



# ANCHORED IN INTEGRITY

The Character to Lead | The Strength to Serve

2026

SUMMER CONFERENCE:  
May 27-29, 2026

HOSTED AT:  
Perdido Beach Resort

REGISTER AT:



ACCMA-AL.ORG



**ICMA Speaker Jessica Cowles**  
Former Town Manager | ICMA Ethics Director



**Keynote Speaker Pete Blank**  
Professional Speaker | Author | Leader



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# Daily Conference Rundown

## Wednesday, May 27

**7:30 am - 1:00 pm**      **ACCMA Golf Outing (presented by Lathan McKee Architects)**

**11:00 am – 3:00 pm**      **ACCMA Board Meeting**

**3:00 pm**      **Registration Desk Opens**

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**      **Sponsor Engagement Event**

Join our sponsors for a fun engagement event featuring a special welcome drink provided by HPM! Those who visit with sponsors will be entered into a special raffle drawing on Thursday morning. Get registered, grab a drink, and get to know our sponsors!

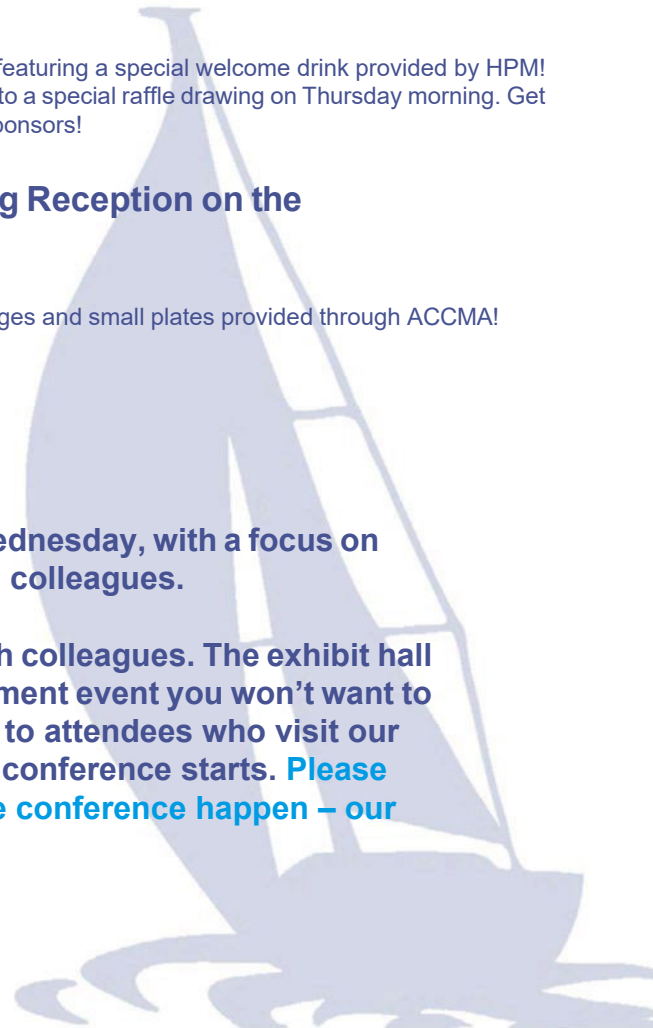
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**      **The Anchor Gathering, Opening Reception on the Beach Deck**

Enjoy an opening reception with hosted beverages and small plates provided through ACCMA!

### **Dinner on Your Own**

You will notice some changes to the agenda on Wednesday, with a focus on vendor/sponsor interactions and networking with colleagues.

Take advantage of the opportunity to play golf with colleagues. The exhibit hall opens at 3:00 pm. There will be a sponsor engagement event you won't want to miss! Thursday morning raffles will be open only to attendees who visit our vendors and sponsors on Wednesday before the conference starts. **Please take the opportunity to thank those who make the conference happen – our sponsors!**





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## Thursday, May 28

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am**      **Breakfast in the CD Foyer  
Registration & Exhibits Open**
- 8:00 am**                      **Conference Welcome & Kickoff**
- 8:30 am**                      **Keynote with Pete Blank  
Enhance Your Culture-Vision through the Magic of Tele-Vision**
- 9:40 am**                      **Break**
- 10:00 am**                      **Legislative Session Wrap-Up**  
Baker Allen, Director of Governmental Affairs, ALM  
Lauren Hodge, Assistant Executive Director, ACCA
- 11:00 am**                      **Tips for Advocating for Your Local Government**  
Join Alabama State Representative Jim Hill, along with Hoover City Administrator Brian Muenger and local government lobbyists, as they provide insight on the legislative process and offer advice on how to be a better advocate for your city or county. Rep. Hill, a former judge and longtime chairman for the House Judiciary Committee, has been referred to as the umpire and referee over some of the most contentious debates in the House.
- 12:00 pm**                      **The President's Awards Luncheon**  
Meet the future of our profession as you get to know our students and congratulate scholarship winners. The luncheon also honors the recipients of the Sam Gaston Vocational Excellence and Department Head of the Year Awards.
- 1:45 pm**                      **Ethics is the Difference**  
Jessica Cowles, Ethics Director at ICMA, and Gretchen DiFante, ACCMA Board President, review the most effective ways to rise above the behaviors that most often lead to corruption. This interactive session with ICMA's most senior ethics executive will get you and your colleagues involved in identifying cracks in your own foundation and creating a culture obsessed with keeping things solid.



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**3:00 pm**

**Break**

**3:15 pm**

**Breakout Sessions - What Holds Us Back From Being Set Apart?**

City managers, administrators, and assistants, department heads & elected officials break into separate groups, facilitated by Pete Blank, Jessica Cowles, and ICMA's Pam Brangaccio, to discuss current issues and the resources needed to help prevent foundational cracks in your organization.

**4:30 pm**

**Ice Cream Ahoy! Networking Social**

Thank and celebrate our sponsors, introductions, and prize drawings.

**5:30 pm**

**Dinner on Your Own**



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# Daily Conference Rundown

## Friday, May 29

**7:00 am - 8:00 am**

**Breakfast in the CD Foyer**

**7:45 am**

**Pre-Meeting Devotional**

**8:30 am**

**Colleague's Corner – Relevant and Timely Education You Don't Want to Miss!**

**8:30 am - 9:15 am**

We all struggle with helping our communities understand how a specific development fits into the big picture. More importantly, how are we measuring and communicating our community's economic growth beyond the number of permits, tax dollars, population, etc?

Vestavia Hills City Manager Jeff Downes shares Vestavia's Economic Growth Dashboard and offers tips on keeping elected officials and the public engaged with data.

**9:15 am - 10:00 am**

**Cyber Attack – Operate for When, Not If**

What happens after you find out you have been attacked by cyber criminals? What is the first thing you do? Who do you call first? The first 48 hours are the most critical, so join in a discussion to help you prepare. Hear how Director, Patrick Johnson, and the team at Alabaster worked through this very recent attack and what they learned as a result.

**10:00 am - 10:30 am**

**Checkout Break**

**10:30 am – 10:45 am**

**ICMA Update with Pam Brangaccio and Justin Smith**

**10:45 am – 11:00 am**

**Conference Evaluations**

**11:00 am – 11:15 am**

**ACCMA Business Meeting**

**11:15 am - Noon**

**Door Prizes and Closing**