



# Education & Workforce Development Taskforce

Virtual Meeting- Friday, March 26, 2021

10:00am

# Today's Agenda

**10:00-10:05 am:** Hello & Welcome- *Michele N. Siekerka, NJBIA*

**10:05-10:10 am:** Review Major Themes from Meeting 1- *Nikki Sandelier, Focus NJ*

**10:10-10:59 am:** Breakout Sessions- Discuss Themes 1-3

**11:00 am:** Closing Remarks & Adjourn

# Major Themes from Breakout Session 1

**Theme 1:** The expansion and promotion of relationships between business and academia are essential to create sustainable communication about current industry needs and to form a “workforce ecosystem” in New Jersey. This has become increasingly important due to the rapid adoption of new technologies, software, and new business strategic plans during the pandemic.

**Theme 2:** Identifying which industries will employ the most individuals in the future and which industries will pay the best wages is essential to New Jersey’s future workforce success. This information will aid in the creation of next generation curricula and will require closely monitoring technological developments to identify disruptions to the job market.

# Major Themes from Breakout Session 1 Continued

**Theme 3:** Professional development and lifelong learning continue to be essential tools for successful careers, especially due to the rapid adoption of technology in most major industries during the pandemic. There is a need for hard skills now that can be met through micro-credentialing, certifications and/or the modification of regulations and policy.

**Theme 4:** Socio-economic disparities have become increasingly prevalent during the pandemic. This is especially true for vulnerable populations, such as first-generation college students, students of color, women, minority workers, low-income families, and low-to-middle skill workers.

**Theme 5:** Mental health has emerged as a major societal focus as individuals cope with health, economic, professional, and family hardships/responsibilities during the pandemic.



**Breakout Session- 50 minutes**  
**Discussion on Themes 1-3**

# Closing Remarks & Adjourn

## Future Meetings:

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 10:00 am

- Goal: Discuss themes 4&5

Friday, June 11, 2021 at 10:00 am

- Goal: Review updated report outline & recommendations

Do you have questions or additional comments regarding today's meeting?

Contact Nikki Sandelier at [nsandelier@focusnj.org](mailto:nsandelier@focusnj.org)