CBTE 2025 Gathering being held in November, ATS providing support grant

By Ruth McGillivray

Innovators and explorers are welcome to this year's CBTE Gathering being held in Scottsdale, AZ, on November 13–16, 2025.

In today's rapidly changing educational landscape, theological institutions face unprecedented challenges. How can we best prepare ministry leaders for the complexities of modern contexts while maintaining educational excellence? The answer for a growing number of seminaries lies in Competency-Based Theological Education (CBTE).

CBTE represents a paradigm shift in ministerial preparation, focusing on demonstrated achievement of clearly defined competencies rather than time spent in classrooms. It emphasizes contextualized learning, authentic assessment, and flexible pathways that honor diverse learning styles and ministry contexts.

Join us this November at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, for an immersive gathering designed specifically for theological educators exploring, developing, or enhancing CBTE programs.

Why this gathering matters

Unlike traditional conferences packed with back-to-back presentations, the CBTE 2025 Gathering creates intentional space for relationship-building, problem-solving, and collaborative visioning. This carefully designed event balances expert insights with practical application through:

- Thought-provoking plenary sessions featuring voices at the forefront of theological education innovation.
- Facilitated discussion groups addressing your specific CBTE implementation challenges.
- Networking opportunities with peers at various stages of the CBTE journey.
- Dedicated time for rest and reflection in a retreat-like setting.

The gathering will showcase perspectives from established CBTE practitioners alongside fresh insights from educational researchers.

Who should attend

This gathering is ideal for:

- Academic deans and program directors considering CBTE implementation.
- Faculty members interested in student-centered assessment approaches.
- Seminary presidents exploring sustainable innovation.
- Educators at various stages of CBTE adoption—from curious explorers to experienced practitioners.

ATS grant to support dedicated event

This year, ATS will once again provide a grant to support a dedicated CBTE event through the ATS Organizational and Educational Models Project funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. ATS provided financial support for an initial dedicated CBTE gathering in 2018. In recent years, ATS has offered scholarships for participants to participate in a CBTE track at the annual CBExchange Conference, organized by the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN). Due to the increasing number of theological schools developing and operating CBTE programs, the CBTE Lead Team and ATS determined it was time once again for a dedicated event.

Back-to-back conferences

The CBTE 2025 Gathering has been intentionally scheduled on November 13-16 in Scottsdale, AZ immediately following this year's CBExchange Conference which will be held November 10-13 in neighboring Phoenix, AZ. CBExchange is the premiere North American event for educators, employers, and policymakers seeking to advance competency-based education. This scheduling provides an excellent opportunity for those interested in attending both events.

Registration opens July 1

Register here for CBTE 2025 and here for CBExchange 2025, and join the mailing list to receive updates as they become available. For more information, contact Nikki Lanigan or Ruth McGillivray.





Franciscan Renewal Center



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