

16th Annual MA Jobs and Workforce Summit

*"Strength in Skill: Empowering
Massachusetts' Workforce for the Future"*



THE WORKFORCE **SOLUTIONS** GROUP



September 25, 2025

9AM - 4PM | Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA

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Schedule

9:00 AM **Registration & Networking - Light breakfast served**

10:00 AM **Summit Welcome**
- Tim Sullivan, Project Director

10:05 AM **Updates and Reflections from the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development**
Speakers:
- Tonja Mettlach, Executive Vice President, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- Paul McMurtry, House Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
- Jacob Oliveira, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

10:30 AM **Fireside Chat**
Session introduced by Chrissy Lynch, President, Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Participants:
- Lauren Jones, Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
- Lane Glenn, President, Northern Essex Community College

11:00 AM **Keynote: Economic Outlook - 2025 and Beyond**
Session introduced by Tim Sullivan

Speaker:
- Curtis Dubay, Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

11:30 AM **Tapping Untapped Talent: Building a Pipeline of Talent to Grow the Massachusetts Economy**
Session introduced by Kaitlyn Bean, Deputy Director, SkillWorks

Moderator:
- Kelly Aiken, Director of Workforce Development and Planning, UMass Memorial Health

Panelists:
- Eva Millona, Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank Foundation
- Jerry Rubin, Co-Chair, MassSkills and Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank Foundation
- Kristen McKenna, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Bunker Hill Community College
- Ron Marlow, Vice President, Workforce Development and Alternative Education, ABCD

12:30 PM **Lunch and Awards**
Award session sponsored by: Google

Kathie Mainzer Award
- Nancy Huntington Stager, Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation

Award presented by
- Mary Sarris, Former Executive Director, MassHire North Shore Workforce Board

Schedule

- 1:15 PM Live Podcast: The Ripple Effect**
Podcast Hosts:
- Marybeth Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Worcester Community Action Council, The Ripple Effect
- Ron Waddell, Founder and CEO, Legendary Legacies Inc. & The Auxano Leadership Group, The Ripple Effect

Guest:
- Chris Shannon, Senior Policy Associate, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
- 2:00 PM CTI at Five: Successes, Lessons, and the Road Ahead**
Session introduced by: Lew Finfer, Director and Community Organizer, Massachusetts Action for Justice

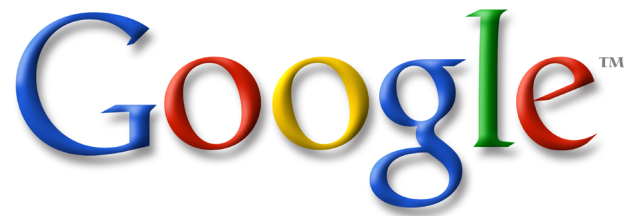
Moderator:
- Molly Jacobson, President & CEO, Commonwealth Corporation

Panelists:
- Bob LePage, Assistant Secretary for Career Education, Executive Office of Education
- Paul Bello, Director of Career and Community Development, South Shore Regional Vocational and Technical High School
- Bryana Malloy, Manager of Industry Relations, MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board
- Trish Woodliff, Director, Adult Continuing Education, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School District
- 3:00 PM Updates from DC - How New Federal Policies Will Impact Massachusetts**
Session introduced by: Cole Anglely, MWA

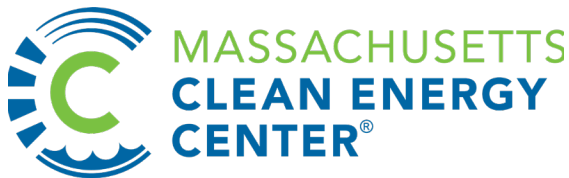
Participants:
- Nate Mackinnon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges
- Cole Anglely, Executive Director, Massachusetts Workforce Association
- Megan Evans, Senior Government Affairs Manager, National Skills Coalition
- Emmanuel Owusu, Executive Director, African Bridge Network
- 3:45 PM Summit Closing**
- Tim Sullivan, Project Director

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Keynote Speaker



Curtis Dubay

Chief Economist

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Curtis Dubay is the Chief Economist at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He tracks the condition of the economy, analyzes the impact of public policy on economic growth, and runs the Chamber's Chief Economists Committee. The committee consists of chief economists from member businesses. It helps the Chamber formulate economic policies and provides analysis to policymakers in Washington, D.C.

Previously, Dubay was senior economist at the American Bankers Association where he worked on tax issues and followed the economic trends affecting the banking industry. Prior to ABA, he was a research fellow in tax and economic policy at The Heritage Foundation. There he researched and published on tax and economic policy issues.

Earlier in his career, Dubay worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the firm's transfer pricing division structuring international transactions, and before that at the Tax Foundation where he authored three widely recognized and cited reports: Tax Freedom Day, State-Local Tax Burdens, and The State Business Tax Climate Index.

Dubay has researched and published frequently on a wide range of tax and economic issues. He is regularly quoted by the press and has appeared often in the media, including on CNBC, Fox Business, Fox News, and C-SPAN. He has testified before Congress several times and been cited in newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and Politico.

Dubay received his master's degree in economics from the University of Connecticut and his bachelor's degree in economics and leadership studies from the University of Richmond. He resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife and three sons.

Summit Speakers



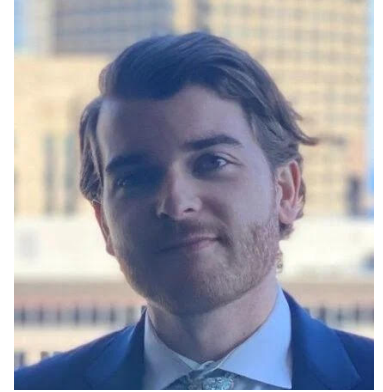
Bryana Malloy
Manager of Industry Relations
MassHire Berkshire Workforce
Board



Chris Shannon (she/them)
Senior Policy Associate
Corporation for a Skilled
Workforce



Chrissy Lynch
President
Massachusetts AFL-CIO



Cole Angley, Esq.
Executive Director
MWA



Curtis Dubay
Chief Economist
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Emmanuel Owusu
Founder and Executive
Director
African Bridge Network



Eva A. Millona
Foundation Fellow
Eastern Bank Foundation



Senator Jacob R. Oliveira
Senate Chair, Joint Committee
on Labor and Workforce
Development



Jerry Rubin
Co-Chair, MassSkills Coalition
and Foundation Fellow, Eastern
Bank Foundation



Kelly Aiken
Director of Workforce
Development and Planning
UMass Memorial Health



Kristen McKenna
Dean of Workforce and
Economic Development
Bunker Hill Community
College



Lane A. Glenn, PhD
President
Northern Essex Community
College (NECC)



