

2026 State of the Art Conference on Inclusive Postsecondary Education and Individuals with Intellectual Disability

October 27-29, 2026

Sacramento, CA

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel
1230 J St.

Sacramento, California, USA, 95814

Telephone: +1 916-447-1700

Please find a map of the floors the conference will be using here: [Floor Plan](#)

WHOVA APP

The Whova conference app will be the best way for you to navigate the conference and access all relevant information in one place. We will have a **Whova Help Desk** at the Check-In/Information table throughout the conference.

[Download the Whova App](#)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

You can find the complete agenda on the Whova App (on mobile or desktop), or on the conference website [HERE](#). **PLEASE NOTE that you will need Whova to access the agenda throughout the conference.** Going forward, any room changes or program updates will be made in the Whova app, and we will send a notification through Whova.

CONFERENCE PLENARIES

Please be on time for the morning plenaries, they will start promptly at 8:30am. Here is a complete list of this year's plenary sessions:

Tuesday, October 27

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Conference welcome and conference overview from conference leaders, students, and the IPSE Association

Wednesday, October 28

8:30 – 10:00am

California host committee members on state-level efforts, and Think College presents the state of IPSE.

1:15 – 2:20pm

**Jim LeBrecht, in conversation with California IPSE Students

Thursday, October 29

8:35 – 10:00am

Presentation of SOTA Leadership Awards,

12:45 – 1:40pm

Federal and State Policy Issued affecting IPSE Students and Programs...and what YOU can DO!

3:45 – 4:25pm

Conference Wrap-Up featuring student advocacy projects and the announcement of our photo and caption contest winners!

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 27, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Session pre-conference session offerings and details [**HERE**](#).

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

College Fair Exhibitor (Tuesday, Oct. 27, UC Davis):

[Inclusive College Fair Exhibitor Information | Taishoff Center](#)

SOTA Conference Exhibitor (Oct. 27-29, Sheraton):

[SOTA Conference Exhibitor Information | Taishoff Center.](#)

REQUESTING AN INCLUSION CONCIERGE

SOTA is always trying to expand and do better! If you have mobility or any other specific support needs that we can assist you with at this conference, please reach out to us with your contact info, and we will pair you with an Inclusion Concierge to assist you during conference events.

Contact coordinator@sotaconference.com.

PARKING

Please find information on nearby parking options and the Sheraton's valet parking rates here:

[Convention Center Parking Information](#)

[2026 Valet Parking Rates](#)

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Conference check-in will be located in the **Grand Nave Foyer**

Tuesday, October 27, 8:30am-4:30pm

Wednesday, October 28, 7:00-8:30am

Thursday, October 29, 7:00-8:30am

The main check-in table will be staffed for the entire duration of the conference for late check-ins and to answer any questions you may have.

Please wear your name-tags at all times during the conference to gain access to meals and the conference reception.

CONFERENCE WIFI NETWORK

Conference Wi-Fi will be available for all attendees. To connect open the Wi-Fi settings on your device and select the network below. Once connected, you will be prompted to enter the access code provided below.

Network Name: Sheraton_CONFERENCE

Access Code: SOTA26

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

Breakfast, lunch, and a snack will be provided on Wednesday 10/28 and Thursday 10/29 of the conference. The Welcome Reception on Wednesday, October 28 (6:00-9:00pm) will offer plentiful food. There is no food service on Tuesday 10/27. **We try to keep a peanut-free environment, so please be mindful of this when bringing in outside food.**

CONFERENCE RECEPTION & KARAOKE PARTY

Wednesday, October 28

6:00pm-9:00pm

Cafeteria 15L (1116 15th St.)

If you would like to invite a guest who is not registered for SOTA, individual reception tickets can be purchased [here](#).

PRESENTATION ACCESSIBILITY

All plenary sessions will include microphones and CART services. All regular sessions will have presenter microphones, and captioning will be enabled on videos and slides. Please email us with any additional accommodations you may need at coordinator@sotaconference.com. All presenters should review the **presenter guidelines** carefully.

Presenting at SLC? Please send any questions about your presentation or presenting to Rebekah Wallis, rwallis@syr.edu.

BREAK ROOM/QUIET SPACE

Durang, located on level two of the Sheraton, will be available to those who need a quiet space. See the conference center map here: [Floor Plan](#)

RESTROOMS

All bathrooms are accessible and open to attendees without a code or access key. See locations here: [Floor Plan](#). Please note, there are no restrooms on the ballroom/plenary level.

INCLUSIVE COLLEGE FAIR

Tuesday, October 27

5:30 – 7:30pm

UC Davis International Building

463 California Ave #3140

Davis, CA 95616

RSVP and see participating colleges

here: <https://taishoffcenter.syr.edu/sota/college-fair/>

See shuttle bus service details below.

BUS SERVICE FOR INCLUSIVE COLLEGE FAIR – TUESDAY, OCT 27

Fully accessible buses will be shuttling to and from the UC Davis campus throughout the Inclusive College Fair.

3pm: Buses leave Sheraton for UC Davis Campus to transport SLC attendees to campus visit

4:30pm: Buses return to take Inclusive College Fair Exhibitors and early attendees to campus

5:00pm: Buses return to take Inclusive College Fair attendees to campus

5:30 – 8:00: Buses shuttle back and forth between UC Davis and Sheraton with last shuttle dropping off at the Sheraton around 8:30pm

TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT AT ANY TIME DURING CONFERENCE

The conference is within walking distance from all conference hotels and the reception. Should you need transportation support between conference activities, we can connect you with one of our volunteer drivers. This does not include airport transfers. See conference contacts below.

LACTATION SPACE NEEDS

Please reach out to one of the conference contacts listed below if you need a private space for pumping or nursing.

PHOTO AND CAPTION CONTEST

We will give out prizes at the conference closing for the best photo and best caption uploaded to Whova!

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Conference Inbox: coordinator@sotaconference.com

Kristin Sheehan: ksheehan@sheehancomms.com, (646) 421-0291

Karly Grifasi: kgrifasi@syr.edu, (917) 405-7798

SLC Contact: Rebekah Wallis, rwallis@syr.edu, (904) 345-1132

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EVENTS & OUTINGS

Pre-Conference Session

Building Self-Determination through ESports (Free)

Tuesday, October 27, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Presenter: University of Hawaii

Register

Trip to UC Davis Campus

Tuesday, October 27, 3pm

SLC students will take a shuttle to the UC Davis campus at 3 pm on Tuesday, October 27, where they can choose from several activities, including exploring

the Dance Studio at the Activities and Recreation Center, visiting the Memorial Union (student life hub) and bowling in the games area, taking a campus tour, or watching a screening of Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution, the award-winning film by keynote speaker Jim LeBrecht. **Rebekah Wallis will be sending out a form for activity selection to all registered SLC students. Please complete it promptly.**

Inclusive College Fair

Tuesday, October 27

5:30 – 7:30 pm

UC Davis International Center (463 California Ave #3140, Davis, CA 95616)

Meet representatives from over 40 colleges, universities, and organizations that support students with intellectual disability. Explore program options, ask questions, and learn what different inclusive college experiences can offer. Shuttles will be running to transport attendees between the conference venue and fair.

[RSVP here](#) to attend for free.

State Capitol Visit

Wednesday, October 28

2:30 – 4:30 pm

SLC attendees will have the opportunity to participate in advocacy sessions and tour the California State Capitol building.