

# ASCEND

Time	Main Room
	Commonwealth One & Two
8:30- 8:40 AM	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Zoe Fowler, DoW CIO Cyber Academic Engagement Office</b></p> <p>An overview of the CAEO's office in relation to grants, explaining governance processes and funding flows.</p>
8:40 -8:55 AM	<p><b>The Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD R&amp;E):</b></p> <p>Speaking to the DoW perspective on soliciting research proposals.</p>
8:55 - 9:20 AM	<p><b>Practicalities</b></p> <p><b>Alice Smitley, Workforce Innovation Directorate – DoW Cyber Service Academy – Program Manager</b></p> <p>Running grants over the past few decades</p>
9:20 - 9:40 AM	<p><b>Case studies</b></p> <p>Working within their institution, identifying institutional processes and stakeholders.</p>
9:40 - 10:00 AM	<p><b>Engaging regional and state partners:</b></p> <p>Communicating with local congress members.</p>
10:00 - 10:30 AM	<p><b>A View of the Year Ahead:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Scott Nelson, Principal Director, DoW CIO Cyber Academic Engagement Office</b></p> <p>Identifying CAEO and DoW priorities and anticipating funding calls for 2026/2027.</p>
10:30 - 11:00 AM	<p><b>Break</b></p>

<b>11:00 - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>ASCEND Competition Begins:</b> Finalists present the defense of their ASCEND framework.
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>End</b>