Lauren Jones
Secretary, Executive Office of
Labor and Workforce
Development



Mary Sarris
Former Executive Director
MassHire North Shore
Workforce Board



Marybeth Campbell
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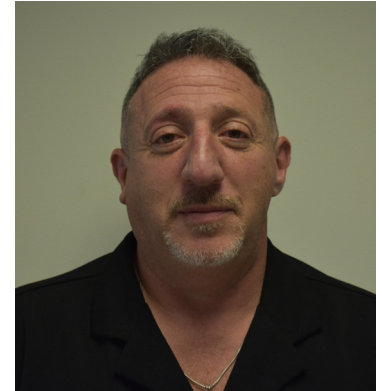
Molly Jacobson
President and CEO
Commonwealth Corporation



Nancy Huntington Stager
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Nate Mackinnon
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Community Colleges



Paul Bello
Director of Career and
Community Development
South Shore Regional Vocational
Technical School



Rep Paul McMurtry
House Chair, Joint
Committee on Labor and
Workforce Development



Robert LePage
Assistant Secretary of Career
Education
Executive Office of Ed



Ronald G. Marlow
Vice President of Workforce
Development and Alternative
Education
Action for Boston Community
Development, Inc.



Ronald Waddell
Founder and CEO
Legendary Legacies Inc & The
Auxano Leadership Group



Board Tim Sullivan
Project Director, Workforce
Solutions Group
Managing Director, LSG



Tonja Mettlach
Executive Vice President
Massachusetts Business
Roundtable

Grow with Google

At Grow with Google, we set out to address an urgent societal challenge: expanding access to great jobs and fostering economic security for more people. In the United States, over 70% of jobs paying over \$35,000 per year require a college degree, yet less than 40% of the population holds one.¹ To help bridge this gap, we launched the [Google Career Certificates](#) in 2018. Working in close partnership with employers, nonprofits, workforce development boards, government bodies, and educational institutions, we've tackled this challenge at scale, helping over one million certificate graduates globally, and 350,000 across the United States.²



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Learners, from students to job seekers, can gain job-ready skills to advance their careers and help find new jobs. These flexible online training programs are designed to put learners on the fast track to jobs in high-paying fields, now including practical AI training. No experience necessary.



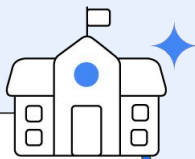
Educators

Educators can learn how to put the latest technology to work inside and outside the classroom. Generative AI for Educators with Gemini helps teachers save time on everyday tasks, personalize instruction, enhance lessons and activities in creative ways, and more.



Employers

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Educational Institutions

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¹ Rise with the STARS: Building a Stronger Labor Market for STARS, Communities, and Employers. Published by Opportunity@Work, January 2022.

² Google internal data, December 2024.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Bryana Malloy

Manager of Industry Relations

MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board

Bryana Malloy is the Manager of Industry Relations at MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board. Her work supports regional workforce strategy and sector development. She oversees training grants and programs, procures labor market data, and assesses employer needs throughout the region. Bryana has had a dynamic role in the launch of CTI programming in Berkshire County. Her work exemplifies how MassHire Boards, Career Centers, schools, and employers can build strong partnerships for successful outcomes.

Bryana is a participant in the 2025 Northeast Transition Initiative (NETI) Fellowship program. She is a Berkshire County native and graduate of MCLA's Master of Business Administration program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food and Farming and a Certificate in Civic Engagement and Public Service from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a wife and mother to three children.

Chris Shannon (she/them)

Senior Policy Associate

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

Chris is a Senior Policy Associate with the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce's Improving Practices and Outcomes Team, supporting systems change and transformation by developing organizational capacity through learning conversations, data analysis, and promoting shared insights to benefit systems.

Chris has over twenty years' youth workforce development experience, including with the US Department of Labor, local workforce boards, a community college, and within secondary and postsecondary education systems. This positions them to see the interconnectedness of community-based systems, making it easier for to identify potential partners, policy improvements, and levers of change and influence.

Before coming to CSW, Chris facilitated five national cross-sectoral policy conversations; two focused on the foundational role historical racism played in the development of financial education programming and how financial wellness is defined. Prior to that, they helped the Boston Fed create a new strategic focus on increasing the quality of jobs for lower-wage workers and realign an historical youth internship program to ensure more equitable opportunity and outcomes.

Chrissy Lynch

President

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Chrissy Lynch was unanimously elected as President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO in October 2023 after previously serving as the Secretary-Treasurer and Chief of Staff of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and after spending 15 years running the political and legislative departments of the MA AFL-CIO. She also spent time as Director of Operations for the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, where she helped run programs that advanced equity, inclusion, and community standards in the construction industry. Before working for organized labor in Massachusetts, she worked on union-led electoral campaigns in California and Massachusetts.

Chrissy is a current member of LiUNA Local 22 and former member and steward of OPEIU Local 6. Before her time with the Labor Movement, she worked jobs that hadn't yet been organized – including several years as a barista, waitstaff, and PCA. Her experience in non-union sectors led her to the Labor Movement.

Chrissy is a graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program in the Harvard Labor and Worklife Center at Harvard Law School, has a Master's Degree in Labor Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Suffolk University, and an Associate's Degree from Massasoit Community College. She lives in Quincy with her husband, 2 children and 2 dogs.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Cole Angley

Executive Director

Mass Workforce Association

Cole Angley is the Executive Director of MWA and has more than seven years experience within Massachusetts Legislature. His tenure there included significant positions such as Chief of Staff to the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development and Legislative Aide for Representative Josh Cutler. During his service, Cole managed critical commissions and task forces, including the Legislature's Future of Work Commission, UI Trust Fund Study Commission, and WorkAbility Task Force. His contributions to co-authoring a legislative report on disability hiring policies and enacting new pay transparency legislation have marked significant advancements in our field. Cole is a graduate of the University of Vermont with a BA in Political Science, a J.D. from Suffolk Law School and is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association.



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Summit Speakers Biographies

Emmanuel Owusu

Founder and Executive Director

African Bridge Network

Founder and Executive Director of African Bridge Network (ABN) and an alumnus of the Lenny Zakim Fund's Transformational Leadership Program. In this role, Emmanuel leads his team in building a supportive community, resources, and pathways for the workforce development of skilled immigrants in Massachusetts. Emmanuel's work is recognized across the nation. Emmanuel directs the Untapped Talents Consortium of human services organizations to support the career advancement of their foreign-born workforce. He is also a board member of the Massachusetts Workforce Association, the Lenny Zakim Fund, and a former trustee of the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Eva A. Millona

Foundation Fellow

Eastern Bank Foundation

Eva A. Millona joined the Foundation in 2025 as an Eastern Bank Foundation Fellow focused on leading the Career Focused English Proficiency Initiative. She is also currently a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Previously she served as a presidential appointee for the Biden-Harris Administration in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from May 2021 to January 2025, first as the Assistant Secretary for Partnership and Engagement, as well as the Chief of the inaugural Office of Citizenship, Partnership and Engagement (OCPE) at USCIS. In her role as Assistant Secretary, she served as the Secretary's primary advisor on the impact of the Department's policies, regulations, processes, and actions on state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) governments, SLTT elected officials, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the academic community, ensuring a unified approach to external engagement. As the lead of OCPE, she also served as the chair of the interagency task force on the implementation of presidential executive orders.

