

benchmarks

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DESTINATION 2026



October 13-16, 2026
Cherokee Conference Center
Cherokee, NC

Setting the Stage: Destination 2026



Tuesday: October 13, 2026:

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| 7:00 am | Exhibitor Set-Up |
| 10:00 am | Registration Opens |
| 1:00 pm | Keynote #1: The Leadership Edge: Reading People and Building Influence |
| 2:45 pm | Behavior, Books & Bites |
| 4:00 pm | Exhibit Hall Grand Opening: Poster Session |
| 5:30 pm | Members Only Plated Dinner, Awards and Business Meeting |

Wednesday: October 14, 2026

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| 6:30 am | Yoga |
| 7:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Opening: Welcome & Land Acknowledgement |
| 10:15 am | Mix, Mingle & Munch |
| 11:00 am | Keynote #2: From Hope to Resilience. How Neuroscience Can Transform Our Therapeutic Practice |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch & Networking |
| 2:30 pm | General Session |
| 3:15 pm | Snack, Shop and Stroll |
| 4:00 pm | NC DHHS in Focus: Policy, Programs & Priorities |
| 7:00 pm | Evening Entertainment in Event Center |

Thursday: October 15, 2026

- 6:30 am Yoga
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Keynote #3: THINK BIG
- 10:00 am Bites, Books & Beyond
- 11:00 am CFSP Waiver Roundtable: What's Working and What's Next
- 12:30 pm Browse, Bite & Connect
- 2:30 pm Practical Ways to Increase Reach and Impact Without a Large Budget
- 3:30 pm Sips, Snacks and Sponsors
- 4:15 pm From the Capitol to the Community: Legislative Leadership in Action
- 5:30 pm Reception on the Terrace

Friday: October 16, 2026

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Bridging Justice and Opportunity
- 10:00 am Stretch, Snack and Reset
- 10:30 am The Intersection of Crisis, Care, and the Law
- 12:00 pm Destination Send-Off & Raffle Reveal

