

#GlobalSkillsWeek

GLOBAL SKILLS WEEK


6 2026, WASHINGTON, D.C.



Global Skills Week 2026

Washington D.C.





“By far the **best
conference I have
attended in the past
decade.”**

Grace Williamson

Senior Director, Industry and
Employer Relations,
Knauss School of Business

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Testimonials

A huge thank you to the QS Quacquarelli Symonds organizers for bringing together leaders from education, policy, and industry to tackle these critical issues.

Dr Constance St. Germain
President, Capella University

Amazing discussion with the deans of the American University – Kogod School of Business and University of Miami Herbert Business School on the infusion of AI into business education at Global Skills Week.

Sergey Kouk
Co-Founder and CEO, Admit Master

No matter where the QS team is or what they're doing, I can assure you that the program will be relevant, the event will be elegant, and the speakers will be insightful. If you have a chance, try to hit up Global Skills Week next year.

Nancy Stearns Bercaw
Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships at Ajman University

Key Highlights

QS, IFC, and BCG events

- Global Skills Week 2026 began with exclusive sessions hosted by the IFC, part of the World Bank Group, and BCG.
- At the IFC offices, we co-hosted the Green Skills Leadership Council. Leaders from QS, the IFC and Arizona State University shared insights and case studies on green skilling with a closed group of organisations.
- Discussion centred on the increasing impact of green jobs on international mobility, how green skills are necessary across all sectors and job levels, and attendees explored how to transfer green skills across borders.
- At BCG, we were joined by an invite-only group of skills leaders, with a focused agenda on the future of work, AI and skills.
- Esteban Veintimilla, QS Principal Consultant, Skills & Labor Markets, started the afternoon by defining the skills landscape. Then, we learned about the labor market mismatch, where employers are seeking skills that graduates do not have.
- We also heard from Matthew Kropp, Managing Director & Senior Partner at BCG, who explained the trends in AI capabilities: AI tools reducing their power consumption while they increase their logical reasoning, and the emergence of Agentic AI models. We also explored the psychological barriers to AI adoption.
- Other highlights included a thoughtful exchange between Marek Laco (US Department of Labor) and Nicholas Kent (US Department of Education) on evolving federal policy.

Key Highlights

Global Skills Week 2026

In Washington D.C., we brought together leaders in workforce, education and policy to explore the future of global skills.

Patrick Brothers, Executive Director, QS Quacquarelli Symonds, set the scene with a burst of QS data, showcasing how eight global shifts are driving change in the skills economy.

AI and automation are evolving at such pace, he explained, that it's "impacting all of us and all of our jobs" and there is a need for skilling and reskilling at scale.

In the opening panel, Adam Goldfarb, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Opportunity AI, said: "AI is going to require us to pivot between tasks and between job titles more often and we're not really equipped for this.

"When we're asked to change jobs, when we have to take time off to reskill, what does that mean for our sense of who we are? Are we equipped mentally for that shift?"

This intersection of skills, policy and education shaped the sessions and conversations over two days as organizations sought exchanges and solutions to meet the future needs of education and work.

[View Summit photos](#)



Speaker Spotlight

We would like to thank our esteemed speakers including



Dr Santiago Schnell
Provost, Dartmouth
College



Dr Fotis Sotiropoulos
Executive Vice
President and Provost,
Penn State University



Alvaro J. Muñoz
Director in the Office
for International,
Community, and
Economic
Engagement, APLU



Dr Jill Buban
Workforce Education
and Online Learning
Leader



Haley Glover
Senior Director, UpSkill
America, Economic
Opportunities
Program



Anshul Sonak
Head and Global
Director, Intel Digital
Readiness Programs



Lydia Logan
Vice President for
Global Education and
Workforce
Development, IBM



Austin Bates
Gemini for Higher
Education in North
America, Google for
Education



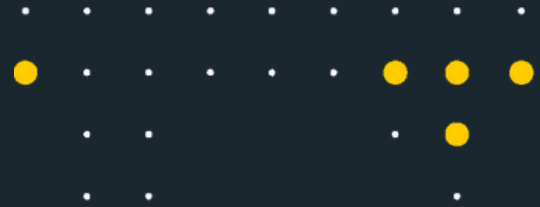
Dr Fanta Aw
CEO, NAFSA: Association
of International
Educators



