



**Session III: Cultivating a Ready Workforce
February 10-11, 2020**

Wednesday, February 10
All Times Eastern

Morning Session

- 9:00 – 9:15 am **Welcome & Opening**
- 9:15 – 9:30 am **Coffee Talk**
Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville
- 9:30 – 10:30 am **Breakout Discussion: Medicine Wheel, Work Styles**
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact
- 10:30 – 11:00 am **Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm **The Covid-19 Labor Market Rebound: When, How, and For Whom**
Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, Associate Professor of Economics, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Former White House Senior Labor Economist and member of the Federal Workforce Policy Advisory Board

Afternoon Session

- 1:45 – 2:00 pm **Coffee Talk**
Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **National and Regional Trends in Ready Workforce**
Dr. Katie Cahill, Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
Dr. Tim Ezzell, Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**

- 3:15 – 4:30 pm **The Role of Education in Economic Development and Ready Workforce**
Dr. Erin Hardin, ASPIRE: Appalachian Students Promoting the Integration of Research in Education
Dr. Courtney Taylor, Executive Director of The Communiversiity & Workforce Development, East Mississippi Community College
Dr. Celeste Carruthers, Editor-in-Chief of Economics of Education Review
Moderated by: Dr. Tim Ezzell, Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm **Breakout Discussion: Creating New Narratives**
Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Thursday, February 11

All Times Eastern

Morning Session

- 9:00 – 9:05 am **The Day Ahead**
Jessica Mosley, Program Manager, Appalachian Leadership Institute
- 9:05 – 9:20 am **Coffee Talk**
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact
- 9:20 – 10:20 am **Jeopardy: Appalachia Edition**
- 10:20 – 10:40 am **Break**
- 10:40 am – 12:00 pm **Organizations Leading the Way**
Nick Erwin, Director of Human Resources, Bellisio Foods, Inc..
Faith Knutsen, Director of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (Ohio)
Jeff Whitehead, Executive Director, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) (Kentucky)
Moderated by: Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Afternoon Session

- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **Book Discussion: Hollowing Out The Middle**
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**
- 3:15 – 5:45 pm **Team Challenge: Discovering Blue Oceans**
Dr. Tim Ezzell, Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville