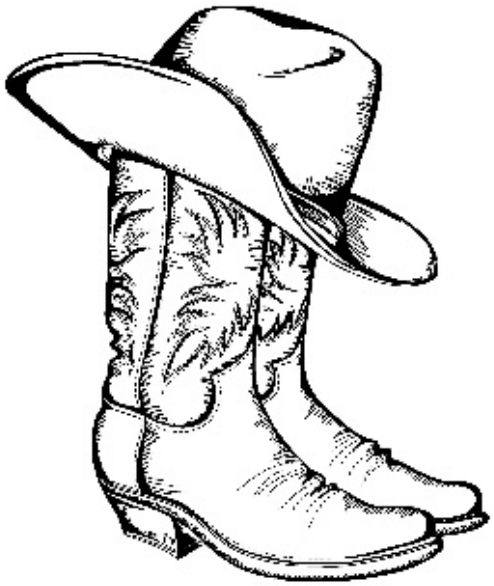
National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, Inc. (NIC)

71st Annual Conference
Billings, Montana
October 19-22, 2026



Known as *Montana's Trailhead*, Billings offers an ideal blend of modern amenities and authentic Western character. Surrounded by dramatic landscapes, including the Yellowstone River and nearby mountain ranges, the city provides countless opportunities to experience Montana's natural beauty through scenic walks, cultural attractions, and local dining that showcases regional flavors. A vibrant arts scene, unique museums, and a welcoming downtown reflect Billings' proud heritage and forward-looking spirit, making it the perfect setting for connection, collaboration, and professional growth.

Conference Registration and Hotel Information

Northern Hotel
19 North Broadway
Billings, Montana 59101
(406) 867-6767 phone
(406) 867-6776 fax

A registration form must be submitted for **each attendee**. The form is included in this packet. The registration fee includes entry to all functions (general sessions, social events, and sponsored functions).

Registration Fees

1. **NIC Gold Member States**: (1) complimentary registration and discounted registrations at $450 per person.
2. **NIC Silver Member States:** Discounted registrations at $450 per person.
3. **NIC Industry Partner:** Discounted registrations at $450 per person.
4. **Honorary Members and Past Presidents:** Complimentary Registration.
5. **Non-Member States or Individuals:** $535.00 per person.
   (A Non-Member State is a state that has not paid membership dues and has no voting privileges.)
6. **Sponsors:**
   Ultimate: (2) Complimentary registration(s) and discounted registrations at $450 per person.
   Elite, Prime and Exclusive: (1) Complimentary registration and discounted registrations at $450 per person.
   Essential: $535 per person.

Registration Payment Deadline

- Registration payments must be received **on or before September 30, 2026.**
- Onsite registration is not available.

Conference Registration Cancellation Policy

- Registration fees and function ticket fees are refundable if cancellation notice is received **on or before September 30, 2026.**
- Cancellation notices should be emailed to sgonzales@nictesting.org.

Hotel Accommodations

Guest Room Rate:

$189.00, Classic King or Queen Guest Room, single or double occupancy

$209.00, Classic Double Queen Guest Room, single or double occupancy

$249.00, Classic King Suites, single or double occupancy

The above room rates are per room, per night and will be subject to an 8% Bed Tax and $4.00 TBID fee. Room reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

Reservation Information:

Contact the hotel directly or book your group rate online**.**

1. Select dates from landing page.
2. Click SPECIAL CODES OR RATES
3. From the drop down on the left, select Group Code and enter **BKG1882** in the Enter Code text box.
4. Rates are valid for: **Saturday, October 17th – Friday, October 23rd, 2026**

Important Deadlines:
Special room rates are available until **Thursday, September 17, 2026**.

Check-In/Check-Out Times: Our check-in time is **3:00 p.m**.; check-out time is **11:00 a.m.** All guests arriving before the check-in time will be accommodated as rooms become available. The Bell Captain can arrange to check baggage for those arriving early when rooms are unavailable and for guests attending functions on departure day.

Hotel Guestroom Cancellations: Northern Hotel must be notified by 3:00 p.m. the day before arrival date for each guestroom cancellation. Guestrooms cancellations received after 3:00 p.m. the day before arrival will result in one day of room and tax charged to the credit card used to guarantee the reservation.

National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC)

NIC 71st Annual Conference
Billings, Montana
October 19-22, 2026

Conference Registration Form

Submit **ONE** completed registration form for **each** registrant. The registration form should be submitted electronically to sgonzales@nictesting.org. An invoice will be sent to you electronically for payment.

REGISTRATION FEES:

1. **NIC Gold Member States**: (1) Complimentary registration and discounted registrations at $450 per person.
2. **NIC Silver Member States:** Discounted registrations at $450 per person.
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   Elite, Prime and Exclusive: (1) Complimentary registration and discounted registrations at $450 per person.
   Essential: $535 per person.

REGISTRANTS' INFORMATION:

Member States (Check one): ☐ Board Member ☐ Associate (Executive Director/Board Administrator) ☐ Staff ☐ Other					
Non-Member States or Individuals (Check one): ☐ Board Member ☐ Associate (Executive Director/Board Administrator) ☐ Staff ☐ Other					
Honorary Members or Past Presidents (Check all that apply): ☐ Honorary Member ☐ Past President					
Sponsors (Check one): ☐ Ultimate ☐ Elite ☐ Prime ☐ Exclusive ☐ Essential					
Name of Agency/Regulatory Entity/Company:					
Name:				Phone Number:	
Mailing Address:				City:	
State:		Zip Code:		Registrants' Email:	
Emergency Contact Name:				Phone Number:	
Does Registrant have food allergies? If yes, list allergies:					
Will this be Registrant's first-time attending NIC's Annual Conference?				☐ Yes ☐ No	
Date of Arrival:			Date of Departure:		

MEALS/SOCIAL FUNCTIONS:

Which meals and social functions will the Registrant be attending:

Monday: ☐ Welcome Reception
Tuesday: ☐ Breakfast ☐ Lunch
Wednesday: ☐ Breakfast ☐ Lunch ☐ Installation Banquet
Thursday: ☐ Continental Breakfast
None: ☐

GUEST FUNCTION TICKETS:

Registrants are **NOT** required to purchase function tickets; HOWEVER, if you plan to bring a guest(s) to a social function(s) then you must purchase a function ticket(s) in advance for your guest(s).

SOCIAL FUNCTION	TICKET	GUEST(S) NAME	# OF TICKETS
Welcome Reception (Monday, October 19)	$75.00		
Installation Banquet (Wednesday, October 21)	$110.00		

REFUNDS:

Fees for registration and/or function tickets are refundable provided that the conference coordinator RECEIVES a cancellation notice **on or before September 30, 2026**. Email cancellation notices to sgonzales@nictesting.org.

INVOICES:

Enter the name and email address where invoices should be sent to:

Name:	
Email:	

Additional Conference and Site Information!

Airport Transport: The Logan International airport is approximately 1.5 miles from the Northern Hotel in Billings. On an availability basis, the Northern Hotel provides complimentary airport transport for our customers who arrive at Billings Logan International Airport. Travelers may call the hotel directly for pick up at 406-867-6767. Return transport may be arranged with the Front Desk Agents, simply request the time and day the guest wishes to return to the airport.

Other Transportation Options: You can request from the Departure Level at the airport.

- Uber/Lyft
- Taxis

Parking in the Empire Garage: The Northern offers complimentary self and valet parking for hotel and event guests. Valet Parkers are located at the 19 N Broadway entrance. For those who prefer to park their own vehicles, the Empire garage is adjacent to the hotel. Guests will pull a parking ticket to open the gate and may park in any of the Northern Valet parking spaces. For validation of parking tickets, guests will bring their ticket to the front desk. Guests may enter the hotel via the Skybridge on Level B in the garage West elevator.

Group Bus Parking/Staging: For bus or oversized passenger vehicle parking, the charge per day is $50.00 per bus/oversized vehicle.

Meeting Attire

In October, the average daytime temperature is expected to range from 37 to 57 degrees fahrenheit. October generally experiences a significant drop in temperatures, so plan on dressing warmly.

Recommended attire for general sessions: Business casual

- Consider bringing a light jacket or sweater, as meeting rooms tend to be cooler.

Special Events

- **Monday Night Welcome Reception**
  - Date/Time: Monday, October 19, 2026, from 6:00 PM–9:00 PM
  - Details: Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash, no-host bar will be available.
  - Attire: Casual or business casual.
- **Wednesday - Join Us for the 71st Annual Conference Installation Banquet Celebration!**
  - Date/Time: Wednesday, October 21, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
  - Business or Semi-Formal dress, or
  - Western Wear
- **Highlights of the Banquet:**
  - Installation of NIC Executive Board Officers
  - A delicious banquet with local delicacies
  - Line Dance – Show off your line dancing skills or learn from the experts

State Gift Exchange

- Each state is requested to bring a gift valued at $25 or more for entry in the door prize drawings.
- Drawings will be held at various meal functions throughout the conference.
- Gifts representing the donating state are encouraged. Note: Only states that bring a gift will be eligible for the drawings.

Conference Purpose

This conference serves as the annual business meeting of the membership to:

- Elect officers
- Adopt proposed bylaws and policies (as needed)
- Address other items on the agenda
- Educational Topics

Nominating Committee Questionnaire and Elections

- Officers for the 2026-2027 conference year will be elected on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.
- Member States will receive a packet of information, including election procedures and the nominating committee questionnaire, at least 30 days prior to the conference.

Executive Directors Committee (EDC) Meeting

The NIC Executive Directors Committee (EDC) will meet in conjunction with the conference.

- Date: Monday, October 19, 2026
- Coordinators:
    - Tracy Adams, South Carolina
    - Nicole Fletcher, Maryland
- Additional information will be sent in a separate registration packet.

NATIONAL-INTERSTATE COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF COSMETOLOGY, Inc. (NIC)

71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Uniting States, Advancing Standards and Shaping the Future

Agenda

(Tentative)

MONDAY – October 19, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Executive Directors Meeting	Babcock
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Hart Albin
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	Pre-Function West
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation	Hart Albin
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception *Sponsored by: Empire, Academy of Aesthetic Laser Surgery, Wella, ASCP / AHP, L'Oreal, Aesthetics ProTools, Inc.*	North Ballroom

TUESDAY – October 20, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	**BREAKFAST** (*provided by Milady)*	North Ballroom
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**GENERAL SESSION/Call to order** Opening Ceremonies Roll Call of States Credentials Report Presentation & Approval of Conference Rules Approval of 2025 Annual Conference Minutes Approval of Conference Agenda Committee Appointment: Nominating Presentation of Election Procedures First Reading of Proposed By-Law Amendments Introduction of Executive Board Introduction of NIC Staff Introduction of Education Committee Aurie J Gosnell Award Recipient	South Ballroom
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Courage Over Comfort: What it Really Takes to Evolve - Tabatha Coffey** *Choosing growth over comfort fosters stronger leadership amid constant change.*	South Ballroom
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	**LUNCH** *(provided by Pearson)*	North Ballroom

2:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. Call to Order South Ballroom

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Break Outs** *(Peer Interaction and Fostering Collaboration)*

1. **Collaborating for Consistency: BEST PRACTICES That Build Standardization**
   State Executive Directors Panel Babcock East
   (Concurrent)

2. **Advancing State Uniformity Through the NIC Uniform Model Act**
   Holly Blomquist (ND), Karla Johanson (MO) Babcock West
   (Concurrent)

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Break Outs** *(Peer Interaction and Fostering Collaboration)*

1. **Collaborating for Consistency: BEST PRACTICES That Build Standardization**
   State Executive Directors Panel Babcock East
   (Concurrent)

2. **Advancing State Uniformity Through the NIC Uniform Model Act**
   Holly Blomquist (ND), Karla Johanson (MO) Babcock West
   (Concurrent)

ADJOURN

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

WEDNESDAY – October 21, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **BREAKFAST** *(provided by Pivot Point)* North Ballroom

9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Call to Order South Ballroom

Roll Call of States

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Break Outs** *(Peer Interaction and Fostering Collaboration)*

1. **The Industry Has Changed-Now What? - Tabatha Coffey** Babcock East
   Navigating Business, Clients & Trends
   (Concurrent)

2. **Enforcement and Compliance: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why** Babcock West
   Jennifer Stillwell – South Carolina Office of Investigation and Enforcement, Tracy Adams – Executive Director, (SC)
   (Concurrent)

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Break Out** *(Peer Interaction and Fostering Collaboration)*

