

techlearn

2026 conference

by TRAINING MAGAZINE

WHERE
TECHNOLOGY
EMPOWERS
LEARNING

'10/10 RECOMMEND!'

TIMOTHY FROST, SUPERVISOR DIGITAL
LEARNING PRODUCTS, ORLANDO HEALTH

**'ABSOLUTELY ONE OF THE BEST
INVESTMENTS IN MYSELF'**

JENNIFER GILBERT, SR. MANAGER
OF LEARNING & QUALITY, COLLECTIVE HEALTH

SEPT 15-17
AUSTIN
TEXAS

**'VALUABLE TOOLS I CAN
IMMEDIATELY APPLY'**

LAQUEISA HAYNES-SMITH,
SENIOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTANT, EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

**'BEST CONFERENCE I'VE
BEEN TO IN 10+ YEARS'**

STEPHANIE SHARPE, EMPLOYEE LEARNING
& DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER,
SRP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



REGISTER BY JULY 24

Save more with team discounts!

TechLearnConference.com

SAVE
\$300

There's something weird (and wonderful!)
happening in Austin where ...

training matters!



Austin is home to creative mega events like South by Southwest and Austin City Limits, as well as innovations in space technology and F1 racing. Weaving all of this together is a special kind of "Austin Weird" — where learning, culture, innovation, food, tech, and nature combine to create something wonderful.

For several days in September, we look forward to gathering our collective "Weird, Wonderful, and Wired" training selves in Austin for TechLearn 2026. We hope you'll join us to deepen your skills, meet L&D experts, connect with new colleagues, and experience the latest AI tools driving innovation!

We can't wait to welcome y'all to Austin,

— Steve Dahlberg, Conference Director, Training magazine

AT A GLANCE

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 am – 4:00 pm 2-Day Certificate Programs*
9:00 am – 9:00 pm GamiCon Austin 2026*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:30 am – 3:45 pm Learning Leaders Summit* (Off-site)
9:00 am – 4:00 pm 2-Day and 1-Day Certificate Programs*
9:00 am – 4:00 pm GamiCon Austin 2026*

TECHLEARN 2026 CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

3:00 – 4:15 pm Your Fast Pass to Connections
4:30 – 5:30 pm **Conference Kickoff With Braindate**
5:30 – 6:15 pm **Reception With Solution Demos**
6:30 – 8:30 pm Austin Dine Arounds

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:30 – 10:00 am Innovations in Training Test Kitchen
10:00 – 11:00 am **Keynote: Amy Herman**
11:15 am – 12:15 pm Breakout Sessions
12:15 – 1:15 pm Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 pm Breakout Sessions
2:45 – 5:00 pm Hands-on Clinics
5:45 – 9:00 pm Austin Experiences*

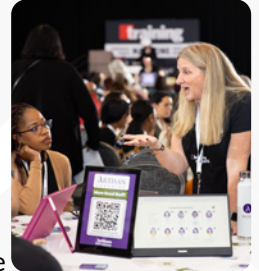
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:30 – 9:30 am Breakout Sessions
9:45 – 10:45 am **Keynote: Rory O'Connor**
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions
2:30 – 3:30 pm Breakout Sessions
3:45 – 4:45 pm 'Austin Weird' Closing Event

* ADDITIONAL FEE (SEE PAGE 4)

MEGA-MORNING GATHERING INNOVATIONS IN TRAINING TEST KITCHEN

Wednesday morning kicks off with a mega session of the ever-popular **Innovations in Training Test Kitchen!** Immerse yourself in cutting-edge learning technologies and design techniques — which will become your new learning design "ingredients"! Craft unique "recipes" by combining those ingredients to create innovative learning solutions. Choose from more than 30 facilitated demo stations, rotate every 15 minutes, and experience at least four demos, gathering valuable insights and tips along the way. Your guide for this interactive event is **learning experience designer and top chef** Phylise Banner.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

IT'S THE HUMANS

Seeing Through the Noise



In a world flooded with information, knowing what to trust — and when — has become a critical skill. **Amy Herman**, author of *Visual Intelligence*, shows how art sharpens observation, critical

thinking, and decision-making. By blending human insight with technology, she reveals how to detect misinformation, communicate clearly, and balance trusting ourselves with trusting the tools we use.