Before joining DHS, Ms. Millona was president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) for over 13 years. MIRA is the largest organization in New England promoting and enhancing integration for new Americans. In 2010, she co-founded the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), a national organization focused on immigrant integration at the local, state, and federal levels, and served as a co-chair for 11 years. She co-founded and co-chaired the Massachusetts Business Immigration Coalition and chaired the 2020 U.S. Census Statewide Complete Count Committee in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A native of Albania, Ms. Millona practiced civil and criminal law before becoming the youngest district judge ever appointed to Tirana's District Court, where she served from 1989 to 1992. After immigrating to the United States, she directed the refugee resettlement program in central Massachusetts. She served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for over 7 years, served as the co-chair of the Massachusetts Governor's Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants under four governors, served on the Attorney General's Council for New Americans, and the Advisory Board for the Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. Ms. Millona taught global policy as an adjunct professor of practice at Boston College School of Social Work.

Ms. Millona has received numerous awards for her leadership and impact, including the prestigious USCIS Outstanding American by Choice Award in 2009. She is a graduate of Clark University, where she obtained a Master of Arts in political science, and holds a law degree from the University of Tirana.



Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good
in our communities and celebrating the work of the
MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

**We proudly support the
16TH ANNUAL
MASSACHUSETTS JOBS AND WORKFORCE SUMMIT**

Congratulations to Nancy Huntington Stager, our friend and
long-standing community leader, who has been steadfast in her
support of workforce development for all our communities.

Together we are creating opportunities to empower
Massachusetts' workforce and helping our
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Summit Speakers Biographies

Senator Jacob R. Oliveira

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Senator Jake Oliveira proudly represents the Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester District, which includes twelve communities, including his hometown of Ludlow.

With over two decades in public service, Jake's journey began during his junior year at Ludlow High School when he served as a student representative to the Ludlow School Committee. He later served four years on the Ludlow Town Meeting and twelve years as an elected member of the Ludlow School Committee. In 2016, while leading efforts to oppose the expansion of charter schools without local approval, he became the youngest President of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

A proud product of public education, Jake earned a Bachelor of Arts from Framingham State University after Ludlow High. At Framingham State, he served three years on the campus Board of Trustees, was a student member of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and was a founding member of PHENOM—the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts.

Jake was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 2020 and served the 7th Hampden District before being elected to the State Senate in 2022. In the Senate, he is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

A strong advocate for public libraries, Jake has secured over \$3 million in additional state aid for regional public libraries in the past two fiscal years and has filed legislation to prevent book banning at public libraries across the Commonwealth.

Professionally, Jake has also served as the Assistant Executive Officer of the Massachusetts State Universities Council of Presidents, where he played a key role in renaming seven state colleges to state universities. In 2019, he was recognized as one of Business West's 40 under 40.

Jerry Rubin

Co Chair, MassSkills Coalition

Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank Foundation

Jerry Rubin is Co-Chair of the MassSkills Coalition. He is a Senior Advisor at the Project On The Workforce at Harvard, and a Foundation Fellow at the Eastern Bank Foundation. He retired in 2022 after serving for fifteen years as President and Chief Executive Officer of Jewish Vocational Services, Inc. a leading workforce development organization. Prior to joining JVS, Jerry was Vice President of Building Economic Opportunities at Jobs for the Future, a national workforce development and education policy, research, and consulting organization. Jerry founded and was Executive Director of two nonprofit organizations: the Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership, a training and consulting organization; and the Coalition for a Better Acre, a community development corporation based in Lowell, Massachusetts. Jerry also spent ten years in the administration of Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn leading several housing, economic development and workforce development initiatives. Jerry holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government from Clark University and a Master's Degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of numerous book chapters, articles, and monographs on housing, economic development and workforce development issues. He is the co-author of "Help Wanted: How to Find and Keep Talent In A Forever Tight Labor Market", to be published by MIT Press in 2026. Jerry is a board member of the Immigrant Family Services Institute, Widen The Circle and the Hyde Square Task Force.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Kelly Aiken

Director of Workforce Development and Planning
UMass Memorial Health

Kelly Aiken is the director of workforce development and planning at UMass Memorial Health in Worcester, Massachusetts. In this role, Kelly leads the design and implementation of a new system-level workforce development function focused on creating accessible pipeline programs and career pathways for our diverse caregivers and community members. Prior to joining UMass Memorial Health, Kelly served as Vice President of Programs and CareerSTAT Director at the National Fund for Workforce Solutions. Over the last 15 years her work with healthcare providers from across the continuum of care has resulted in increased investments in frontline workers and improved job quality. Kelly holds master's degrees in community development and adult education from the University of California Davis. She and her family reside in western Massachusetts.

Kristen McKenna

Dean of Workforce and Economic Development
Bunker Hill Community College

Kristen P. McKenna has been in education and workforce development for 26 years working in K-12, preschool, corporate, adult education and higher education in RI, NH, MA and VA. Currently she is the Dean of Workforce and Economic Development for Bunker Hill Community College. She is a 2021 graduate of Lead Boston, a YWCA Leadership Institute. She currently serves on the Masshire Metro North Workforce Investment Board and the Somerville Chamber of Commerce.

Previously, she was the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at River Valley Community College in Lebanon NH. Ms. McKenna was the Career Pathways Manager in RI for Governor Raimondo's Workforce Investment Board. Kristen has a Master's in Higher Education Administration from Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy MA and a BFA from RI College, Providence RI.

By collectively advancing strategies and public policies to attract, retain, develop, and diversify talent, we will also enhance opportunity and equity for a stronger Commonwealth.



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Summit Speakers Biographies

Lane A. Glenn, PhD

President

Northern Essex Community College (NECC)

Dr. Lane A. Glenn is president of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), the first Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, which has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

With more than three decades of experience in higher education, Dr. Glenn is passionate about helping all students achieve their educational goals and is a strong advocate for closing equity gaps, and for colleges and universities as engines of economic and workforce development, particularly in Gateway Cities.

As president of NECC, Dr. Glenn has led the significant expansion of the college's Lawrence campus, including construction of the \$27 million Ibrahim El Hefni Health and Technology Center, the creation of the Haffner Fournier Education Center, and the development of "The Hub" with university partnerships and the award-winning Revolving Test Kitchen. He is also the founding board chair of the Lawrence Partnership, a private-public collaboration of business leaders, community leaders, and elected officials devoted to economic development and improving the quality of life for residents of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

A highly collaborative, energetic leader, Dr. Glenn encourages experimentation and organizational innovation. Recently, NECC became the first college in the country to offer a competency-based associate degree in Early Childhood Education, and its police academy, one of the largest in the state, was the first to be accepted into the National Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training Program, designed to prepare police officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention, leading to safer communities.

