THE INDISPENSABLE INSTITUTION
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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.