



OPPORTUNITY AMERICA

PANELISTS

LAURA BEETH

Laura Beeth is vice president for talent acquisition and management at Fairview Health Services, the second-largest private employer in Minnesota. She has 25 years of experience in talent acquisition and serves on a variety of workforce employment boards – as chair of the Minnesota Governor’s Workforce Development Board, vice chair of the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs, chair of HealthForce Minnesota and chair of the Minneapolis workforce development board. Under her leadership, Fairview has won wide recognition for its innovative workforce development, including a CareerSTAT Frontline Healthcare Worker Champion Award and inclusion in the White House/Hope Street Healthcare Career Pathway Network. Beeth speaks regularly nationwide on healthcare workforce best practices.

GARDNER CARRICK

Gardner Carrick is the vice president of strategic initiatives for The Manufacturing Institute at the National Association of Manufacturers. He manages the institute’s workforce portfolio, focusing currently on industry-recognized apprenticeship and expanding the use of apprenticeship in manufacturing. He is also leading a project to improve the availability of outcome metrics for education and credentialing programs. Previous projects included leading the institute’s research activities, its military-to-manufacturing program and its work on skills certifications. Prior to joining The Manufacturing Institute, Carrick worked at the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

MICHAEL COLEY

Michael Coley is the newly appointed president of the ASE Education Foundation, which accredits auto, collision and truck training programs at the high school and postsecondary levels and helps students get workplace experience through job shadowing and internships. Coley joined the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in 1994 and served until recently as senior vice president, directing the organization’s operations and test development workgroups. Prior to joining ASE, he managed his family’s automotive repair business in San Antonio, Texas, and served on the ASE Board of Directors.

ROBBIE HEINRICH

Robbie Heinrich is the engineering and program management manager of Dana Incorporated's Louisville, Kentucky manufacturing facility, where some 250 employees fabricate driveshafts, primarily for the Ford Motor Company. He is also president of the Greater Louisville chapter of the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education and active on the state board responsible for assisting FAME chapters across Kentucky.

TAMAR JACOBY

Tamar Jacoby is president of Opportunity America, a Washington-based nonprofit working to promote economic mobility – work, skills, careers, ownership and entrepreneurship for poor and working Americans. A former journalist and author, she was a senior writer and justice editor at *Newsweek* and, before that, the deputy editor of *The New York Times* op-ed page. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Weekly Standard* and *Foreign Affairs*, among other publications. She is the author of "Someone Else's House: America's Unfinished Struggle for Integration." Her edited volumes include "Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What It Means To Be American" and "This Way Up: New Thinking About Poverty and Economic Mobility."

ROBERT LERMAN

Robert Lerman is an institute fellow at the Urban Institute. He is also professor emeritus of economics at American University and a research fellow at the Institute for Labor Economics (IZA) in Bonn, Germany. His published research covers employment issues, earnings and income inequality, family structure, income support and youth development, especially as they affect low-income populations. His principal current focus is on skills, employer training and apprenticeship programs in the United States and abroad. Currently the principal investigator of US government evaluations of apprentice demonstration grants and of a project building occupational competency-based frameworks, he is the founding president of the American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeship and serves on the board of the International Network for Innovative Apprenticeship. In the 1970s, he worked as staff economist for the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the US Department of Labor.

BRENT PARTON

Brent Parton is deputy director of the Center on Education and Skills at New America. The center is dedicated to building learning-based pathways to economic opportunity that begin inside and outside of formal higher education. His work focuses on federal and state policies to scale career pathways, and he is currently leading a new, multiyear initiative, the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship. Prior to joining New America, he served as a senior policy advisor at the US Department of Labor. Before that, he worked at the National Governors Association and in the education sector of the World Bank.

ERIC SELEZNOW

Eric M. Seleznow is a senior advisor for Jobs for the Future, where he directs the Center for Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning. He works with JFF's Building Economic Opportunity group to advance innovative workforce policy and programs, contributing to the organization's work on apprenticeship, correctional reentry and sector strategies. Prior to joining JFF, he served as deputy assistant secretary for the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, where he focused on implementing the Obama administration's vision for workforce development, skills training and registered apprenticeship. Before joining DOL, he served as state policy director for the National Skills Coalition, executive director of the Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board and local workforce board director for the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development.