



Wednesday, May 13, 2026

9:30 – 11:00 am (1.5 hours) - **UI 101 Basics**

Summary: The session is designed to explain the financing and administration of the Federal/State UI system for those who have taken on new responsibilities for administration and/or in representing employers or claimants. It is also helpful as a refresher for UI professionals.

- **Jim Van Erden**, Senior Advisor, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)
- **Scott B. Sanders**, President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

11:00 – 12:00 pm (1 hour) - **UWC/Foundation Member Only Meeting**

Summary: UWC members will be provided with an inside status update on UI legislation, policy, priorities and advocacy in 2026 with an opportunity to discuss issues in a closed-door setting for members only.

12p.m.-1p.m. Lunch (on your own 90 mins.) – Sponsor and Exhibitor Hall Open - Please stop by all of our sponsor and exhibitor booths during this time and grab a bite to eat before the welcome and sessions begin.

1:00 – 2:00 pm (1 hour) - **National Unemployment Insurance Program Update**

Summary: In this session, the USDOL Office of Unemployment Insurance will provide an update on the primary performance metrics for Unemployment Insurance and the budget proposal and administrative plans for the US Department of Labor concerning unemployment insurance.

- **Michelle Beebe**, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor

2:00 – 2:15 pm (15 mins.) – **Welcome to Salt Lake City, Utah**

- **Utah Speaker of the House, Mike Schultz** , [Meet the Speaker | Utah House of Representatives](#)
- **Utah President of the Senate, J. Stuart Adams**, [Meet the Senate President, Utah Senate](#)

2:15 – 3:15 pm (1 hour) - **National Unemployment Insurance Legislative Update**

Summary: This panel will review current federal legislation that is pending in the US House and Senate and the prospects for enactment of legislation related to Unemployment Insurance in 2026.

- **Doug Holmes**, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation.
- **John Kashuba**, Senior Oversight Counsel, US Senate Committee on Finance
- **Amy Simon**, Head of Labor and Workforce Solutions, LexisNexis Risk Solutions

3:15 – 3:30 pm (15 mins) - **Afternoon Beverage Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors**

3:30 – 4:30 pm (1 hour) - **Review of the Economy and Impact on Unemployment**

Summary: During this session the presenter will provide an outlook on the economy, reviewing current and future macroeconomic conditions and the effect on employment and unemployment claims.

- **Ben Crabb**, Economist, Utah Department of Workforce Services

4:30 – 5:30 pm (1 hour) - **Roundtable Discussion on UI Law and Policy Issues**

Summary: The general session will convene as a roundtable discussion of the political climate nationally and state by state and how it impacts the development of improvements to administration and solutions to problems. Topics by table may include Integrity issues, tax, and benefit systems issues, RESEA and return to work coordination.

- **Doug Holmes**, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation
- **Amy Simon**, Head of Labor and Workforce Solutions, LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- **Tony Fiore**, Attorney, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Executive Director, UWC

6:00 – 8:00 pm (2 hours) - **Reception with Sponsors and Exhibitors**

Thursday, May 14, 2025

7:30 – 8:30 am (1 hour) - Breakfast with Sponsors and Exhibitors

8:30 – 9:30 am - Concurrent Sessions (1 hour - rooms set for approx. 80)

UI Appeals and Mock Hearing (Alpine East)

Summary: The workshop will replicate a UI appeal hearing and address a challenging question of eligibility.

- **James Weant**, Manager UI Program Relationship, Equifax
- **Jennifer Kim Pierce**, Senior Director, Hearings and Appeals, Michigan Health and Hospital Association
- **Wayne Rottger**, Product Intelligence Manager, Experian Employer Services
- **Kevin Britt**, Sr. Manager Claims Operations, Equifax
- **Tiffany Strauss**, Sr. Director of Employer Tax Services, Equifax
- **Josh Hawkins**, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Utah Department of Workforce Services

Integrity Capabilities Across the UI Lifecycle:

Building the “Toolbox” from Application to Recovery (Alpine West)

Summary: Program integrity isn’t a single control or point solution—it’s a set of capabilities that must work together across the entire UI lifecycle, from initial claim through continued eligibility, adjudication, payment, employer chargeability, appeals, and overpayment recovery. In this vendor-agnostic session, we’ll reframe integrity beyond “tools” and focus on the end-to-end capabilities’ states need to protect trust funds while maintaining timely, equitable service.

