms ABC

Closing: Thank yous & goodbyes



KEYNOTE

Todd Speciale, MSGA Consulting

Todd Speciale, CEO MSGA Consulting, is a renowned motivational speaker, sales/business and leadership expert, and three-time best-selling author. Known as "The Culture Creator," he transforms teams with integrity-driven leadership, training c-suite executives and inspiring thousands with his authentic results-focused approach.



KEYNOTE

Shedly Casseus, The Scholarship Plug

Shedly Casseus Parnter is a national trailblazer in education and entrepreneurship, guiding over 8,500 students to secure millions in scholarships. As founder of The Scholarship Plug, she leads 60+ annual workshops that ignite ambition, build community partnerships, and turn college dreams into funded realities.

**COUNSELING****Rachel Kusher****School Counselor, Broward County**

Rachel Kusher is in her 20th year as a school counselor and has been with Broward County Public Schools since 2018, currently working at J.P. Taravella High School in Coral Springs. Rachel is passionate about helping high school students find their purpose and connecting them to their futures.

**COUNSELING****Paulette Orphanos****Certified School Counselor, Palm Beach County**

A dedicated school counselor with experience across K–12 and correctional education, Paulette began as a substitute and special education teacher. With degrees in sociology and special education, school counseling, and currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership, she's passionate about equipping, advocating for, and empowering students to become tomorrow's leaders.

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