DER & CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT

2026

October 29th, 9am-5pm | 828 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, Sacramento, CA

Hosted by Ascend Education Group

EVENT OVERVIEW

The DER & Critical Infrastructure Summit is an inaugural educational summit focused on the people, systems, and technologies required to support the next generation of energy and critical infrastructure projects. Bringing together engineers, utilities, EPCs, technology providers, operators, consultants, and workforce development leaders, the summit provides a platform for technical discussion, practical learning, and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

AUDIENCE

Attendance Goal: 70 Industry Professionals | Continuing Education: Pending NABCEP Eligibility

Utilities | EPCs | Engineering Firms | Developers | Asset Owners | Operations & Maintenance Professionals | Technology Providers | Critical Infrastructure Stakeholders | Workforce Development Leaders

WHY THIS EVENT EXISTS

The future of critical infrastructure will not be determined solely by technology. It will be determined by the people responsible for designing, permitting, constructing, operating, and maintaining it. As distributed energy resources, battery storage systems, data centers, and grid modernization initiatives continue to grow, the industry faces an equally important challenge: developing the workforce and organizational capabilities required to support them.

PROGRAM THEMES & CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Energy Systems/DERMS — John Ross Cromer, EG4 Electronics

Critical Infrastructure — Jay Kallsen, ImpactCX | A Salas O'Brien Company

Infrastructure Execution — Moving projects from concept to operation

Workforce Capability & Systems Thinking — Presented by Devyn Pizzo, Ascend Education Group

The Capability Gap — Closing Leadership Discussion

ABOUT ASCEND EDUCATION GROUP

Ascend Education Group develops the workforce capabilities required to support the next generation of energy and critical infrastructure systems. Our programs combine practical application, systems thinking, and project lifecycle awareness to prepare professionals for real-world project execution.

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