- **Amy Simon**, Head of Labor and Workforce Solutions, LexisNexis Risk Solutions

9:30 – 9:45 am (15 mins.) Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors (15 mins.)

9:45 – 10:45am (1 hour)-SIDES Modules Update, Benefit Charges, Audit Issues, POAs and Solutions Roundtable

Summary: The SIDES Operations Manager and representatives of the Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations will review the most recent updates in SIDES and best practices in identifying and working with third party administrators (TPAs).

- **Christina Corbett**, Senior Manager, State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES), National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)
- **Jorie Cummis**, President, Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations (AUTO)

10:45 – 11:00 am (15 mins.) - **Morning Beverage Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors**

11:00– 12:00 pm - Concurrent Sessions (1 hour - rooms set for approx. 80)

Artificial Intelligence Applications for

Unemployment Insurance (Alpine East)

Summary: The workshop will provide a review of AI applications for Unemployment Insurance in North Carolina and Utah with discussion of additional potential uses of AI.

- **Regina Graham**, Chief of Benefits, North Carolina, Department of Commerce, Employment Security
- **Dan Tienes** - Product Manager, Equifax
- **Patrick Frost**, UI Benefits System Manager, Utah Department of Workforce Services

RESEA and Connection to WIOA (Alpine West)

Summary: The workshop will discuss the federal RESEA requirements and state best practices to reduce duration and increase return to work.

- **Michelle Beebe**, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, US Department of Labor
- **LeeAnn Madsen**, UI Chief of Benefits, Utah Department of Workforce Services
- **John Courtney**, President, American Institute for Full Employment
- **Kyle Lively**, UI Policy Director, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

12:00 – 1:30 pm (1 hour 30 mins.) - Recognition Awards Luncheon

- **The UWC Outstanding Contribution Award:** This award is given to a UWC member or researcher for outstanding contributions to UWC or the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.
- **The J. Eldred Hill, Jr., Award:** This award is named after J. Eldred Hill, Jr., former president of UWC (then UBA), and is given to an individual for excellence in the public policy arena in service to the employer community.
- **The UI Integrity Award:** This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to preserving the integrity of the unemployment system.
- **The Father Becker Award:** This award is named after Father Joseph Becker, a pioneer and scholar in the development of the Unemployment Insurance system. The award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to unemployment insurance research.

1:30 – 2:30pm - Concurrent Sessions (1 hour - rooms set for approx. 80)

<p>Roll Call of Recent State Law Changes (Alpine East) Summary: There has been a flurry of legislative activity throughout the states affecting unemployment taxes, benefits and reemployment efforts. This session will discuss bills that have been enacted throughout the U.S. as well as trends in bills being discussed and debated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christopher Carlozzi, Senior State Director, NFIB• Tony Fiore, Executive Director, UWC and Attorney with KBHR	<p>Integrity Best Practices (Alpine West) Summary: The Integrity of the unemployment insurance system has been challenged in light of the consistent levels of fraud and overpayments in the state-based systems. Congress has acted to increase administrative funding available to states to assist in updating old systems that may be vulnerable to fraudsters and to address system capacity and verification of the identity of applicants for unemployment insurance. The panel will provide an update on the NASWA Integrity Center, and efforts to reduce fraud and overpayments in the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Van Erden, Senior Advisor, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)• Katy Pace, Business Analyst, Integrity Data Hub, UI Integrity Center NASWA
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2:30 – 3:30 pm (1 hour) - Expanding Quarterly Wage Report Requirements – Policy + Administrative Issues

Summary: Legislation has been proposed at the federal and state level to add occupation information and other data elements to be reported by employers. The panel will review legislation and the various proposals and discuss the impact on employers and state workforce agencies of administrative burden and the value of information in connecting education with jobs in the labor market. What is the burden to pull together this information and what value comes out of the data?

