

Program Descriptions

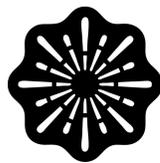
Veteran Resources & Programming Ideas - This program provides an overview of key resources available to veterans while offering practical ideas for meaningful, engaging programming tailored to their unique experiences and needs. Participants will explore ways to connect veterans with local, state, and national services, including healthcare, benefits, housing, and community support. The session also highlights creative and purposeful programming ideas that foster connection, honor service, and promote well-being. Attendees will gain insight into designing programs that resonate with veterans, encourage peer support, and create a welcoming, respectful environment that recognizes their stories and strengths.

Introduction to AI and Marketing & Social Media - Participants will discover how artificial intelligence can support and simplify your daily work. Learn the basics of AI, how to write effective prompts, and practical ways to use AI tools for activity planning, marketing and communication. Through real world examples and hands-on practice, you'll explore how AI can help generate ideas, create engaging content, streamline event planning and save time on routine tasks. Whether you're new to AI or just curious about how it can support your role, this session will provide simple strategies and practical tools you can start using right away.

SPARK! Creative Engagement for Adults with Memory Loss - SPARK! is a creative engagement program for individuals with early-to-mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. It encourages community connection through activities that spark conversation, provide peer support, and inspire creativity. Join museum educators from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum for an informational, hands-on session exploring the SPARK! approach. Participants will gain practical ideas for art activities and learn strategies to engage individuals with memory loss in ways that promote independence, positivity, and enjoyment. Attendees will learn about the SPARK! program, including its history and impact, explore effective communication and engagement techniques, and leave with hands-on activity ideas they can use in practice.

Dementia Communication Strategies - Enhance your activity programming with a deeper understanding of how dementia impacts communication and behavior. Developed by the Alzheimer's Association, this program equips Activity Directors with practical, non-medical strategies to better connect with residents, interpret behavioral changes as meaningful forms of communication, and respond with confidence and compassion. Learn how to foster positive interactions with residents, support families, and collaborate effectively with care teams—while recognizing when additional support may be needed.

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum



SPARK!

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS *for* PEOPLE
WITH MEMORY LOSS *and* THEIR CARE PARTNERS



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



2026 NCAA Spring Workshop

Thursday, May 7th 2026

Northcentral Technical College
Wausau, WI



Join us!

Spend the day connecting with fellow Activity Directors while gaining fresh ideas, hands-on experiences, and practical strategies you can bring back to your community. This year's workshop blends innovation, creativity, and person-centered care—with a special focus on dementia programming and emerging trends.



Workshop Highlights

- Veteran-focused resources & programming ideas
- Emerging trends in AI, teamwork, and marketing
- Hands-on dementia-friendly art experience
- Communication strategies for dementia care
- Activity idea sharing with peers

Send your activity calendars/ideas to NCAA.activities@gmail.com & come prepared to discuss!

Workshop Agenda

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Registration & Networking
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Veteran Resources & Programming Ideas
9:00 – 12:00PM	Intro to Artificial Intelligence
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Lunch Break - Bring your own or purchase something from the Campus Cafe. Please note they are CASHLESS and accept cards ONLY!
12:30 – 2:00 PM	SPARK! Creative Engagement for Adults with Memory Loss
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Dementia Communication Strategies
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Activity Idea Share
4:00 – 4:30 PM	NCAA Meeting

7 hours of Continuing Education!

Workshop Location

Northcentral Technical College
1000 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
Center for Health Sciences
Room # 1004A

Directions

- Park in lot B
- Enter through Center of Health Sciences Building
- Take an immediate left and the room is straight ahead

Registration

Brianna VandenHeuvel
Pine Crest Health & Memory Care
2100 E. Sixth Street
Merrill, WI 54452
NCAA.activities@gmail.com
715-539-2548

Workshop Registration

Date : _____

Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Personal Phone: _____

Work E-mail: _____

Personal E-mail: _____

**\$35 PER PARTICIPANT
CASH OR CHECKS
MADE PAYABLE TO NCAA**

Please send membership information and payment to :

Brianna VandenHeuvel
2100 E. Sixth Street.
Merrill, WI 54452
NCAA.activities@gmail.com