

June 4, 2025



Unlocking pportunity

June 4-6, 2025

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City

NJCommunityColleges.org

Welcome

On behalf of New Jersey's 18 Community Colleges and their 240,000 students, we welcome you to the third annual New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit and the second annual New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit.

We are joined by **Community College** Trustees, Presidents, staff, and faculty, as well as partners from high schools, private career schools, four-year colleges and universities, employers, unions, community-based organizations, the public workforce system, state and local government, and others who are committed to the shared goals of equity, access, innovation, and economic mobility.

The NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit will focus on our NJ Pathways Initiative, developed in partnership with the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and supported by the Governor and Legislature, which brings together over 1,800 partners to design and deliver career pathways and stackable credentials aligned with the needs of students and employers.

Experience a day of insights, innovation, and inspiration featuring national experts, student voices, and real-world solutions that are transforming how we educate, train, and prepare New Jersey's workforce for today and tomorrow. When We Innovate, Educate, and Elevate Together — We Create NJ Pathways for All!

This year's New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit theme—Unlocking Opportunity—underscores our mission to expand access to college, promote student success, and build a stronger and more inclusive workforce. Guided by our Opportunity Agenda and anchored in the innovative efforts taking place at each of New Jersey's 18 Community Colleges, we continue to respond to the social, economic, demographic, technological, and environmental changes reshaping our world.

During the New Jersey Community College Opportunity

Summit, we'll hear from national and state leaders about the critical role that Community Colleges play in advancing opportunity and economic growth. We'll also celebrate the impact of exceptional individuals and organizations at our annual Awards Dinner.

We'll showcase the **Innovations and Promising Practices** shaping the future of our colleges, including strategies to support students through holistic services that address food and housing insecurity, childcare, and mental health. This work, made possible in part through the support of **The Tepper Foundation**, is central to our commitment to ensuring every student has the resources they need to succeed.

We hope you'll leave Atlantic City with new ideas, new partnerships, and a renewed commitment to working together to create a more equitable and prosperous **New Jersey**.

Sheetal Ranjan

Chair, New Jersey Council of County Colleges Trustee, Bergen Community College

Aaron Fichtner

President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges



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We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors whose partnership makes this Summit possible

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June 4

New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit: Innovate, Educate, Elevate: Pathways for All

7:00 AM Registration

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

7:30 AM Breakfast

Seminole Ballroom II, III

9:00 AM Opening Remarks

Sėminole Ballroom I

Catherine Frugé Starghill, Vice President, New Jersey
Council of County Colleges and Executive Director,
New Jersey Community College Consortium for
Workforce & Economic Development

Tim Sullivan, CEO, NJ Economic Development Authority

Senator Joseph Cryan, Chairman, NJ Senate Committee on Higher Education

Christopher Emigholz, Chief Government Affairs Officer, New Jersey Business and Industry Association

- 9:30 AM Pathways in Practice: Student Impact & Project Innovation Seminole Ballroom I
 - 1. Health Information Technology
 - NJ Big Data Alliance Data Science Degree Programs Alignment and Articulations
 - 3. Essential Learning, General Education, and Career Competencies Collaborative
 - 4. Geographic Information Systems Certificates Development



New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit: Innovate, Educate, Elevate: Pathways for All

5. Electric Vehicle Internship and Faculty Development Pilot

11:00 AM Pathways Projects Networking

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

11:30 AM Building the Future Together: A Conversation with NJ

Pathways Partners
Seminole Ballroom I

John Harman Farmday CFO and F

John Harmon, Founder, CEO, and President, African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ

Dana Castro, Senior Director, Heathcare Information and Management Systems Society

Ashish D. Borgaonkar, Assistant Professor, Engineering Education and Director, NCE Grand Challenges Scholars Program, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Joseph DeMarco, Director of Apprenticeship, Laborers International Union of North America – New Jersey Construction Craft Laborer Apprenticeship Program

