

Wednesday, July 29th – Day 1

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast
Salon A/Foyer

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Plenary – Opening Remarks
Salon A/Foyer

Introduction: Dennis Stripling, President, DDAA
Speaker: TBA

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Breakout Track Sessions 1

LDD Track: *Peer Learning*

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

Understanding the New Workplace Paradigm: *HR Training*

Alexander

This session explores how the modern workplace has evolved and why many employees are experiencing increased stress and burnout. Participants will examine historical workplace trends, research on motivation and productivity, and the disconnect between productivity growth and employee wellbeing. The session reframes how organizations think about work and introduces a needs-based model for workplace wellness.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Beginner – Project Development: *About ARC*

Victoria

This session is intended to introduce newer LDD staff to ARC investment priorities and the key elements that help define all ARC funded projects: strategic, impactful, collaborative, and sustainable. In doing so, ARC staff will provide tips, tricks, and best practices in developing partnerships, incorporating match, and identifying performance measures.

Instructors:

Jaclyn Courter, Program Analyst, ARC
Laura Snell, Regional Program Manager, ARC

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Networking Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Breakout Track Sessions 2

LDD Track: *Peer Learning*

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

Survive! Meeting Existence Needs in the Workplace: *HR Training*

Alexander

This session focuses on the foundational conditions employees need simply to function well at work. Participants will explore how factors such as sleep, stress management, financial wellbeing, and safety influence engagement and performance. The discussion emphasizes how organizations can reduce demotivators and create environments where employees can sustainably meet their basic workplace needs.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Beginner – ARC’s “Build-A-Project”: *About ARC*

This session complements and expands upon the preceding one by taking key concepts of ARC project development and applying them in an interactive, workshop-based activity session. Work alongside your peers and ARC staff to create proposal outlines that meet (or exceed!) ARC expectations while exploring new approaches to effective grant writing and different ways to address common application challenges.

Instructors:

Jaclyn Courter, Program Analyst, ARC

Laura Snell, Regional Program Manager, ARC

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

Salon A/Foyer

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Breakout Track Sessions 3

LDD Track: Peer Learning

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

Building the Bridge: Meeting Relational Needs in the Workplace: HR Training

Alexander

In this session, participants examine the importance of relationships, communication, and psychological safety in the workplace. Using research on emotional intelligence, bias, and social connection, attendees will learn strategies for building trust, strengthening collaboration, and improving team dynamics. The session highlights how meeting relational needs creates a bridge from basic wellbeing toward a thriving workplace culture.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Beginner/intermediate – Project Management Best Practices : About ARC

Victoria

This session explores the multifaceted world of project management and the various roles LDDs take on in both the development and administration of ARC projects including core leadership and oversight, financial and compliance, program implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as other supportive/cross-cutting roles. Hear from your peers in facilitated exchanged that provides insight into how best these roles can work together to ensure project and program success.

Instructors:

Jaclyn Courter, Program Analyst, ARC

Laura Snell, Regional Program Manager, ARC

2:25 PM – 2:45 PM

Networking Break

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Breakout Track Sessions 4

LDD Track: Peer Learning

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

Thrive! Meeting Growth Needs in the Workplace:

HR Training

Alexander

This session focuses on how organizations can empower employees to grow and perform at their best. Participants will explore topics such as autonomy, flexibility, time management, and meaningful work. By addressing higher-order needs, organizations can unlock motivation, innovation, and long-term engagement.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Intermediate – Pathways Technical Training:

About ARC

Victoria

Designed for day-to-day users, this session focuses on practical tasks participants will perform in ARC's new grants management system, Pathways, including data entry, document uploads, workflow approvals, and reporting. Emphasis is placed on common user scenarios and tips for efficient system use.

Instructors:

Katie Bernstine, Assistant General Counsel, ARC

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Reception

Shaded Patio

Thursday, July 30th – Day 2

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast
Salon A/Foyer

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Plenary – Opening Remarks
Salon A/Foyer
Introduction: Dennis Stripling, President, DDAA
Speaker: TBA

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Breakout Track Sessions 5

LDD Track: *Peer Learning*

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

The Design Thinking Process: *HR Training*

Alexander

This interactive session introduces design thinking as a tool for solving workplace challenges and improving organizational culture. Participants will learn how to empathize with employees, define problems, generate ideas, and test solutions. The session demonstrates how a structured innovation process can lead to more effective and human-centered workplace strategies.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Intermediate/Advanced – Financial Management: *About ARC*

Victoria

ARC will delve into best practices for managing finances and maintaining compliance throughout the duration of an award. Learn from ARC staff on how to approach overseeing grant budgets and financial reporting including tracking expenditures against approved budget categories, preparing and maintaining required documentation, and supporting audits.

Instructors:

Katie Bernstine, Assistant General Counsel, ARC

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Networking Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Breakout Track Sessions 6

LDD Track: Peer Learning

Swannanoa

Instructors:

TBA

Capstone Project: Innovate Your Workplace: HR Training

Alexander

In this culminating session, participants apply the concepts learned throughout the seminar to develop innovative solutions for their own organizations. Using the design thinking framework, attendees will collaborate to identify challenges, prototype ideas, and test potential workplace improvements. The session equips participants with practical strategies they can take back and implement in their workplaces.

Instructors:

Mary Ila Ward, Founder, Horizon Point Consulting

Lorrie Coffey, Horizon Point Consulting

Advanced – Understanding and Implementing Federal Requirements 2CFR200: About ARC

Victoria

Designed for staff who work directly with ARC grants, this interactive workshop translates federal compliance regulations into real-world practices. Participants will review common compliance scenarios, discuss frequent audit findings, and learn practical tips for staying compliant while managing day-to-day grant activities.

Instructors:

Katie Bernstine, Assistant General Counsel, ARC

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

Salon A/Foyer

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

GE Aviation Site Visit

401 Sweeten Creek Industrial Park Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Participants will tour GE Aerospace's Asheville campus, an advanced manufacturing facility producing aerospace components for helicopter engines and fighter jets. Hosted by site leadership, the visit will include a facility overview followed by a guided shop floor tour, with participants

divided into small groups to accommodate the production environment. The visit will last approximately two hours. Please note that attendance restrictions apply due to the presence of sensitive defense technology and military hardware on site.