Dr. Glenn has been described as an "optimistic thought leader" who actively promotes higher education in a number of publications, on social media, and through his blog, "Running the Campus." He has been nationally recognized for his advocacy with the Eduardo J. Padron Award for Presidential Leadership from Campus Compact; the Pacesetter of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations; and the SUCCESS Higher Education Leadership Award from the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

Dr. Glenn holds a PhD from Michigan State University, a master's degree from Oklahoma State University and a bachelor's from Northeastern State University—and he is proud to say that he started his education at Rose State College, a community college in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Lauren Jones

Secretary

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Secretary Lauren Jones brings nearly two decades of experience working in local and state government, non-profits, and the private sector, with a particular focus on workforce development. Prior to joining the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Jones served as Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and led the organization's workforce development policy and strategy. She previously led the Massachusetts market for the non-profit Apprenti, where she worked with companies to cultivate and diversify tech talent through registered apprenticeships. She also created and led the Business Strategy Unit for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's Office of Economic Development, supporting business attraction and employer engagement in the city of Boston. Prior to that, she held several roles in the Patrick-Murray Administration, including Communications Director for the Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development, Policy & Communications Director for former Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, and Senior Program Manager of the Economic Development Incentive Program in the Office of Business Development. As Executive Vice President of the Roundtable, Jones was the Co-Chair of the Workforce Solutions Group and served on the Board for the Massachusetts Workforce Association, the Executive Committee for the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education, the Board of Advisors for the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, the Boston Private Industry Council, and previously served on the Future of Work Commission. She holds a Master's in Public Administration from Northeastern University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Providence College. She lives in Boston.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Mary Sarris

Former Executive Director

MassHire North Shore Workforce Board

Mary Sarris has spent several years as the Executive Director of the MassHire-North Shore Workforce Board (the WB) and has recently retired from this position. The WB, one of 16 across the state of Massachusetts, is charged with developing and supporting our workforce development system so that individuals and employers needing labor market services, (i.e., education, training, job placement, etc.) can access them quickly and successfully.

Previous to this, Mary spent over 20 years in the workforce development and education reform arenas, managing various public and private initiatives including school-to-career, job training, professional and curriculum development projects, and public information campaigns. Before coming to the WB, she was the Executive Director of the Lynn Business/Education Foundation, a private, non-profit local education fund designed to be a vehicle for business involvement in the Lynn schools.

Currently Mary is on the Board of the North Shore Community College Foundation and is active with other non-profit organizations.

Marybeth Campbell

President & CEO

Worcester Community Action Council

Marybeth Campbell is the Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Community Action Council, a Central MA anti-poverty focused on stabilizing individuals and households through safety net programs and partnering with people to help them thrive. Marybeth joined WCAC as a board member in 2017 and became Executive Director in 2019. Prior to joining WCAC as Executive Director, she was the Executive Director of SkillWorks at the Boston Foundation, an ambitious effort on the part of philanthropy, government, community organizations, unions, and employers to create a workforce development system that helps low-skill, low-income residents move to family-sustaining jobs and helps employers find and retain skilled employees.

Marybeth has near 25 years experience in public policy, public education, and project management in the areas of clean energy, education, economic and workforce development. From 2012-2014, Marybeth served in a role as the Commonwealth's first cross-secretariat Director of Education and Workforce Development advising the Deval L. Patrick Administration's cabinet secretaries in the Executive Offices of Education, Labor and Workforce, and Housing and Economic Development on workforce and education policy development, program strategy and implementation. Marybeth previously served as the state's first Workforce Development Director at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center establishing national-leading green jobs programs by working with higher education, vocational schools, labor organizations and community-based nonprofits to develop training and workforce capacity that supports the Commonwealth's growing clean energy industry. Her previous work also includes serving as the Public Education Manager for the former Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust where she oversaw two education initiatives that funded projects to increase awareness among teachers, students, and the public about the benefits of clean energy, and as a senior research analyst for the Massachusetts House of Representatives Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

She has a bachelor's degree in political science from Providence College and attended Suffolk University Law School.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Megan Evans

Senior Government Affairs Manager
National Skills Coalition

As Senior Government Affairs Manager, Megan works closely with members of Congress and their staff as well as the Administration to advocate on behalf of NSC's legislative agenda. She provides in-depth policy analysis of legislation and works to set advocacy strategy to move the needle on NSC's priorities.

Before Joining NSC in 2021, Megan served as a lobbyist for the Association of Equipment Manufacturers working on a portfolio including trade, infrastructure, and workforce development. She also spent several years performing legislative analysis research on a variety of federal issues in the Legislative Department for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Prior to that role, Megan served as a Staff Assistant for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she performed legislative research and provided administrative support to Committee Democrats.

Molly Jacobson

President and CEO
Commonwealth Corporation

Molly Jacobson is the President and CEO of Commonwealth Corporation, Massachusetts' quasi-public workforce development agency. With her team, she works to administer high-quality training programs for youth and adults across Massachusetts, meeting employer demand and building skills for a strong Massachusetts economy. Previously, Molly was a Partner in the public sector practice of Boston Consulting Group. She holds a joint MBA and Masters in Public Policy from Harvard Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

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CHRISSY LYNCH, PRESIDENT
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SkillWorks is a nationally recognized workforce development funder collaborative launched by the Boston Foundation and City of Boston in 2003 to improve workforce development in Boston and across Massachusetts, and is a proud member and supporter of the Workforce Solutions Group. SkillWorks envisions a Greater Boston where everyone has access to and training for household-sustaining jobs and where race is not a predictor of wealth or income.

Learn more: www.skill-works.org

Summit Speakers Biographies

Nate Mackinnon

Executive Director

Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges

Nate Mackinnon was named Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges in April of 2021. In his role, Nate works on behalf of the fifteen community college presidents and their local Boards of Trustees to strengthen community colleges for the benefit of students, communities, and the Commonwealth. The community colleges in Massachusetts currently serve more than 136,000 students, representing nearly half of the total students in the state's public higher education system.

Prior to joining MACC as Executive Director, Nate served as the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges at the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and while in Nevada he worked as an Adjunct Faculty Member at Truckee Meadows Community College. Prior to his work in Nevada, he was the Assistant Commissioner and Chief of Staff at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) for eight years.

Nate is past chair of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. He is also the Board President of Raising the Village USA, a non-profit organization that provides last-mile development across rural villages in Uganda.

Paul Bello

Director of Career and Community Development

South Shore Regional Vocational Technical School

Paul Bello is a seasoned professional in career development, community outreach, and business growth. As the Director of Career and Community Development at South Shore Technical Institute, he plays a pivotal role in shaping the institute's trajectory toward excellence.

In his current role, Paul leads the development of the Career Technical Initiative and Workforce Sustainability programs, ensuring South Shore Vocational Technical Institute remains at the forefront of addressing workforce shortages in the trades. Over the past several years, he has also developed a business model that has helped train hundreds of students in the CTI program and successfully transition them into the trades.

Paul's path to leadership began in 2015 when he transitioned from entrepreneurship to education. Before joining South Shore, he served as President and owner of a food services startup, where he successfully acquired two companies and drove remarkable sales growth over a 12-year period. This experience highlighted his strengths in business development and strategic management.

Earlier in his career, Paul worked at Mass Mutual as Director of Operations, beginning in 2003. His leadership extended into Sodexo's hospitality group, where he played a key role in the acquisition of 20 businesses, significantly expanding the company's portfolio and market reach in the multi-million-dollar hospitality sector.

Paul's academic background reflects his dedication to lifelong learning and professional growth. He holds an Associate of Science in Culinary Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Food Marketing, along with certifications in Hospitality Education from Johnson & Wales University. He later earned his MBA in Strategic Leadership from Fisher College, further equipping him to drive organizational success and long-term workforce development strategies.

Representative Paul McMurtry

House Chair

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Representative Paul McMurtry from Dedham was elected in a special election in May 2007. He is now entering his 10th term in the House of Representatives and currently serves as Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development. He has served as Chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, Chair of the House Committee on Personnel & Administration and Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, & Cultural Development.

Driven by the quote attributed to Hubert Humphrey, "the moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped," Representative McMurtry considers his public service an opportunity to give back to the community.

Paul McMurtry has been self-employed as a small business owner for 40 years and is the owner of the Dedham Community Theatre.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Robert LePage

Assistant Secretary of Career Education
Executive Office of Education

Robert LePage serves as Assistant Secretary of Career Education in the Executive Office of Education (EOE). In his role he is primarily focused on K-12, post-secondary, higher education career educational program strategies to meet the talent and workforce needs of employers in the Commonwealth. He serves as EOE's senior staff Workforce Skills Cabinet and serves as a member of the MassHire State Workforce Board, MA Military Asset and Security Strategy Taskforce, and is the Secretariat's designee to the Board of Higher Education.

Ronald G. Marlow

Vice President of Workforce Development and Alternative Education
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

Ron serves as Vice President of Workforce Development and Alternative Education with Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. In this role, he oversees the development and delivery of workforce development, educational, and supportive services through programs that serve adults, young adults, and youth. Additionally, Ron is also responsible for the delivery of ESOL programming; the operation of two alternative education high schools, and two MassHire One Stop Career Centers – MassHire Metro North and MassHire Boston ABCD.

Before joining ABCD, Ron served as vice president for workforce development with the National Urban League where he oversaw the delivery of workforce development efforts via Urban League Affiliates. Prior to the National Urban League, he served as undersecretary for workforce development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Secretary for Access and Opportunity in the Patrick Administration.

Committed to public/community service, Marlow serves on the boards of the Hildebrand Family Self Help Center and the Job Training Alliance. Previously, he has served on numerous boards including the MA Law Reform Institute, the Greater Boston Legal Services, the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, and the Massachusetts Community Development Finance Corporation. Marlow is the recipient of numerous awards including the NAACP's distinguished "Keeper of the Flame" award.

Born and raised in Boston, Marlow is a proud alumnus of Head Start. Marlow earned his master's degree in law, policy, and society from Northeastern University and his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Ronald Waddell

Founder and CEO
Legendary Legacies Inc & The Auxano Leadership Group

Ron is a certified transformational life coach through the Association for Christian Character Development, a certified Gang Specialist through The National Gang Crime and Research Center and a Certified Youth Mental Health Specialist.

He is a Certified Recovery Coach and holds a certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from Boston University. He has completed and co-facilitated multiple re-entry training inside MA Houses of Corrections. He is present at a number of community and state events and speaks passionately and eloquently about issues affecting marginalized communities.

Ronald has experienced many of the issues that affect the targeted youth participants of the Legacy Builders program, and uses this experience to better relate to marginalized youth throughout the City of Worcester.

Summit Speakers Biographies

Tim Sullivan

Project Director, Workforce Solutions Group

Managing Director, Liberty Square Group

With over 20 years of government relations and campaign experience, Tim Sullivan is widely recognized on Beacon Hill, Capitol Hill, in Boston, and across Massachusetts as a strong and reasonable advocate with a solid grasp of the issues and a unique ability to effectively articulate policy positions in a manner that resonates with people on all sides.

After 10 years at the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, where he rose to be Legislative & Communications Director, Tim joined the new administration of Mayor Martin J. Walsh in the City of Boston in 2014 as Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental Relations/Senior Advisor for External Affairs. In 2016 he was promoted to Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

In his decade at the AFL-CIO Tim worked hard to pass legislation to improve the quality of life for working families and served as the spokesman for the state AFL-CIO. In the City of Boston Tim managed the staff that enacted Mayor Walsh's legislative priorities in Washington, on Beacon Hill and in the City Council, and served as Mayor Walsh's chief representative to elected officials at all levels of government. Prior to joining Liberty Square Group, Tim founded Teamwork Public Strategies and worked with clients on issues from climate change to the 2020 Presidential Election.

Tim served as an early member of the Workforce Solutions Group Executive Team representing the Mass. AFL-CIO until 2013 and returned in 2021 to become the WSG Project Director.

He has received numerous recognitions for his contributions in public affairs, including the 2010 Massachusetts AFL-CIO Merit Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership, and Campaigns and Elections Magazine's "Top 80 Across the Spectrum Massachusetts Influencers." Tim also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of MembersPLUS Credit Union and served for the maximum term of nine years on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. A graduate of the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies, Tim received a Bachelor of Arts with a triple major and honors-level credentials in Leadership, Political Science and Rhetoric & Communication Studies. In 2012, Tim graduated with a Master's Degree in Labor Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as well as from the University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Collaborative Leadership Emerging Leaders Program, where he was the first union leader ever accepted into the program and now serves on the Board of Directors.

Tim and his wife Beth are the overjoyed parents of three kids 8 and under: Ryan Joseph, Christian James, and Avalyn Amor.

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16th Annual Jobs
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Summit

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GROUP**

Summit Speakers Biographies

Tonja Mettlach

Executive Vice President

Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Tonja has over ten years of experience working in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. As Executive Vice President at the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Tonja is responsible for developing and advancing all Roundtable public policy strategies and initiatives. She also manages all internal and external communications, undertakes organizational management responsibilities including serving as a liaison to external stakeholders, managing day-to-day operations, and advancing member recruitment and engagement.