1. **The Industry Has Changed-Now What? - Tabatha Coffey** Babcock East
   Navigating Business, Clients & Trends
   (Concurrent)

2. **Enforcement and Compliance: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why** Babcock West
   Jennifer Stillwell – South Carolina Office of Investigation and Enforcement, Tracy Adams – Executive Director, (SC)
   (Concurrent)

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	**LUNCH** *(provided by Prov)*	North Ballroom
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Call to Order	South Ballroom
	Nominating Committee Report	
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Election of Officers Committee Report: Bylaws (*Tentative*) Conference Sites – 2028 **ADJOURN**	South Ballroom
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Banquet & Installation	South Ballroom

THURSDAY – October 22, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	**GENERAL SESSION** Call to order	South Ballroom
	Roll Call	
	Continental Breakfast *(provided by NIC)*	
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	**Hear it from a Legislator: Keys to Effective Legislative Advocacy** Representative Curtis Schomer – Montana House of Representatives	South Ballroom
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**Understanding Gainful Employment: Implications for Schools** *Impacts, Challenges, and Considerations for Schools* – AACS, Garret Schuler	South Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	**Snacks – Game Night Theme** *(provided by Wella)*	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**L'Oreal – Partner nationally to share ideas, promote best practices, and elevate the beauty professions -** Erica Robertson, Vice President of DE&I, Shawn Sterns, Director of Education; L'Oreal Professional Products Division	South Ballroom
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Recap of Breakout Sessions: Sharing Insights and Next Steps**	South Ballroom
	Unfinished Business **New Business** 1. Honorary Member 2. Announcement – 2026 AJG Scholarship Recipients 3. Resolution **ADJOURN**	

National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC)

NIC Conference Program
Advertisement Form

Submit your completed Advertisement Form by email to aprintz@nictesting.org. An invoice will be sent to you electronically for payment.

Organizations Information:

Organizations Name:				Phone Number:	
Mailing Address:					
City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Email:					
Contact Persons Name:					
Ad Size: (Check one): ☐ Outside Cover ($525) ☐ Inside Cover ($450) ☐ Full Page ($450) ☐ Half Page ($275) ☐ Quarter Page ($175)					

Ad Copy Instructions:

- Please provide a clean, high-contrast art, print-ready advertisement only.
- Minimum 300ppi resolution.
- A PDF is preferred and must be submitted for full-page ads.
- Other acceptable formats are jpg and tif files.
- Ad sizes must be:
    - Full Page Color - 8.75(w) X 11.25(h) (Includes .25" for bleed)
    - Half Page Color (Vert) – 3.625(w) X 9.75(h) (No bleed required)
    - Half Page Color (Horz) – 7.5(w) X 4.75(h) (No bleed required)
    - Quarter Page Color - 3.625(w) X 4.75(h) (No bleed required)
- Ads must be emailed to aprintz@nictesting.org.

Deadline Date:

Ads must be received **on or before August 4, 2026**

Questions?

Contact Angie Printz at aprintz@nictesting.org.

National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC)

Nominating Committee Questionnaire Form

NIC Executive Board Elections

Elections will be held at the NIC 71st Annual Conference.

Open positions for this year:

- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Region 2 Director
- Region 4 Director

Elected Officers will receive reimbursement of up to **$3,500 per year** for approved travel-related expenses for Executive Board meetings.

The **expectations** of these positions are:

- Raising important issues
- Participating actively in discussions
- Accepting the decision of the majority

Personal Information (Please provide your full name and the state you represent):

Your Name:			
State you represent:			
Email:		Phone Number:	

Office Nomination

I am seeking nomination for the following offices(s):
(Candidates may select more than one position)

- ☐ Vice President
- ☐ Secretary/Treasurer
- ☐ Region 2 Director
- ☐ Region 4 Director

Experience and Eligibility

Years served on state board:	
Positions/Offices held, and terms served in each position:	

Board Appointment Expiration Date:	
Does your state law allow for reappointment at end of the current term? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Does your present employment allow for attendance at NIC Executive Board meetings and annual conference (6 to 8 days annually)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please list NIC committees you have served on within the last 3 years:	
Please list how many conferences you have attended: ☐ Regional/Mid-year meeting: ☐ Annual:	