Co-Designing With AI: What Really Matters



Rory O'Connor, inventor of Rory's Story Cubes, brings a cross-disciplinary perspective to human-AI collaboration, shaped by empathy, play-informed design, and creative problem solving.

Discover how he is working with AI on long-form creative projects, treating and testing it as a collaborator rather than simply a tool. He offers practical insights into how people and AI can work together in ways that support trust, clarity, and better design — once the initial novelty wears off.

Find full details at [TechLearnConference.com](https://www.techlearnconference.com)

Learning Tech + AI + Design = Powerful TechLearn Content!

GET STARTED EARLY

Three skill-building learning opportunities!

PRE-CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Monday-Tuesday, September 14-15, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

P1 Story-Based Design in Articulate Storyline Certificate (2-Day) Ron Price, Chief Learning Officer, Yukon Learning; Rance Greene, Story Designer, Needastory.com

P2 AI for Learning Design Certificate (2-Day) Garima Gupta, CEO, Artha Learning

Tuesday, September 15, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

P3 Learning Measurement and Reporting Strategy Certificate (1-Day) David Vance, President, Manage Learning

GamiCon

Monday, September 14, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 15, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ready to design differently? Learn to build gamified learning experiences with AI that your learners will actually want to play. In this two-day, hands-on experience at **GamiCon Austin 2026**, you will use a variety of AI tools to support the creation of learning experiences that go beyond content delivery. You will design and test elements, such as narrative-driven scenarios, interactive challenges, feedback systems, and learner-driven pathways. This is not a theory-driven event. It is a working design lab.

learning leaders summit

SPACE IS LIMITED ...
REGISTER NOW
TO GET PREPARED
FOR WHAT'S NEXT!

Tuesday, September 15, 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

The **Learning Leaders Summit** is back — and if this year's Orlando gathering in February proved anything, it's that L&D is at a turning point. From embracing an "agentic mindset" and AI as intelligence augmentation, to redefining training as the driver of culture and business impact, leaders walked away with one clear message: The future of learning is human-centered, skills-driven, and powered by innovation. At *this* Summit (off-site), join a community of forward-thinking professionals exploring bold ideas that actually work. If you're ready to move beyond "how we've always done it" and position L&D as a strategic force in your organization, **this is the event you can't afford to miss.**

TWO DAYS OF DEEP LEARNING

Choose six breakouts and one hands-on clinic!

BREAKOUTS & HANDS-ON CLINICS

Stay relevant — explore the best and the latest in learning design and technologies when you choose from 48 breakout sessions and eight learning-by-doing hands-on clinics. Discover practical, high-impact learning solutions that boost engagement, scale efficiently, and drive real performance outcomes. Leave with actionable tools, new strategies, and the confidence to elevate your role and build learning that stays relevant amidst change. Sample sessions include:

Hands-on With Vibe Coding

Design Strategies for Disengaged & Burned-Out Learners

Animating With Impact in Storyline

Building Custom AI Skills to Automate L&D Workflows

Killer Microlearning: 5 Design Strategies for Success

Designing Chatbot-Guided Learning

Beautiful PowerPoint Presentations to Engage Learners

Escaping the AI Agreement Machine

From "Here's the SME Recording" to "Here's the Course"

The Capability Revolution: Building the Human Advantage

When Machine Learning Meets Human Learning

Keep Training Weird: A Gameful Approach to Engagement

Using AI to Tell a Believable Learning Impact Story

Accessible by Design: Creating Training Everyone Can Use

Tech-Induced Imposter Syndrome

Designing Performance-First Onboarding Ecosystems

Building Interactivity With Canva AI and Canva Code

Why Elearning Developers Should Learn a Little Code

Investing in AI Readiness

TWO FEATURED BREAKOUT SERIES

The popular (and important) focus on **Learning in Frontline and High-Risk Environments** returns — and these sessions will be uniquely delivered via a live interview format for *Training* magazine's Innovations in Training Podcast, hosted by **Jeff Weaver**.