Prior to joining the Roundtable, Tonja was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Workforce Association (MWA), a statewide membership organization that leads, advocates, and convenes on behalf of the Commonwealth's regionally-led and employer-driven workforce system. In this role, she worked closely with employers to help meet their workforce needs and connect job seekers to employment and career pathways. Prior to that, she was the Director of Government Affairs for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and worked at the Massachusetts State House, first as Chief of Staff to Representative Tom Conroy on the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and then as Research Director and Committee Counsel for Representative Jennifer Benson, House Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. Tonja holds a B.A. and M.S. from Clark University and a J.D. from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.



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67% WOMEN &
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TRAINING SEATS &
EQUIPMENT for
CLIMATE CRITICAL
JOBS

Invested

\$78M in

CLIMATE WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING
IMPLEMENTATION,
PLANNING & CAPACITY



About The Workforce Solutions Group

The Workforce Solutions Group (WSG) is a statewide advocacy coalition that brings together business, labor, community, and workforce organizations to advance a clear and unified policy agenda for workforce development. WSG advocates for systems change and alignment among workforce, education, and economic development systems in Massachusetts, and serves as the leading advocate for skills training for lower income adults and youth across the Commonwealth. WSG works with policy makers, stakeholders, training providers, young people, and employers to better align the workforce system and increase resources so residents can earn sustaining wages and employers can access the skilled workforce needed to grow our state's economy.

WSG strives to support workforce policies and investments that help ensure everyone has what they need to thrive, no matter the color of their skin, the language they speak, where they live or where they came from. Moreover, WSG works to support and create a workforce development system where race, ethnicity, or immigration status no longer determines a person's pathway to a household-sustaining job.

Over the years, WSG's advocacy, in partnership with the Legislature, has added nearly \$200 million in new funding for workforce development and has helped spearhead changes in policy and programs that continue to impact Massachusetts' workforce and education systems.

Follow WSG on X @WorkforceSolGrp or visit our website for updates
www.workforcesolutiongrp.org



EMPath (Economic Mobility Pathways)
I Have a Future
Massachusetts Action for Justice
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Association for Community Action

Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Massachusetts Workforce Association
SkillWorks: Partners for a Productive Workforce
United Way of Mass Bay

16th Annual MA Jobs and Workforce Summit

"Strength in Skill: Empowering Massachusetts' Workforce for the Future" 23

Workforce Solutions Group Members



AJ Lucky
Director of Advocacy
EMPath



Andre Green
Executive Director
SkillWorks at The Boston Founda-



Chrissy Lynch
President
Massachusetts AFL-CIO



Cole Angley
Executive Director
Mass Workforce Association
Chair, Workforce Solutions Group



JD Chesloff
President & CEO
Massachusetts Business Roundtable



Juan Cantu
VP of Youth & Young Adult Pathways
United Way of Massachusetts Bay



Kaitlyn Bean
Deputy Director
SkillWorks at The Boston Foundation



Kelly Hanlon
Associate Director
Mass Workforce Association



Keturah Brewster
Executive Director
I Have A Future



Lew Finfer
Director and Community Organizer
Massachusetts Action for Justice



Marybeth Campbell
President & CEO
Worcester Community Action Council



Ruthie Liberman, MPA
Vice President Public Policy,
EMPath



Sezan McDaniel
Workforce Development
Specialist
MA AFL-CIO



Tim Sullivan
Project Director, WSG
Managing Director, Liberty
Square Group



Tonja Mettlach
Executive Vice President
Massachusetts Business
Roundtable; Chair, Workforce
Solutions Group

WSG Member Biographies

AJ Lucky

Director of Advocacy

EMPath

A.J. Lucky is a former educator, and award-winning community organizer renowned for his unwavering dedication to serving marginalized communities. He has made significant contributions in the education and youth justice advocacy realm across Indiana. He partnered with local schools to craft campaigns to close opportunity gaps, organized for education champions to be elected to Indianapolis's school board, and fought for youth justice reform at Indiana's Statehouse. His work with the Youth Justice Coalition, headed by CPLI, led to the passing of SEA 368. This bill created automatic expungement for some non violent juvenile records, a standard competency to stand trial procedure and the prohibition of minors being held in adult facilities pretrial.

As of 2024, A.J. Lucky is the founder and CEO of BLQ Medium, a social impact organization dedicated to using strategic storytelling/advocacy for change. He also serves as the Director of Advocacy at Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath). EMPath is a 200-year-old nonprofit organization that helps facilitate mobility pathways for those experiencing deep poverty. EMPath's unique model allows direct shelter service participants to inform state and national advocacy efforts. In 2023, A.J. spent a brief stint at Educators for Excellence as a National Organizing Manager - supporting and advising advocacy teams across Minnesota, California, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, and Massachusetts. He also served as the Vice President of Programs at Social Venture Partners leading innovative programmatic experiences for emerging and established venture philanthropists.

He is an alum of the Victory Institute, an org dedicated to equipping folx with the knowledge and tools to support the election of LGBTQ+ politicians throughout the country. A.J. is also a 2024 fellow in the New Leaders Council development program. In his free time, he serves as Program Director for the Young Democrats of America and runs a podcast (Black + Love + Queer) that platforms LGBTQ+ BIPOC.

Lastly, A.J. Lucky attended Purdue University in West Lafayette where he studied English Literature and African American Studies. He currently is working to complete an MBA from Indiana University.

Andre Green

Executive Director

SkillWorks at The Boston Foundation

Since 2020 Andre has served as the Executive Director of SkillWorks. Founded in 2003 and housed at the Boston Foundation, SkillWorks is a funder collaborative that brings together philanthropy, government, community organizations and employers to address the twin goals of helping low-skill, low-income individuals attain family-supporting jobs and helping employers find and retain skilled workers.

After spending a few years teaching 5th grade and consulting in IT, Andre began his community organizing career at YouthBuild, where he started in Data Services before moving on to serve as a Senior Manager for Field Mobilization. In this role, Andre was responsible for coordinating federal advocacy efforts of 240+ local YouthBuild programs in 45 states. Andre later served as Founding Senior Project Manager at the On Solid Ground Coalition, a group of 40 Massachusetts organizations working on comprehensive cross-sector solutions to end family homelessness. Here, Andre organized the work of the Coalition by developing legislative strategies, drafting and implementing MOUs and other governance documents, coordinating the separate advocacy efforts of member organizations, and steering the strategic planning process.

In 2016, Andre was selected to serve as the first Political Director of MASSCreative, where he led their efforts to have access to Arts Education be included in the state's education assessment plan, as well as filing the organization's first legislation, aimed at expanding public art in the state. Most recently, he has served as a transitional Executive Director with FairTest, a national advocacy organization going through a generational change as the founding staff and board move to retirement.

He stepped into this role after leading a yearlong strategic planning process. In his time with FairTest, he testified before two state legislatures, found new foundation funding and launched two new campaigns to bring testing as a prominent issue in federal politics.

WSG Member Biographies

Chrissy Lynch

President

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Chrissy Lynch was unanimously elected as President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO in October 2023 after previously serving as the Secretary-Treasurer and Chief of Staff of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and after spending 15 years running the political and legislative departments of the MA AFL-CIO. She also spent time as Director of Operations for the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, where she helped run programs that advanced equity, inclusion, and community standards in the construction industry. Before working for organized labor in Massachusetts, she worked on union-led electoral campaigns in California and Massachusetts.

Chrissy is a current member of LiUNA Local 22 and former member and steward of OPEIU Local 6. Before her time with the Labor Movement, she worked jobs that hadn't yet been organized – including several years as a barista, waitstaff, and PCA. Her experience in non-union sectors led her to the Labor Movement.

Chrissy is a graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program in the Harvard Labor and Worklife Center at Harvard Law School, has a Master's Degree in Labor Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Suffolk University, and an Associate's Degree from Massasoit Community College. She lives in Quincy with her husband, 2 children and 2 dogs.

Cole Angley

Executive Director

Mass Workforce Association

Cole Angley is the Executive Director of MWA and has more than seven years experience within the Massachusetts Legislature. His tenure there included significant positions such as Chief of Staff to the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development and Legislative Aide for then-Representative Josh Cutler. During his service, Cole managed critical commissions and task forces, including the Legislature's Future of Work Commission, UI Trust Fund Study Commission, and WorkAbility Task Force. His contributions to co-authoring a legislative report on disability hiring policies and enacting new pay transparency legislation have marked significant advancements in our field. Cole is a graduate of the University of Vermont with a BA in Political Science and a J.D. from Suffolk Law School.

JD Chesloff

President & CEO

Massachusetts Business Roundtable

As President & CEO, JD is responsible for developing and implementing the Roundtable's agenda on public policy matters, and works collaboratively with opinion leaders, policy makers and other stakeholders in pursuit of its mission to make Massachusetts the most desirable place to live, work and do business and ensure access to a robust, diverse and talented workforce that enhances the Commonwealth's competitiveness in a global economy.

JD has worked in and around Beacon Hill for more than 30 years. In the Legislature, he was the Chief of Staff to the House Committee on Commerce and Labor, and was the education issues analyst and Deputy Budget Director for the House Committee on Ways and Means. After working as both a budget analyst and Assistant to the President at the University of Massachusetts, JD worked as the Legislative Director for State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien and then as Issues Director for the O'Brien-Gabrieli gubernatorial campaign in 2002. He joined MBR in 2004 after serving as Legislative/Issues Director for the Early Education for All (EEA) Campaign, where he was responsible for developing and driving legislative support for EEA's legislation and agenda which included the creation of the Massachusetts Board and Department of Early Education and Care.

JD serves on the Boards of Lever, a start-up incubator in Berkshire County, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, and Science from Scientists. He also is on the Advisory Boards of ReadyNation, CEO Action for Racial Equity, and Mill Town Capital.

WSG Member Biographies

Juan Cantu

VP of Youth & Young Adult Pathways
United Way of Massachusetts Bay

Born and raised in South Texas, Juan Cantu has called Boston home since 2008. Juan grew up as a migrant worker, spending his summers traveling from Texas to Iowa to work in the cornfields to help his parents make ends meet. His family instilled in him the value of education and through their support and resources from his high school, he was able to make it up to Boston to attend college. He graduated from Harvard in 2012 with a Bachelors and the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2018 with a Masters.

Juan is passionate about educational access and success, having worked at the Hyde Square Task Force to provide college success support, and at The Boston Foundation, overseeing the Success Boston College Completion Initiative. Juan is now VP of Youth & Young Adult Pathways with United Way of Massachusetts Bay.

Kaitlyn Bean

Deputy Director
SkillWorks at The Boston Foundation

Kaitlyn Bean has over 10 years of experience in workforce development, spending the majority of that time supporting the SkillWorks funder collaborative and workforce development strategy at the Boston Foundation. In her current role as Deputy Director of SkillWorks, Kaitlyn oversees SkillWorks' grantmaking portfolio of around \$1 million annually, managing relationships with grantees, as well as a variety of other key partners and stakeholders. Kaitlyn also engages in public policy advocacy on the local, state, and federal levels, representing SkillWorks as a member of the Workforce Solutions Group, National Skills Coalition's SkillSPAN initiative, and other workforce and related advocacy coalitions.

Kaitlyn began her career at Root Cause, as a Social Innovation Research Fellow, focused on best and promising practices in youth and adult workforce development. She holds a Dual Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Affairs from Northeastern University.

Kelly Hanlon

Associate Director
Mass Workforce Association

Kelly Hanlon is the Associate Director of MWA and has more than twenty years of experience in organizational and employee development. Kelly served as an Event Manager for the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in the Office of External Relations and University Events. Kelly also worked for TJX Companies in operations management. She worked for Senator Ted Kennedy in his Office of Labor and Industry and in the Office of Communications. She is a graduate of George Washington University (BS).

Keturah Brewster

Executive Director
I Have A Future (IHAF)

Keturah Brewster has been a driving force at I Have A Future (IHAF) for over twelve years, now serving as the Executive Director. Under her leadership, IHAF has become a catalyst for youth-led community organizing efforts across Massachusetts, focused on increasing opportunities for young people of color, specifically focused on growing youth job opportunities and reforming the juvenile justice system. Through strategic campaigns, political advocacy, and community engagement, Keturah and her team work to shift narratives around youth empowerment and challenge systemic inequities. A certified Youth Worker and recipient of the 2017 Advocacy Champion Award, Keturah's dedication to building youth leadership and organizing movements has made IHAF a statewide leader in youth justice across Massachusetts. She is currently pursuing a Communications undergraduate degree at UMASS Boston.

WSG Member Biographies

Lewis Finfer

Director and Community Organizer
Massachusetts Action for Justice

Lew Finfer is a community organizer and Director of the Massachusetts Action for Justice. He began organizing in 1970 in Dorchester with neighborhood organizations and then subsequently director of Dorchester Fair Share, Somerville United Neighborhoods, MA Tenants Organization, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, and MA Affordable Housing Alliance. Then, he was the founding Director and Director of MA Communities Action Network 1985-2021, which is a network of 7 community improvement organizations in cities across Massachusetts. His group was a founder and a leader of the Raise Up MA Coalition that led the passage of two minimum wage increases, the Earned Sick Days law, the Paid Family Medical Leave law, and the 2022 passage of the Millionaire's Tax to fund education and transportation. Representing MCAN, he was one of the founders of the Workforce Solutions Group and still serves on its Executive Board.

