



OPPORTUNITY AMERICA

THE INDISPENSABLE INSTITUTION

June 25, 2020

As the nation rebuilds in the wake of the pandemic, millions of Americans will need fast, job-focused upskilling and reskilling before they can return to work. No institution is better positioned to provide the short, job-focused training that's needed than the nation's two-year community and technical colleges.

A new report by a group of educators and education policy thinkers lays out the challenge ahead and proposes a roadmap for reform – how community colleges can and should step up as the nation's premier provider of workforce education.

- 2:00 pm Welcome
- 2:05 pm **Working group recommendations**
 Anne KRESS, Northern Virginia Community College
 Robert SCHWARTZ, Harvard Graduate School of Education
 Moderated by Paul FAIN, *Inside Higher Ed*
- 2:10 pm **Q&A: Implementing the ideas in the report**
 Monty SULLIVAN, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
 Moderated by Tamar JACOBY, Opportunity America
- 2:22 pm **Essential for the economy**
 John M. HOLMES, president and CEO, AAR
- 2:32 pm **A panel of commentators react**
 Anthony P. CARNEVALE, Georgetown University Center on Education & the Workforce
 Angie Datta KAMATH, City University of New York
 Annette PARKER, South Central College
 Joshua WYNER, Aspen Institute
 Moderated by Kirk CARAPEZZA, WGBH Boston Public Radio
- 2:56 pm **The role of state policy**
 Eric J. HOLCOMB, Governor of Indiana
- 3:02 pm **Next steps**
 Chauncy LENNON, Lumina Foundation

Opportunity America is a Washington-based nonprofit promoting economic mobility – work, skills, careers, ownership and entrepreneurship for poor and working Americans. The organization's principal activities are research, policy development, dissemination of policy ideas and working to build consensus around policy proposals.