There’s no “right” way to attend the Symposium, nor is there a set schedule everyone must follow. You should attend the Symposium with the plan to make connections, learn and have fun!

This guide was developed to help make your first Symposium experience productive and rewarding. For more details, read through the information that was mailed to you, go to www.iscebs.org/symposium, or find it on the mobile app.
NETWORKING
Symposium attendees have consistently said the networking opportunities are one of the reasons they attend every year. How can you make the most of these opportunities? Here are some ideas to get you started.

1. If attending with someone who has come before—hang with them at first, then introduce yourself to others and branch out.
2. Have your “elevator speech” ready: name, where you work and type of work you do (your job title may not provide enough information about your work) to spark more conversation.
3. Look for others wearing the same ribbons as you are, and find out what you have in common.
4. Tweet from the conference [#17SYMP]. This allows you to connect with others who are attending and participate in the back-channel discussion.

EVENTS

SPECIAL INVITATION
First-Time Attendee Meet-and-Greet Complimentary Luncheon
Sunday, September 17, 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm. Join ISCEBS chapter volunteers from the United States and Canada to learn more about the Society and meet some folks right away! Connect with your local chapter ISCEBS members for ways to enhance your professional development.

OPEN TO ALL
38th Annual CEBS Conferment Ceremony
See what it’s all about! All Symposium attendees are invited to attend the CEBS Conferment Ceremony and Reception on Sunday, September 17 beginning at 5:00 p.m. New graduates of the CEBS program are recognized for their achievement. The Reception following is a great opportunity to not only learn about the CEBS program, but also meet fellow attendees before sessions start the next morning.

Monday Luncheon Roundtables
Roundtables focus on a variety of topics. Choose one that interests you, and benefit from the exchange of information AND getting to know others! Of course you can always select a “nontopic” table and enjoy the conversation there.

Monday Welcome Reception
This reception from 6:00-7:30 p.m. is a great time to relax, enjoy appetizers and refreshments, meet new people and share takeaways from the first day’s sessions! Bring your business cards!

Sign and Dine
Sign-and-Dine opportunities on Sunday and Tuesday evenings, hosted by the ISCEBS Colorado Chapter, give you the chance to see the sights and sample some of Denver’s excellent cuisine at unique restaurants. Sign up in the Registration area. Each attendee pays for his/her own meal, and each restaurant will provide individual bills, making it easier to pay.

Tuesday Fellow Lunch
What is an ISCEBS Fellow? Find out at the Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

Over 94% of Symposium attendees say this program meets or exceeds their educational needs.
MVP (MOST VALUABLE PAPERS!) ENVELOPE

Pick this up when you arrive at the Registration Desk located on the second floor. It contains everything you need for meals, sessions, continuing education credits and more.

- **Your name badge**: Make sure you wear this throughout the Symposium.
- **Meal tickets**: Needed for breakfast and lunch. These fit perfectly behind your name badge so you’ll never be without!
- **Welcome Reception drink tickets**: Two complimentary beverage tickets sponsored by Benefitfocus for Monday evening.
- **Program materials exchange card**: For printouts of the session track(s) you would like. Pick them up at the Bookstore.
- **Green attendance/continuing education cards**: If you requested continuing education credits, these cards need to be turned in after each session you attend. If you need credits in a specific area (i.e., insurance), there will be additional instructions about what sessions you need to attend. If you don’t see this information, you can ask about it at the Registration Desk. If you forgot to request CE on your registration, that’s okay; contact the Society at (262) 786-8771.
- **Ribbons**: Available again this year as an icebreaker! Stop by the Conversation Corner and get some additional fun ribbons based on your likes and interests to add to your name badge. These are great conversation starters. The Conversation Corner is a quiet area to sit and chat with other attendees, check e-mails or just relax between sessions.

WHO WILL YOU MEET?

You’ll see that Symposium attendees come from a variety of professions with a broad range of experience. You’ll meet people who represent single employers and multiemployers and those who work with public plans. They are benefits and compensation professionals, insurance representatives, brokers and consultants, HR professionals, administrators, accountants, attorneys and auditors.

And they range from early professionals to seasoned employees.

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<td>0-10 years</td>
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Over 40% have attended five or more symposiums, so you will be in good hands with many “veterans” available to help or answer questions.

BRING YOUR BUSINESS CARDS!

There will be many opportunities to “give and get.”

Be prepared to help people remember you. Conference connections can be excellent contacts during and after the Symposium for bouncing an idea off a peer, learning more about someone’s project or strategy, hiring someone for your company, or beginning your next job search. Last but not least, there will be a business card prize drawing at the Monday night Welcome Reception; make sure you’re entered!

“The Symposium has some of the best speakers I’ve heard at a conference. If you are in the benefits world, I would highly recommend this event to further your education.”
USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Start making connections with other attendees now! Utilize your social networks to let others know you’ll be at the Symposium this September. Update your LinkedIn status and share what sessions you’re most excited to attend. Send a tweet and make sure to use our conference hashtag—#17SYMP—You’ll likely get a few more followers!

A sample update/tweet can be: Can’t wait to attend the #17SYMP in Denver! Looking forward to 2½ days of #benefits #education. www.iscebs.org/symposium

At the Symposium, make sure to update folks on your positive experience! We love to see our attendees talking about their favorite sessions, who they met/connected with and more. And take photos! Tweet your photos with the hashtag, then watch for them in the Registration area. We have a large display monitor where we highlight photos from attendees.

SYMPOSIUM FAQS

What is a typical day like at the Symposium? Each day includes an exercise option, continental breakfast, educational sessions, beverage breaks, a seated lunch Monday and Tuesday, networking and social events, time to browse the bookstore and sponsor display tables.

What is the appropriate attire for the Symposium? Dress for the Symposium is business casual. The conference rooms may get chilly; dressing in layers is recommended. The CEBS Conferment Ceremony and reception on Sunday, September 17 are business dress. All attendees are invited to the conferment.

I noticed there are several tracks at the Symposium—How does this work? You may attend any session that meets your personal and professional development needs. We don’t require you to stay in one track for the entire Symposium. Attendees like the ability to jump tracks and attend sessions that they need professionally or are personally interested in.

What is on the Symposium mobile app? In a word—everything! Not only are session handouts available in the app, you can also make notes and highlight right on the pdf. Information on speakers and attendees, and a customizable daily schedule are all available on the Symposium conference app. No matter how you choose to access the information—tablet or smartphone—or what brand, the app will keep you connected to the Symposium. Download information will be provided to all attendees.

Why do you need emergency contact information from me? It is important for us to have this in the case of a medical or personal emergency. This information is kept confidential and destroyed after the conference.

I want to be sure I return to my job with valuable, relevant information for my company and colleagues. What can I expect to take away from this conference? Symposium attendees have noted that this conference provides “applicable, targeted information on current issues.” Expect to hear a lot about the latest trends in health care and strategies for retirement readiness. You’ll also walk away with a fresh perspective on edgy topics like medical marijuana.

Many speakers attend the full conference and are available after their session for questions and further conversation. You’ll also have the opportunity to view some recorded sessions with colleagues after the conference. Don’t forget to stop by the sponsor displays, as they contain valuable collateral on what their companies can do to help make your job easier.

To help get your materials home, a complimentary shipping service will be provided for Symposium items. Simply pick up a shipping box (already printed with your mailing information) from the shipping desk any time Monday-Wednesday, fill it up and return it so it can be shipped back to your office or home!

What are some healthy choice opportunities at the Symposium? We’ve got you covered! Join other attendees at the morning chair yoga session (no special dress is required) or participate in the group fun run/walk through Denver Tuesday morning. On Monday, you will receive a water bottle, sponsored by Businessolver, and there will be ample opportunities to keep hydrated throughout the day. If you have special diet needs—such as needing a gluten-free diet or vegan meals—please e-mail the Society at iscebs@iscebs.org so we can make arrangements on your behalf.

Will I need to pay for Wi-Fi? Complimentary Wi-Fi in guest rooms and meeting rooms is sponsored by Lockton Companies. Access information will be provided in your MVP envelope.

If you have any questions, e-mail iscebs@iscebs.org or call (262) 786-8771.

Enjoy Your Symposium Experience