



# Education & Workforce Development Taskforce

Virtual Meeting- Friday, February 26, 2021

10:00am

# Today's Agenda

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

**10:05-10:20 am:** Review Previous Work & Taskforce Overview- *Nikki Sandelier, Focus NJ*

**10:20- 10:30 am:** Workforce Development Initiatives around NJ

**10:30-11:00 am:** Breakout session

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



# Previous Education & Workforce Development Work

**Phase 1:** Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report & Recommendations

**Phase 2:** The Future of Work in NJ: Industry Series Study




# Phase 1: Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report

In 2018, NJBIA released a study titled **“The Education Equation: Strategies for Retaining and Attracting New Jersey’s Future Workforce.”** The study, which was a deliverable from NJBIA’s Postsecondary Education Task Force, **was a “Phase 1 deep dive”** into researching and analyzing **factors that affect New Jersey’s workforce pipeline.**

**The task force**, which included 100 prominent members from academia, state education and labor departments, businesses, and young adults, worked to build a framework that **sought to better prepare, preserve, and place New Jersey’s future workforce.** The group made 13 recommendations to ensure New Jersey’s workforce and the state’s education programs are aligned with the needs of the private sector.


# Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report- Recommendations


## Attractability

1.  Promote the benefits of staying or coming to NJ for postsecondary education.
2.  Improve collaboration between government agencies, workforce employers, educational institutions, nonprofits, and industries to prepare students for successful careers.
3.  Publicize career pathways and opportunities that the state has to offer, which lead to well-paying jobs in the Garden State.

Recommendation Status:





 - Completed

 - In Progress

 - Not Started


# Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report- Recommendations


## Affordability

4.  Continue to advocate for the responsible and consistent investment by government into postsecondary education.
5.  Develop cost-saving models for students to achieve stackable credentials and/or degrees.
6.  Address and reduce the need for remedial education.
7.  Review the process for the transferability of credits among postsecondary institutions.

Recommendation Status:




 - Completed

 - In Progress


 - Not Started


# Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report- Recommendations


## Skill Building

8.  Enhance capacity for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, as standalone programs and within traditional K-12 districts, as well as promote the value CTE has for employers and students.
9.  Create employer-driven training programs and curricula to help prepare students for the jobs of the future.
10.  Promote and expand apprenticeship and internship programs to expose more young people to work-based learning.

Recommendation Status:




 - Completed

 - In Progress

 - Not Started


# Postsecondary Education Taskforce Report- Recommendations


## Career Exploration & Education

11.  Train guidance counselors, teachers, and parents on career awareness and proper career guidance; including career navigation assistance and career coaching.
12.  Provide in-school employment services, including assistance with resume writing, mock interviews, job fairs, and assistance finding employment.
13.  Engage NJ employers in the creation of career-focused curricula that includes work-based experiences and the development of appropriate industry-valued credentials and degrees.

Recommendation Status:

 - Completed

 - In Progress

 - Not Started



## **Phase 2: The Future of Work in NJ: Industry Series Study**

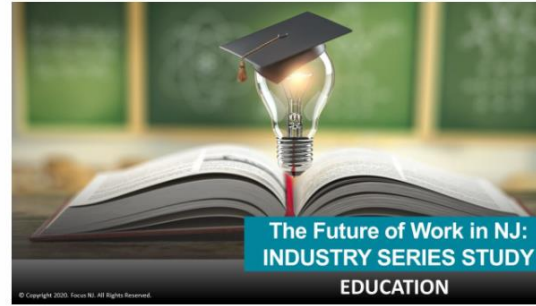
In 2019 & 2020, NJBIA and Focus NJ made it a priority to identify and understand how New Jersey's industries and the jobs they provide are advancing into the future. As such, we embarked on a **"Phase 2 deep dive"** into a statewide, eight-industry study to gather insights from New Jersey business and industry **to identify the changing dynamics, opportunities, challenges, and emerging skill sets.**

**Our goal was to work collaboratively with academia** to ensure the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow are embedded within programs at the state's postsecondary institutions.

## Construction



## Education



## Health Services



## Information Technology



## Leisure & Hospitality



## Manufacturing



## Professional & Business Services



## Trade, Transportation & Utilities



# Phase 3: Education & Workforce Development Taskforce Overview

This year we are looking to expand our workforce research to further reflect our new realities, in a coronavirus pandemic world. The Taskforce has been formed to do the following:

- Evaluate** the recommendation status of *The Education Equation*;
- Identify** and discuss **the major challenges that we face today** with respect to these issues;
- Further **comprehend the collaborative efforts around the state** in the education/workforce development arena(s).

# Taskforce Goals & Deliverables

1. Release an updated report that will identify recommendations to reskill, rehire, and reshape New Jersey's workforce.
2. Identify additional ways that we can ensure that NJ's future workforce is prepared to enter the labor force.
3. Create a workforce development initiative "map" to better understand the various initiatives at play in the state to better promote partnerships and collaboration.
4. Create and foster relationships to bridge the gap between business, government, and academia to ensure that our resources are being used effectively and efficiently.



## **Workforce Development Initiatives around NJ**

At this time, please comment in the chat box with your name, where you work, and the workforce development initiatives your place of employment is currently part of or working on.

# Breakout Session- 30 minutes

## Questions for discussion:

1. What education and workforce issues existed prior to 2020 but were exacerbated because of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Are there any new education or workforce issues that have developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. What is the single issue that presents the most pressing challenge for education and workforce development in the next five years?

# Closing Remarks & Adjourn

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

Next Meeting: Friday, March 26, 2021

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

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