



2022 MEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, July 27, 2022
9:00a.m. – 12:15p.m.
Virtual

Sponsored by:

Maryland Department of Commerce
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

- 9:00 - 9:05am **WELCOME**
Welcome: Danny Thompson, MEDA President
- 9:05 – 9:15 am **OPENING REMARKS**
James E. Rzepkowski, Assistant Secretary, Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor
- 9:15 – 10:15am **FUTURE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Building Local Workforce Development Systems That Produce Talent & Meet the Needs of Businesses**
This Panel of local and national experts will examine the current state of local workforce systems, the future of Maryland and America’s workforce systems, and how economic development organizations can leverage their local workforce systems to maximize economic outcomes in their local economy.
Moderator: Amanda Wagner, Chief Operating Officer, Employ Prince George’s
Panelists:
Chris Guidry, Vice President, Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL)
Manoach (Manny) Lamarre, Senior Policy Advisor, United States Department of Labor
Christopher Laney, Ed.D., CWDP, Senior Workforce Strategist, Lightcast
- 10:15 – 11:15am **ADVANCING WORKFORCE PREPARATION: Adaptive Strategies and Solutions to Current Skills Shortages**
Panelists will engage in an interactive discussion on effective strategies that are accelerating credential completion. Learn how the blueprints for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), stackable credentialing, micro-credentialing, and digital badging supports this.
Moderator: Ellen Flowers-Fields, Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, College of Southern Maryland
Panelists:
Nicholas D’Antonio, Workforce Development Strategist, Lockheed Martin
Becky Klein-Collins, Vice President for Research and Impact, CAEL
Tim Tatsui, Ed.D, M.B.A., Vice President for Workforce Development, National Education Foundation
Kelly Koermer, Vice President of Continuing Education and Training, Carroll Community College



11:15 – 11:25am

MEDA BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of April Business Meeting Minutes: Tammi Thomas, MEDA Secretary

Membership Report: Denise Beaver, CEcD and Ebony Stocks, MEDA Membership Co-Chairs

11:25 – 12:10pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bridgette Gray, Chief Customer Officer, Opportunity@Work

STARS: The Strategy to Find the Skilled and Diverse Talent You Need in Today's Workforce

Employers today say there's a talent shortage – but what if they're just not looking in the right place? There are more than 70+million workers [Skilled Through Alternative Routes \(STARs\)](#), rather than through a bachelor's degree who are being overlooked today. Nearly half of these STARs have the skills to thrive in in-demand roles, but they're overlooked and held back by the [paper ceiling](#) – the invisible barrier that comes at every turn for workers without a bachelor's degree – and it's hurting their upward mobility and employers' diversity efforts. Learn about the size, demographics, and skills of the STARs talent pool, ways to find them, and how your organization can start supporting STARs.