Matthew Hale, Associate Professor and MPA Program Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Affairs, Seton Hall University and President, New Jersey Big Data Alliance

12:45 PM Lunch Seminole Ballroom II, III



New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit: Innovate, Educate, Elevate: Pathways for All

Micro-Pathways, Macro Impact: Reimagining Access, Equity, and Employability

Rachel Kahn, Senior Director, Community College Growth Engine, Education Design Lab

Michael Macklin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Solutions, Colorado Community College System

2:30 PM Bridging Business and Education: Building Inclusive Pathways for Economic Growth

Seminole Ballroom I

Jennifer Thornton, Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum

3:30 PM Pathways Projects Networking
Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

4:00 PM Designing for Impact: Research Insights at the Nexus of Education and Employment

Seminole Ballroom I

Michelle Van Noy, Director and Associate Research Professor, Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations, Education and Employment Research Center

4:45 PM Next Steps & Closing Remarks
Seminole Ballroom I

Catherine Frugé Starghill, Vice President, New Jersey
Council of County Colleges and Executive Director,
New Jersey Community College Consortium for
Workforce & Economic Development

Aaron Fichtner, President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Explore the NJ Pathways Repository at NJPathways.org



June 5

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

7:00 AM Registration

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

Breakfast

Seminole Ballroom II, III

8:45 AM Opening Remarks

Seminole Ballroom I

Aaron Fichtner, President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education, New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

9:15 AM Who Needs College Anymore? Imagining a Future Where

Degrees Won't Matter

Seminole Ballroom I

Kathleen deLaski, Founder & Board Chair, Education Design Lab

10:15 AM Exhibitor Break

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

10:30 AM Breakouts Sessions

Supporting Adult Learners

Seminole Ballroom I

Lisa Dougherty, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, Hudson County Community College

Vanessa O'Brien-McMasters, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness & Chief Strategy Officer, Atlantic Cape Community College

Jasmine Jilus, Director of Adult Services, UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ

Work-Integrated Learning and Apprenticeships

Fort Pierce Salon C

Chris Herzog, Principal TA Consultant, American Institutes for Research

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

10:30 AM Breakouts Sessions (Cont.)

Amy Beller, TA Consultant, American Institutes for Research

Mark Genua, Director, Solutions Design & Delivery, Jobs for the Future

Developing and Implementing Micro-credentials and BadgesStudio 2B

Andrew Tomko, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, Bergen Community College

Rachel Kahn, Senior Director, Community College Growth Engine, Education Design Lab

Developing and Sustaining Effective Business PartnershipsFort Pierce Salon D

Elvy Vieira, Dean of Community, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Essex County College

Kristen Fox, CEO, Business-Higher Education Forum

Data Strategies to Advance College and Statewide PrioritiesFort Pierce Salon A

Laura Ulrich, Senior Regional Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Leader, Richmond Fed Survey of Community College Outcomes

Laurie Harrington, Executive Director, John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University

Michelle Van Noy, Director and Associate Research Professor, Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations, Education and Employment Research Center

11:45 AM Exhibitor Break
Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

12:00 PM Lunch

Seminole Ballroom II, III

Remarks

Sheetal Ranjan, Chair, New Jersey Council of County Colleges and Trustee, Bergen Community College

Katan Cheti, N2N Services, Inc.

