



Mid-America Workforce Summit

Capitol Plaza Hotel
Sunflower Room
Topeka, KS
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AGENDA

Workforce Development, a Look to the Future

DAY 1 (January 22)

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS (as organized by individual committees/organizations)

- 9:00 Registration Begins
11:00 Exhibits Open
12:00 Opening Plenary Luncheon
Kansas Lt. Governor *Lynn Rogers* and Secretary of Agriculture *Sonny Perdue* (Invited).
- 12:45 Break and Exhibit Visitation
- 1:00 *Opportunity Occupations: Driving Outcomes for Workers without a Bachelor's Degree*
Keith Wardrip, Community Development Research Manager, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, will discuss recent research on "opportunity occupations," or jobs that typically pay a good wage but do not require a bachelor's degree. He will highlight findings for mid-American regional economies and tease out implications for rural areas. Wardrip will answer questions such as: Which opportunity occupations are most prevalent? Why are they concentrated in some places and scarce in others? What are their future prospects? And how can communities connect prospective workers with these jobs?
- 1:55 Break and Exhibit Visitation
- 2:15 *Advisory Committee for Career & Technical Education: Work Based Learning Panel*
Alex Delaney, Council for Information and Technology Pathways, along with *Kim Konecny*, Manager of Talent Acquisition and *Silas Dulan*, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, of Evergy will participate in this panel that focuses on how best to provide business and industry a unified voice to advocate and provide recommendations for continuous improvement for career and technical education in K-12 and Higher Education. Delaney will discuss the explorer phase of early Work Based Learning that establishes the foundational skills needed across many career fields. The research presented will show that generalists often find their path late, and they juggle many interests rather than focusing on one. Konecny and Dulan will focus on the company's insight by discussing the involvement with high school student career exploration and internship offering across the different levels of the company structure.
- 3:15 Break and Exhibit Visitation
- 3:30 *Enrichment Network*
EPIC (Education, Practice, and Immersion for Credit), is an expanded learning opportunity for students designed to build workforce skills, promote innovative thinking, and increase community engagement. Participants build essential skills for college and career readiness through classroom and virtual lessons in addition to hands-on learning and experiences with area businesses and trades groups. This panel will discuss the successful partnerships that have developed between the Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson and local Hutchinson businesses as they have grown the EPIC program in their community. The goal of this panel discussion is to share promising practices and practical strategies for innovative workforce development partnerships.
- 4:15 *America's job Link Alliance*
Joy Bancroft, Customer Relations Manager, and *Kyle Batson*, Lead UX/UI Designer, of America's Job Link Alliance—Technical Support will discuss their experiences improving America's JobLink, the labor exchange and case management system for 10 states. Both Bancroft and Batson are traveling to all AJLA states to visit with job seekers, employers, and American Job Center staff to understand how users are experiencing the system. The panel will also touch on what it means to design a state web-based application based on its user's needs, rather than strictly on business requirements.
- 5:00 Break and Exhibit Visitation
- 5:15 *Improving Disability Employment*
Steve Gieber, Executive Director, Council on Developmental Disabilities, will interview a panel of individuals who have overcome obstacles to employment by using some of the Kansas employment systems to help them develop career paths. Brought to Kansas in 2012 by the Kansas Council, Project Search is one of the tools that has helped our youth successfully transition from high school to employment. Other panelists featured have received assistance from other parts of the Kansas employment system.
- 6:00 Reception, Cash Bar and Exhibit Visitation
- 6:30 Celebration Banquet
Midwestern Higher Education Compact Presentation
by *Susan Heegaard*, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact
KACCTE Award of Merit Presentation
Kansas Department of Education

DAY 2 (January 23)

- 7:15 Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Visitation
- 8:00 *The 2020 Legislative Update*
Pat Roberts, U.S. Senate (Invited); *Julia Lynn*, Kansas Senate; *Bud Estes*, Kansas Senate; *Ed Berger*, Kansas Senate; *Barbara Ballard*, Kansas House of Representatives; *Ken Rahjes*, Kansas House of Representatives; and *Brad Ralph*, Kansas House of Representatives.
- 8:45 *Flint Hills Job Corps Center Presentation*
Johnny Taylor, Center Director, Flint Hills Job Corps Center; *Aaron Estabrook*, Business and Community Liaison, Flint Hill Job Corps Center; and *Justin Losson*, Owner, White Line CDL Training, will participate in a discussion to discuss how the Flint Hills job Corps uses their tuition-free training and education program to connect eligible young men and women with the skills and educational opportunities they need to establish real careers and end generational poverty. The panel will also highlight how business and industry driven partnerships are used to improve workforce development and inform the educational culture in developing curriculum for "power skills." Finally, Losson will discuss the successful public-private partnership between White Line CDL and Flint Hills Job Corps Center. White Line CDL is headquartered in Topeka with a location in Manhattan that partners with the Flint Hills Job Corps and another stand-alone site in Wichita.
- 9:30 Break & Exhibit Visitation
- 9:45 *Regional Labor Market Update*
Tyler Tenbrink, Labor Economist, Department of Labor, will present the latest statistics measuring the health of the regional labor market, including job growth and industry performance.
- 10:30 *Rural Workforce Development*
Presented by U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Labor
Jacki Ponti, Chief Innovation Officer, Innovation Center, will facilitate as the panel works to address rural workforce development issues. Panelists include *Lynne Hinrichsen*, State Director, USDA Rural Development; *David Schemm*, Kansas State Executive Director, Kansas State Farm Service Agency; *Lee Price*, Arkansas/Texas State Director, U.S. Department of Labor; *Michelle Bish*, Executive Director, Northeast Workforce Development Board; and *Deb Scheibler*, Executive Director, Kansas WorkforceONE.
- 11:55 *Key Strategies and Commitment — Eddie Estes*
- 12:00 Hit the Hill for Workforce Development