

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



## Thank You to Our Sponsors

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

## **Platinum**



#### **Bronze**









## Lanyard

Western Governors University

### **Exhibit**

Ad Astra
Canvas by Instructure
Cengage
EAB
Lightcast
Plymouth Rock
ReadSpeaker

## Thank You to Our Bronze Sponsors





# Modern Student Registration for CE & Workforce Programs

That's Genius.





#### **SMART MARKETING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

NJ Advance Media, part of the national agency Advance Education, combines deep expertise in post-secondary marketing with unmatched access to 3.6 million monthly New Jersey readers on NJ.com. This powerful blend of local audience, data and industry expertise drives highly effective enrollment marketing campaigns.





njadvancemedia.com/education



Inspiring Educators.
Impacting Generations.

rowan.edu/education

## 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

Jen Becker, Managing Director, NJEDA

**Petra Gaskins,** Chief of Staff, NJ State Senator Joseph Cryan

**Elissa Frank,** New Jersey Business and Industry Association, 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 Harmon,** Founder, CEO, and President, African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ

**Dana Castro,** Senior Director, Healthcare 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, 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 Badges**Studio 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 Partnerships**Fort 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 Priorities**Fort 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

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

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<br>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<br>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

1 N. JOHNSTON AVENUE, BLDG. A, SUITE 350 HAMILTON, NJ 08609 | 609.392.3434



Let's

lightleapAl™

Higher Education
Today

For more information, visit lightleap.ai