1:15 PM Exhibitor Break

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

1:45 PM Track 1: Holistic Student Services

Community to Opportunity: Meeting Students' Basic Needs with a Culture of Care

Seminole Ballroom I

Rose Rodriguez, Program Manager, New Jersey, Tepper Foundation

Andrea Falzone, Licensed Psychologist, Camden County College

Keith Kirkland, Dean, Student Affairs, Essex County College

Ariana Calle, Associate Director, Hudson Helps, Hudson County Community College

Alison Noone, Director, TRIO Scholars, Ocean County College

Karen Archambault, Senior Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success, Rowan College at Burlington County

Jamie Borger, Director, Student Success Center, Sussex County Community College

Jacob Farbman, Executive Director, Economic Mobility, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Da'Shon Carr (Moderator), Researcher, Education Northwest

Leanne Davis (Moderator), Managing Researcher, Education Northwest

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

1:45 PM Track 2: Strategy Showcases

UCNJ, Union College of Union County, NJ's Journey to NJ's First Finalist for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Fort Pierce Salon D

President Margaret M. McMenamin, UCNJ, Union College of Union County, NJ

New Jersey's Community Colleges and the Evolving Political and Policy Landscape

Fort Pierce Salon A

Maria Heidkamp, Chief Innovation and Policy Officer, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Members of the New Jersey State Legislature

The Humanities and NJ's Community Colleges: Programming and Partnerships

Fort Pierce Salon C

Carin Berkowitz, Executive Director, NJ Council for the Humanities

John Paul Christy, Executive Director, Princeton Humanities Institute

Bettina Caluori, Professor, English, Mercer County Community College

Cara McClintock, Associate Director, Community College Engagement, Princeton University

Linda Scherr, Chief Academic Officer, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

3:15 PM Networking Break
Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

3:45 PM Roundtable Discussions and Working Sessions

Engaging Community Partners in Holistic Student Supports
Fort Pierce Salon D

Leanne Davis, Managing Researcher, Education Northwest

Da'Shon Carr, Researcher, Education Northwest

Jacob Farbman, Executive Director, Economic Mobility, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Credentials of Value for Economic Mobility Forum Fort Pierce Salon A

Jennifer Thornton, Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum

Maria Heidkamp, Chief Innovation and Policy Officer, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Data Provider Debrief: Richmond Federal Reserve Bank's Survey of Community College Outcomes

Fort Pierce Salon C

Laura Ulrich, Senior Regional Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Davy Sell, Analyst, Community College Initiative, Richmond Federal Reserve Bank

Alexandra Gusciora, Research Analyst, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Space Available for Discussions with College Teams or Colleagues
Seminole Ballroom I

5:00 PM Exhibitor Break

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

6:00 PM Awards Dinner

Seminole Ballroom II, III

June 6

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

7:00 AM Registration

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

7:30 AM Breakfast

Fresh Harvest Buffet

9:00 AM Lumina's Stronger Nation Initiative and Credentials of

Value for Economic Mobility
Seminole Ballroom II. III

Kermit Kaleba, Strategy Director, Employer Aligned

Programs, Lumina Foundation

10:15 AM Exhibitor Break

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

10:30 AM Track 1: Holistic Student Services

Beyond the Pantry: How Salem Community College's Pop-Up Farm Stands are Cultivating Student Success and Community Connections Fort Pierce Salon A

Maura Cavanagh-Dick, Associate Dean, Salem Community College

Maddie Elliott, Administrative Coordinator, Student Services, Salem Community College

Glenn Rinnier, Technology Support Clerk & Technician, Salem Community College

Gladys Hutchings, Library Technician, Salem Community College

Christina Hadry, Administrative Support, Salem Community College

Everyone's So Creative! Reshaping Community College Mental Health and Wellness Services

Fort Pierce Salon B

Ruby Aparicio-Pagan, Director, Behavioral Services, Center for Wellness and Support, RCSJ - Cumberland Campus

Kristen Wilson, Director, Behavioral Services, Center for Wellness and Support, RCSJ - Gloucester Campus

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

10:30 AM Track 2: Strategy Showcases

Essential Learning, General Education, and Career Readiness Collaborative: An NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities Project Fort Pierce Salon D

Karen Bearce, Provost, Raritan Valley Community College, and Pathway Project Lead

Additional Participants of the NJ Pathways Project Team

Telling Our Story: Marketing and Brand-Building for Today's Students Fort Pierce Salon C