Marybeth Campbell

President & CEO
Worcester Community Action Council

Marybeth Campbell is the Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Community Action Council, a Central MA anti-poverty focused on stabilizing individuals and households through safety net programs and partnering with people to help them thrive. Marybeth joined WCAC as a board member in 2017 and became Executive Director in 2019. Prior to joining WCAC as Executive Director, she was the Executive Director of SkillWorks at the Boston Foundation, an ambitious effort on the part of philanthropy, government, community organizations, unions, and employers to create a workforce development system that helps low-skill, low-income residents move to family-sustaining jobs and helps employers find and retain skilled employees.

Marybeth has near 25 years experience in public policy, public education, and project management in the areas of clean energy, education, economic and workforce development. From 2012-2014, Marybeth served in a role as the Commonwealth's first cross-secretariat Director of Education and Workforce Development advising the Deval L. Patrick Administration's cabinet secretaries in the Executive Offices of Education, Labor and Workforce, and Housing and Economic Development on workforce and education policy development, program strategy and implementation. Marybeth previously served as the state's first Workforce Development Director at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center establishing national-leading green jobs programs by working with higher education, vocational schools, labor organizations and community-based nonprofits to develop training and workforce capacity that supports the Commonwealth's growing clean energy industry. Her previous work also includes serving as the Public Education Manager for the former Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust where she oversaw two education initiatives that funded projects to increase awareness among teachers, students, and the public about the benefits of clean energy, and as a senior research analyst for the Massachusetts House of Representatives Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

She has a bachelor's degree in political science from Providence College and attended Suffolk University Law School.

WSG Member Biographies

Ruthie Liberman, MPA

Vice President

Public Policy, EMPATH

Ruthie serves as Vice President for Public Policy for EMPATH. In this role she serves as the chief policy strategist on national and state policy related to economic mobility. She provides leadership in the areas of education and workforce development, affordable housing, and work supports (including child care) to create public policy leading family economic stability. Ruthie has a Bachelor's Degree from Pomona College in government and public policy as well as a Masters Degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ruthie has worked in major hospital settings such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also ran a Pediatric and Family AIDS program at Dimock Community Health Center in Roxbury for 6 years. While living in California, Ruthie served as a Senate Fellow in the California Legislature and as the Director of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

Sezan McDaniel

Workforce Development Specialist

MA AFL-CIO

Sezan joined the Massachusetts AFL-CIO in 2022 as a Workforce Development Specialist after serving as Chief of Staff for Massachusetts State Representative Peter Capano and successfully running his campaign in 2018. She previously did research and programmatic work for the Atlantic Council and the Brookings Institution as well as nonprofit advocacy on Capitol Hill.

A native Texan, Sezan earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a master's degree from American University's School of International Service in Washington, DC.

**The Workforce Solutions Group
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Managing Director, Liberty Square Group

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Tim and his wife Beth are the overjoyed parents of three kids 8 and under: Ryan Joseph, Christian James, and Avalyn Amor.

Tonja Mettlach

Executive Vice President; Chair

Massachusetts Business Roundtable; Workforce Solutions Group

As Executive Vice President, Tonja is responsible for developing and advancing all Roundtable public policy strategies and initiatives with a focus on implementation of the Roundtable's "Talent Agenda to Drive Massachusetts' Competitiveness," a framework to drive the state's economic competitiveness by attracting, retaining, developing, and diversifying talent that reflects the top priority expressed by Roundtable members. She also manages all internal and external communications, undertakes organizational management responsibilities including serving as a liaison to external stakeholders, managing day-to-day operations, and advancing member recruitment and engagement.

Tonja has over ten years of experience working in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Prior to joining the Roundtable, she was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Workforce Association (MWA), a statewide membership organization that leads, advocates, and convenes on behalf of the Commonwealth's regionally-led and employer-driven workforce system. In this role, she worked closely with employers to help meet their workforce needs and connect job seekers to employment and career pathways. Prior to that, she was the Director of Government Affairs for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and worked at the Massachusetts State House, first as Chief of Staff to Representative Tom Conroy on the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and then as Research Director and Committee Counsel for Representative Jennifer Benson, House Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

Tonja holds a B.A. and M.S. from Clark University and a J.D. from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

2025 Kathie Mainzer Award

Award session sponsored by: 

Kathie Mainzer Award:

Nancy Huntington Stager

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation

Award presented by:

Mary Sarris

Former Executive Director, MassHire North Shore Workforce Board

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2025 Kathie Mainzer Award Winner



Nancy Huntington Stager
President & CEO, Eastern Bank Foundation
Eastern Bank Foundation

For three decades, Nancy Huntington Stager actively shaped Eastern Bank's culture and advanced its reputation for social responsibility, leading its Human Resources team and later serving as President & CEO of the Eastern Bank Foundation (EBF). She worked across non-profit, for-profit, philanthropic, and government sectors to promote community vibrancy and economic inclusion and mobility throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Nancy sharpened EBF's mission, advancing social and economic justice through five key strategies: community vibrancy, equity in small business, early childhood development, affordable housing, and workforce development, particularly for adults facing barriers to employment.

Under her leadership, Eastern has provided over \$180 million in grants and contributed more than 750,000 volunteer hours, earning repeated recognition as one of Massachusetts' most charitable companies. Of particular note, Nancy was one of the very first funders of the annual Jobs and Workforce Summit, and she has continued to support it every year since. She was Treasurer of the Massachusetts WIB Association Board and also served as board chair of the North Shore WIB from 2012 to 2019.

Widely respected as a leader and advocate in both Human Resources and Philanthropy, she has been steadfast in her support of workforce development for all our communities over her entire 43-year career. She has mentored countless corporate and community leaders, helping them and their organizations to thrive. Since retiring, Nancy founded Riverwood Consulting LLC to advise mission-driven leaders and organizations on strategic alignment and leadership development. Nancy's legacy is one of collaborative leadership, inclusive advocacy, and lasting community impact.

COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

At CommCorp, we can help you:

- ✓ Invest in the Future Workforce
- ✓ Develop a Pipeline of Workers
- ✓ Train and Upskill Current Workforce



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In FY25, CommCorp awarded more than **\$100 Million in grants**, reaching more than **30,000 participants** across our grant-making programs

Celebrating 5 Years

Career Technical Initiative

- ✓ Closing skills gaps in construction, trades, and manufacturing
- ✓ Transforming vocational high schools with adult training
- ✓ Training 20,000 workers in key trades and technical jobs as a multi-year strategy

Since 2020, CommCorp has awarded nearly **\$70 Million in CTI grants**, projected to train over **7,200 unemployed and underemployed individuals**

Thank you Sponsors, Speakers and Attendees!

THE WORKFORCE  SOLUTIONS GROUP

16th Annual MA Jobs and Workforce Summit

"Strength in Skill: Empowering Massachusetts' Workforce for the Future"