

2026 CAS-CIAC EMPOWERMENT DAY

STUDENT VOICE • LEADERSHIP • PURPOSE



STUDENTS LEAD CHANGE.

Join Connecticut students for an experience featuring inspiring panel discussions, interactive breakout sessions, and networking opportunities designed to amplify student voices and develop leadership skills rooted in identity and purpose. This event empowers youth with tools, confidence, and community to create meaningful change in their schools and communities.



EVENT DETAILS

Date: October 22, 2026
Time: 8:45am - 1:00pm
(Check-in 8:15am)
Site: Governor William A. O'Neill
State Armory and Legislative
Office Building, 360 Broad Street,
Hartford, CT
Registration Deadline:
October 9, 2026



EVENT SCHEDULE

8:15 AM	Arrival & Check-In
8:45 AM	Welcome
8:55 AM	Keynote
9:55 AM	Session One: Empowerment Breakouts
10:55 AM	Session Two: Empowerment Breakouts
11:55 AM	Student Networking & Empowerment Activity
12:30 PM	Lunch, Networking & Lunch with a Leader
1:00 PM	Event Concludes



COST

Member Schools:
\$25.00 per student (Advisors - free)
Cap of \$500.00 per school.

Non-Member Schools:
\$40.00 per student (Advisors - free)
Cap of \$800.00 per school.



PLEASE REMEMBER

Lunch will not be provided.
Students are encouraged
to bring their own lunches.



LEADERSHIP LIVES HERE.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ryan Lavarney

Former Major League Baseball Catcher
World Series Champion & Olympian
Leadership Coach & Keynote Speaker



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PANEL

Moderator:

Laura Hutchinson

Good Morning Connecticut
Co-Anchor
WTNH/WCTX

Rachel Sommers Ash

Founder & CEO
Intoxicated Cosmetics

Abigail Ambooken

Senior
South Windsor High School
State Student Advisory
Council on Education
Member

Liana K. Jorgensen

Chief of Academics
and Pupil Services
Windsor Public Schools

Cristina Schoeck

Fire Chief
City of Meriden

State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria

105th Assembly District
Beacon Falls • Derby •
Seymour

MEN OF COLOR IN LEADERSHIP PANEL

Moderator:

John Holt

Media Director
CAS-CIAC

Dr. Miguel Cardona

President, Cardona Solutions
Chair, Connecticut Career
Pathways Commission
Former United States
Secretary of Education
(2021-2025)
Former Connecticut
Commissioner of Education

Vincent Mazzicato

Senior,
Hartford High School
Student Panelist

Major Brice

Connecticut Army
National Guard

Dr. Andrae Townsel

Superintendent
Hartford Public Schools

Representative Jason Rojas

State Representative
East Hartford &
Manchester



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Schools may register up to 24 students and 2 advisors.
- All young men will attend the Men of Color in Leadership Panel Discussion during session 1 and then will be assigned a breakout during session 2.
- All young women will attend the Women in Leadership Panel Discussion during session 2 and will be assigned a breakout during session 1.



<https://casci.ac/13334>



CONTACT

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ALL STUDENTS. ALL SCHOOLS. A STRONGER CONNECTICUT.