Melissa Albright, Vice President of Marketing, Public Relations, and Enrollment Management, County College of Morris

11:45 AM Exhibitor Break

Seminole Ballroom Pre-Function Area

12:00 PM Lunch

Seminole Ballroom II. III

Achieving the Dream's Community Vibrancy Framework and Perspectives on Community Colleges in 2025

Shara L. Davis, Senior Fellow for Special Projects, Achieving the Dream

Closing Remarks

Aaron Fichtner, President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

NEW JERSEY'S OPPORTUNITY AGENDA: BUILDING PATHWAYS TO EQUITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



DOWNLOAD

PILLAR 1

Helping All High School Students Access Pathways to Postsecondary and Career Success

PILLAR 2

Fostering Student Success and Completion in Postsecondary Education and Training

PILLAR 3

Building Transparent, Seamless, and Stackable Pathways That Respond to the Changing Economy

PILLAR 4

Helping Adults Attain the Credentials They Need for Career Mobility and Labor Market Success

Schedule at a Glance

New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Summit: Innovate, Educate, Elevate: Pathways for All

June 4

9:00 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Opening Remarks
9:30 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Pathways in Practice
11:00 AM	Prefunction Area	Pathways Projects Networking
11:30 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Building the Future Together
12:45 PM	Seminole Ballroom II, III	Lunch and Micro-Pathways, Macro Impact
2:30 PM	Seminole Ballroom I	Bridging Business and Education
3:30 PM	Prefunction Area	Pathways Projects Networking
4:00 PM	Seminole Ballroom I	Designing for Impact
4:45 PM	Seminole Ballroom I	Next Steps & Closing Remarks

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit: Unlocking Opportunity and Advancing Economic Mobility

June 5

8:45 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Opening Remarks
9:15 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Who Needs College Anymore?
10:30 AM	Seminole Ballroom I	Supporting Adult Learners
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon C	Work-Integrated Learning and Apprenticeships
10:30 AM	Studio 2B	Developing and Implementing Micro-Credentials and Badges
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon D	Developing and Sustaining Effective Business Partnerships
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon A	Data Strategies to Advance College and Statewide Priorities
12:00 PM	Seminole Ballroom II, III	Lunch and Remarks
1:45 PM	Seminole Ballroom I	Community to Opportunity
1:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon D	UCNJ's Journey to NJ's First Finalist for the Aspen Prize
1:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon A	NJ's Community Colleges and the Evolving Political and Policy Landscape
1:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon C	The Humanities and NJ's Community Colleges
3:15 PM	Prefunction Area	Networking Break
3:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon D	Engaging Community Partners in Holistic Student Supports
3:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon A	Credentials of Value for Economic Mobility Forum
3:45 PM	Fort Pierce Salon C	Data Provider Debrief
5:00 PM	Prefunction Area	Exhibitor Break
6:00 pm	Seminole Ballroom II, II	Awards Dinner

June 6

9:00 AM	Seminole Ballroom II, III	Lumina's Stronger Nation Initiative and Credentials of Value for Economic Mobility
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon A	Beyond the Pantry
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon B	Reshaping Community College Mental Health and Wellness Services
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon D	Essential Learning, General Education, and Career Readiness
10:30 AM	Fort Pierce Salon C	Telling Our Story
12:00 PM	Seminole Ballroom II, III	Lunch and Achieving the Dream's Community Vibrancy Framework
1:15 PM	Seminole Ballroom II. III	Closina Remarks

Meet Our Summit Speakers

National and state thought leaders are sharing their insights on effective strategies for expanding academic, economic, and social mobility, and will offer their perspectives on key issues shaping the future of higher education. New Jersey's Community Colleges will highlight innovative practices that are unlocking opportunity by transforming education and training to better serve students and strengthen our state's economy.

VIEW FULL SPEAKER LINE-UP







Community Colleges in Action



NJCommunityColleges.org

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