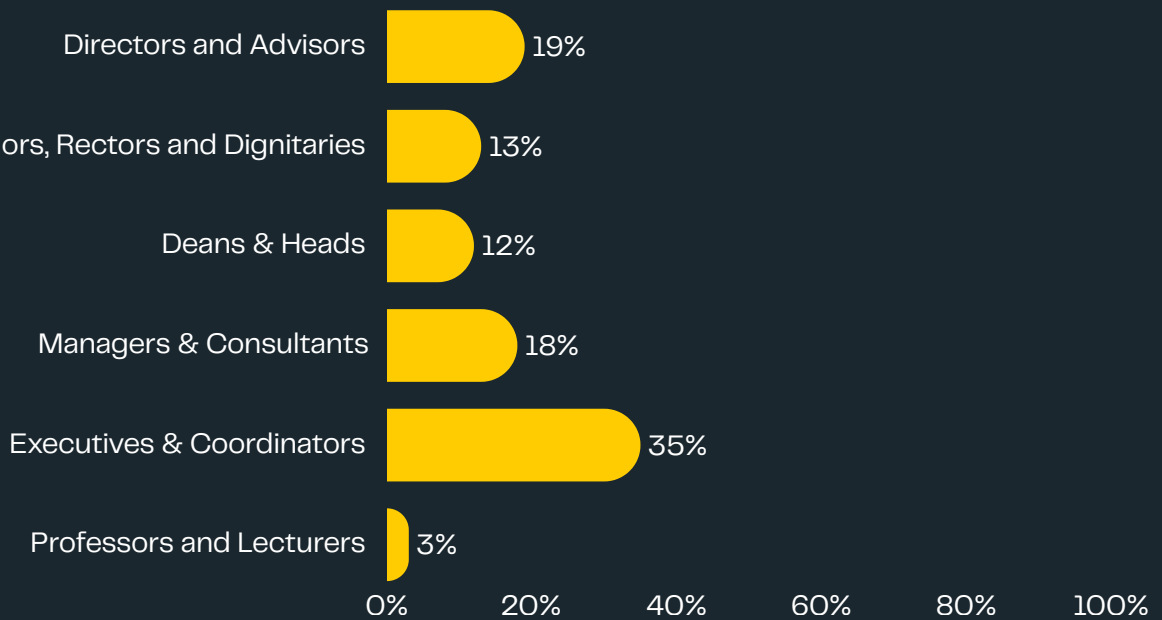
Larissa Bezo
President and Chief
Executive Officer,
CBIE



Event Stats



Audience Profile



What our attendees say

5/6

Overall experience at the conference

5/6

Overall experience of the QS conferences app

5/6

Overall experience of the content of the programme

5/6

Overall experience of the networking opportunities

6/6

Overall experience of the venue

Attend the event? We would love to hear your feedback – [Feedback Form](#)



