



2026 NAW Innovators Summit Agenda September 16-18, 2026 | Nashville, TN

Day 1 – September 16, 2026 – *agenda times in CST*

- 12:00 PM: Registration Opens
- 4:00 PM: Fuel-Up Opening Break
- 4:30 PM: **Mainstage Session: An Evening with Innovators** - Open to wholesalers/distributors, only.
Join 12 returning tech innovators as they showcase their latest innovations, research, and product advancements, highlighting solutions that address key distribution challenges and evolving industry needs.
- 6:45 PM: Networking Reception
- 8:00 PM: Evening Concludes

Day 2 – September 17, 2026

- 7:30 AM: Breakfast
- 8:00 AM: **Mainstage Session: Unlocking Transformation ROI**
Join this session as industry experts discuss how leading organizations are turning technology investments into measurable business outcomes, sharing practical insights on ERP modernization, data foundations, AI-enabled capabilities, and the operational changes needed to create lasting value. Featured Speakers: Ed Fenton, Vice President - Artificial Intelligence, Graybar Electric Co Inc, David Meyer, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Graybar Electric Co Inc, and Hamid Ali, Principal - Supply Chain & Network Operations, Deloitte. Moderated by: Bart Tessel, Chief Innovator Officer, NAW.
- 8:45 AM: Break to Transition to a Wholesaler/Distributor-only Audience
- 8:50 AM: **Mainstage Session: From the Desk of the CIO: How Distribution CIOs Build, Buy, and Govern AI Right Now** - Open to wholesalers/distributors, only.
Hear from CIOs at multibillion-dollar distributors about what AI has actually changed inside their companies. They'll cover where to start with AI, how the build-versus-buy calculus has changed, how to maintain data security and governance, and what a successful AI implementation looks like. Featured Speakers: Alex Moazed, President, Augment, Brian LeDuc, CIO, Dot Foods, and Larry Sullivan, Vice President – Digital, Data, and Analytics, ABC Supply Co Inc.
- 9:50 AM: Break

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Day 2 – September 17, 2026, *Continued...*

10:00 AM: **Tech Innovator Pitches**

Split between two concurrent rooms, distributors will choose from two 20-minute moderated fireside chats with 12 tech innovators for each round of pitches. These CEOs will communicate the relevance of their solution to the distribution industry.

12:50 PM: Networking Lunch & Break

2:00 PM: **Private Company Appointments**

Designed as a closed-door meeting between top decision-makers, distributors can schedule 20-minute appointments with tech innovator CEOs to discuss how their solutions can fit their company.

6:30 PM: Offsite Networking Reception

8:30 PM: Evening Concludes

Day 3 – September 18, 2026

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:00 AM: **Mainstage Session: Leadership Across the Channel**

Manufacturers and distributors depend on one another in ways that continue to evolve. This conversation will explore leadership, channel partnership, and how one global manufacturer is thinking about the future alongside the distributors helping bring its products and solutions to market. Featured Speaker: Bill Brown, CEO, 3M. Moderated by: Kevin Short, President & CEO ORS Nasco and Treasurer of NAW Board of Directors.

8:50 AM: Break

9:00 AM: **Private Company Appointments**

Designed as a closed-door meeting between top decision-makers, distributors can schedule 20-minute appointments with tech innovator CEOs to discuss how their solutions can fit their company.

11:30 AM: **Event Adjourns**