

## **Education & Workforce Development Taskforce**

Virtual Meeting Agenda

March 26, 2021

10:00 am

**10:00 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 Session- Discuss Themes 1-3

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

### **Future Meetings:**

- Friday, April 23, 2021 at 10:00 am
  - Goal: Discuss themes 4&5
- Friday, May 21, 2021 at 10:00 am
  - Goal: Review updated report outline & recommendations

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### **Taskforce Goals/Deliverables:**

1. Release an updated report that will identify recommendations to reskill, rehire, and reshape New Jersey's current 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.

**Breakout Session 2: Discussion of Major Themes 1-3**

**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.**

Q1: What needs to be done on a statewide level to ensure the expansion of business-academic relationships? What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Q2: What initiatives (governmental or non-governmental) exist today that could be expanded to achieve this goal?

Q3: How can/should we utilize state government agencies to achieve this goal?

Q4: What initiatives exist today that are not working and should be eliminated or rethought?

Q5: Do you think a central domain to coordinate all relationship efforts would be beneficial? If yes, where should that domain be housed? (I.e: state government agencies, industry, academia, nonprofit)

**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.**

Q1: How are institutions currently identifying emerging industries to aid in curricula modification? What data/information are institutions currently using to make these decisions?

Q2: What role does state government play, such as the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development and the Office of Innovation, in the identification of industries?

Q3: What role does data from the federal government play in the identification of industries?

Q4: What exists today that New Jersey could expand to achieve this goal?

Q5: What could be/needs to be created to ensure that New Jersey achieves this goal?

**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.**

Q1: What education or workforce development entity or entities should house micro-credentials and certifications?

Q2: What hard skill sets are needed now (that aren't industry specific) that would provide a mutual benefit for employers and employees from the development of an industry valued micro-certification or credential?

Q3: What industries are struggling to find qualified workers due to regulation and/or policy that is outdated? How can we modify these regulations/policies?

Q4: What place do financial literacy courses have in professional development/ lifelong learning?