Event Stats

Key statistics

352

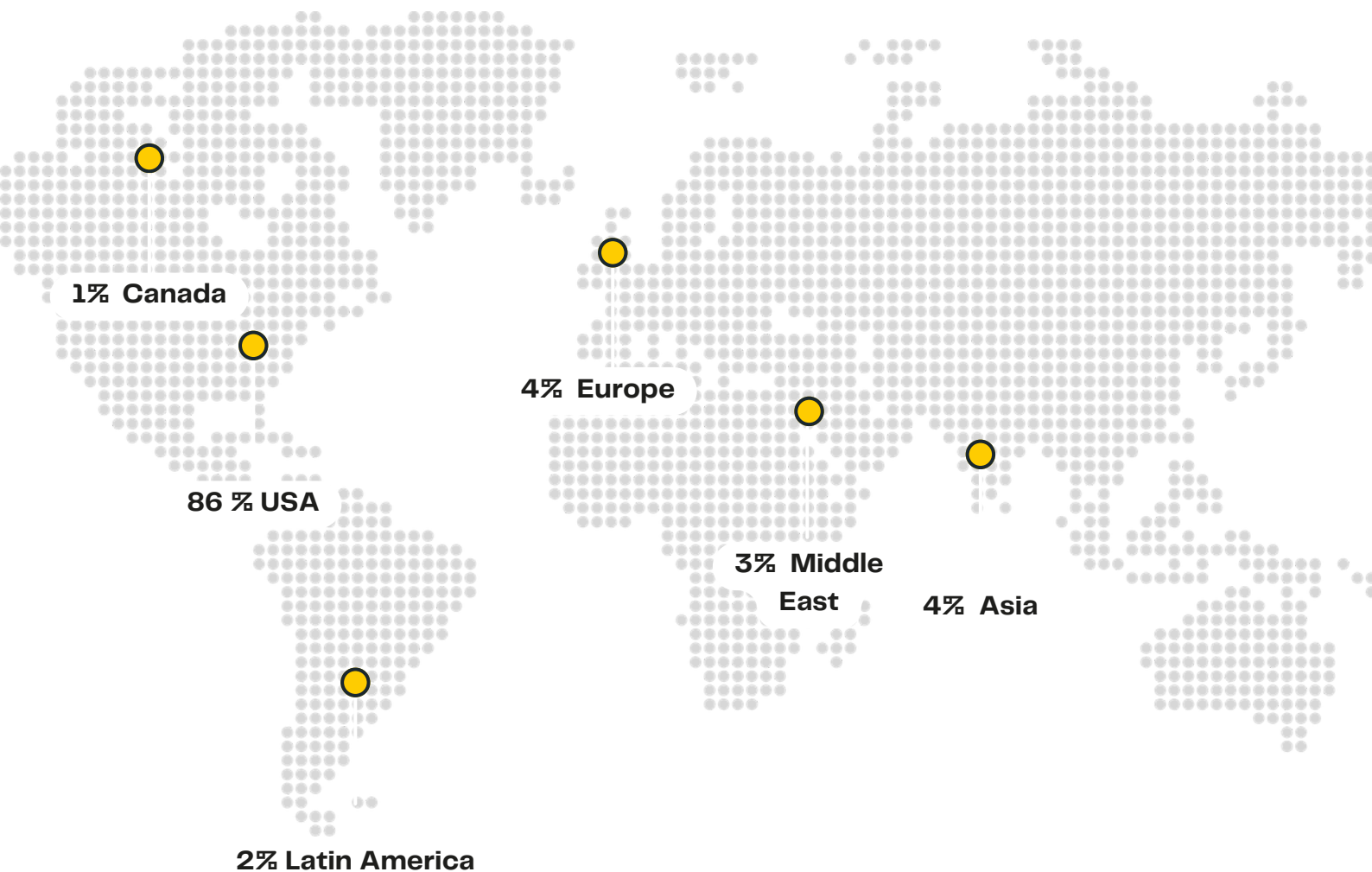
Total number of attendees

17

Total number of locations represented

133

Total number of speakers



Global Skills Week 2026 Gallery



[View Summit photos](#)



QS Conferences 2026



QS India Summit
1–3 February
Goa, India



Global Skills Week
25–26 March
Washington D.C., USA



QS China Summit
8–9 April
Shenzhen, China



QS EduData Summit
3–4 June
Singapore



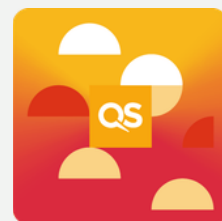
**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Europe & MoveON
Conference**
24–25 & 25–26 June
Budapest, Hungary



QS Africa Forum
9–10 July
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia



**Back to School
Summit**
14–16 September
New York, USA



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Americas**
30 September–2 October
Guadalajara, Mexico



QS Arab Forum
14–15 October
Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Asia Pacific**
3–5 November
Bali, Indonesia



QS Eurasia Forum
26 November
Astana,
Kazakhstan



**QS Reimagine Education
Conference & Awards**
7–8 December
London, UK



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Middle East**
13–15 December
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Access the latest information



Dates and locations of conferences are subject to change, please check our websites for any updates.



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