- **Alison Fecker**, Director, Government Affairs, Compliance, ADP
- **Robert Bock**, Director, Workforce Data Reporting, Mississippi Department of Employment Security
- **Mark Lewon**, Vice President of Operations, Utah Metal Works
- **Kyle Baltuch**, Vice President of Employment Alignment, Strada

3:30 – 3:45 pm (15 mins.) - Afternoon Beverage Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors

3:45-4:45 pm (1 hour) - Concurrent Sessions (1 hour - rooms set for approx. 80)

<p>State UI Administrative Funding (Alpine East) Summary: The session will review the history of FUTA tax receipts, appropriations for administration of UI and suggestions for reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matt Weidinger, Senior Fellow and Rowe Scholar, American Enterprise Institute	<p>Employer Top Ten List (Alpine West) Summary: Large employers face mounting operational and compliance challenges within unemployment insurance (UI) systems that were largely designed for small businesses. This session outlines the Top 10 systemic pain points, from account registration barriers and portal access failures to amendment delays, automatic adjustments, payment reallocations, experience transfers, and payrolling disputes and explains how these issues create downstream risk across tax, claims, and compliance functions. Attendees will gain practical insight into the real-world administrative and financial impacts of current processes, along with modernization opportunities that could reduce friction for both employers and agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Grimes, Director, Payroll Tax Consulting, Experian• Wayne Rottger, Product Intelligence Manager, Experian Employer Services
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4:45-5:45 pm (1 hour) - UI Tax Issues

Summary: Representatives from the payroll industry and tax experts will review UI law, tax system modernization and best practices in engaging employers and representatives.

- **Lauren Escalante**, Government Affairs, Legal & Compliance, Gusto
- **Jeffrey Griffin-Smith**, Deputy Chief of Tax, Unemployment Tax, Kansas Department of Labor
- **Celina Bussey**, Client Relationship Executive, Government and Public Service, Deloitte Consulting LLP
- **Irda Dothage**, Director of Strategy and Planning, Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency

Free Evening to Enjoy Salt Lake City!



Friday, May 15, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 am (1 hour) - Breakfast with Sponsors and Exhibitors

8:30 – 9:30 am (1 hour) - Identity Theft, UI Benefit Overpayment and Recovery (General Session)

Summary: In light of the dramatic increase in fraud and UI benefit overpayments, recovery of overpayments has become a priority for legislation and UI administration. The panel will discuss reports reviewing the scale of fraud and overpayments and methods that have been developed for states and federal agencies to avoid fraud, increase benefit overpayment recovery, and prosecute fraud. Topics to discuss: DOL 3-5 states in pilot program for ID, Florida legislation, etc.

- **Mark Mayfield**, Senior Software Implementation Manager, Catalis
- **Chris Silvern**, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Training & Special Programs, US Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (US DOL-OIG)

9:30 – 10:30 am (1 hour) - Paid Family and Medical Leave

Summary: Many states have enacted parental and family leave programs and payroll taxes to fund the programs. This session will review federal oversight, state programs, and issues related to coordination with private plans, employer representatives, and administration with UI in the same state agency.

- **Kurt Shoemaker**, Director of Compliance and Government Relations, Paylocity
- **Elliot Schreur**, Assistant Secretary for Family and Medical Leave Insurance, Maryland Department of Labor
- **John Simonetti**, Benefits Manager, Connecticut Paid Leave Authority
- **William Alpine**, Director, Massachusetts Department of Family and Medical Leave

10:30 am – 10:45 am (15 mins.) - Morning Beverage Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors

10:45 – 11:45 am (1 hour) - Labor Disputes and UI Eligibility Issues

Summary: New legislative enactments in Oregon and Washington amended the disallowance of benefits for striking workers and raise questions with federal law with respect to whether striking workers are available to work and actively seeking work to be eligible to be paid unemployment compensation. Federal officials, employer representatives and advocates for payment of benefits will review the status of federal and state law and application to labor disputes.

- **Doug Holmes**, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation
- **Paloma Sparks**, President & CEO at Sparks Public Affairs (formerly with Oregon Business and Industry)

11:45 am - Closing Remarks and Announcements



2026 NATIONAL UI CONFERENCE

Salt Lake City, UT
May 13-15, 2026