



OPPORTUNITY AMERICA

CAREER EDUCATION LESSONS FROM A CUTTING-EDGE STATE

Employers, educators and policymakers in New Jersey have made career and technical education a priority, strengthening existing programs and creating new options for students. In May 2018, Opportunity America partnered with five cosponsoring organizations to host a conference in the Garden State. The goal: to bring together educators, employers and policymakers to consider next steps for New Jersey.



WELCOME Tamar Jacoby president, Opportunity America

"It's a wonderful time for career education in America: a time of ferment, experimentation and innovation in the states. We're here to lift up what one exemplary state is doing. What's your secret sauce, New Jersey? What are the next steps for you? And what are New Jersey's lessons for policymakers, educators and employers across the country?"

KEYNOTE Robert Asaro-Angelo New Jersey labor commissioner

"We're moving the needle in the right direction in New Jersey. Stakeholders are coming together. Educational attainment is up. Some of our priorities for the future: expanding dual enrollment, paid internships, cooperative education and other earn-while-you-learn opportunities that will benefit students, employers and our workforce as a whole."



PANEL ONE Secondary career education

PANELISTS Passaic County Technical Institute careers coordinator **Mark Cacace**, NJ Department of Education CTE director **Linda Eno**, Advance CTE deputy executive director **Kate Blosveren Kreamer**, Atlantic County Vocational School District superintendent **Philip Guenther**. Moderated by AEI Morgridge Fellow **Andy Smarick**.



"Each of New Jersey's 21 counties has a vocational education board that coordinates CTE programs in high schools and community colleges, bringing together educators, employers, policymakers and families. Each county is different, and each prioritizes what's important to them, deciding what kids in their region need."

Andy Smarick Morgridge Fellow in Education, American Enterprise Institute



ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION **Aaron Fichtner** president, NJ Council of County Colleges

"State investment helped get the ball rolling for colleges and employers to work together to provide career education. The great example is our advanced manufacturing program. State funding brought employers and colleges together. They developed an employer-driven curriculum. Now, all the colleges use that curriculum, and employers and educators across the state are working together to develop new programs – building on that initial foundation."

PANEL TWO **Community college workforce education**

PANELISTS. Rowan College at Gloucester County president **Frederick Keating**, National Skills Coalition policy director **Kermit Kaleba**, Rosenberger NA technical advisor **Ted Toth**, NJ Community College Consortium executive director **Sivaraman Anbarasan**. Moderated by Opportunity America president **Tamar Jacoby**.



"Community colleges are the key connectors in workforce education. Here in Gloucester County, we've created a local consortium of secondary and postsecondary schools working with labor and industry. Businesses provide internships, drive curriculum and put money in the game. It's a big adjustment for higher education: industry drives demand – and we must provide training that meets it."

Frederick Keating president, Rowan College at Gloucester County