Two **Startup Spotlight Shark Tanks**, hosted by **Vince Han**, will introduce you to talented entrepreneurs who are innovating new tech for learning and development.

*Find session descriptions and registration info
at [TechLearnConference.com](https://www.techlearnconference.com)*

IT'S THE CONNECTIONS

Network the way you want. On the topics you want. With the people you want.

**'THE CONFERENCE SIZE
MAKES NETWORKING
MUCH MORE ORGANIC'**

KARLI BOOTHE, SENIOR INSTRUCTIONAL
DESIGNER, CAREFIRST BCBS

Your Fast Pass to Connections

On Tuesday at 3:00 pm, join **master facilitator Danielle Watkins** and new L&D colleagues for this interactive networking experience, applying a structured Ask/Give format to foster meaningful exchanges and build a supportive professional community. Take this give-and-take networking model back to your organization, as well.

Start Conversations That Matter in Braindates

TechLearn 2026 introduces **Braindate** conversations at the 4:30 pm Tuesday kickoff, followed by a **Reception, featuring Solution Demos**, at 5:30



pm! Then, join and/or host one-on-one and small-group Braindates all day Wednesday and Thursday. These people-powered learning experiences will help you get more out of your conference experience. Designed to turn the conference into a marketplace of ideas, have real conversations with peers who are here to learn, share, and think together!

Austin Evenings Are for Relaxing

Tuesday at 6:30 pm, take part in a **Dine Around** dinner – a curated mixer with great socializing in a small group! We reserve the restaurants and invite the industry-expert facilitators ... and you RSVP in late August to share intimate and meaningful conversations with people who get you – AND do what you do! (This is a pay-on-your-own event.)

Add a uniquely **Austin Experience** to your registration to join attendees in the city on Wednesday at 5:45 pm! The two-hour **Lone Star Dinner Cruise and Bat Viewing** on Lady Bird Lake includes dinner and drinks, and viewing the famous Mexican free-tailed bats that emerge at sunset. In the "live music capital of the world," the **Twisted Texas Brew Bus** is a craft brew adventure with a live band onboard between brewery stops featuring seasonal and small-batch beers and a light meal.

IT'S THE LOCATION



VENUE & HOTEL

Connect to a world of innovation, technology, and comfort when you stay *and* learn at the **AT&T Hotel and Conference Center**, the grand hotel of The University of Texas at Austin in Downtown Austin. Rooms are \$282/night; click **HOTEL** online to book.

REGISTRATION FEES

TECHLEARN 2026 CONFERENCE (Sept 15 pm – Sept 17)

- \$1,595 Super Early Bird Rate (register by July 24)
- \$1,745 Early Bird Rate (register between July 25 and August 21)
- \$1,895 Regular Rate (starting August 22)

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS (optional; choose one)

- \$1,195 Two-Day Certificate Programs (Sept 14-15)
- \$595 One-Day Certificate Program (Sept 15)
- \$1,195 GamiCon Austin 2026 (Sept 14-15)
- \$695 Learning Leaders Summit (Sept 15)

AUSTIN EXPERIENCES (optional; non-refundable)

- \$99 Lone Star Dinner Cruise and Bat Viewing (Sept 16)
- \$99 Twisted Texas Brew Bus With Live Band (Sept 16)

Register now at [TechLearnConference.com](https://www.techlearnconference.com)

BRING YOUR TEAM & SAVE!

TechLearn 2026 is even better with your team – bring a group and save more! Check out nonprofit, government/military, and education discounts, too.

**'OUTSTANDING –
REAL CONNECTIONS,
REAL LEARNING'**

ELETHIA GAY, GLOBAL TRAINING LEAD,
STANLEY BLACK & DECKER