

# Welcome, Boundary Breakers!

2026 ELEVATE In-Person Convening  
October 1 – October 2, 2026

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PRESENTED BY

JOBS FOR THE FUTURE (JFF)

WiFi

*Network: ELEVATE*

*Password: fall2026*

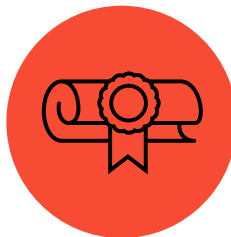
# What is ELEVATE?

Grounded in JFF's legacy of postsecondary networks, ELEVATE provides the infrastructure, community, and vision needed to achieve enduring state-level impact and move us towards JFF's ambitious North Star goal:

**By 2033, 75 million Americans facing barriers to economic advancement will have quality jobs.**

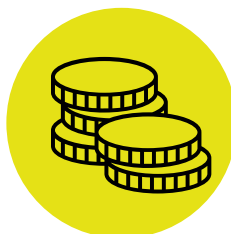
ELEVATE is a national network reimagining postsecondary education to deliver real skills, real credentials, and real opportunity for economic advancement.

# Postsecondary Vision



## Ensuring Credentials Have Value

Credentials must be trusted containers of dynamic, transferable skills that connect to work and unlock economic mobility and long-term career success.



## Reducing Credential Costs

The time, money, and other barriers to students earning a credential of value must be minimized while ensuring a strong return on their investment.



## Maximizing Learning

Postsecondary programs must provide universal structures and supports that ensure students learn and attain skills that lead to quality jobs.





# Focused on State Impact

## Ensuring Credentials Have Value

- AI.iNC (NC)
- Humanities at Work (AZ, NY, SC)
- Strengthening postsecondary pathways and institutional practices (TX Northwest Vista)

## Reducing Credential Costs

- Scaling College in 3: 90-credit Baccalaureate Degrees (OH, VA)
- Accelerating Completion in Math & English (3 states TBD)
- Workforce Pell Implementation (TBD)

## Maximizing Learning

- Scaling Solutions for Student Parents (ME, NC, WI, 3 states TBD)
- EmpowerED CoP Tech-enabled Advising Reform (WA)
- Educational Plans at the Center of Holistic Advising (3-4 states TBD)
- Guided Pathways Guidebook (WA)

# ELEVATE Funders

THE  
**KRESGE**  
FOUNDATION

**ECMC**  
Foundation

**strada**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**Ascendium**<sup>®</sup>  
*Elevating opportunity*

 **Arnold  
Ventures**

 **britebound**

  
THE ANNIE E. CASEY  
FOUNDATION

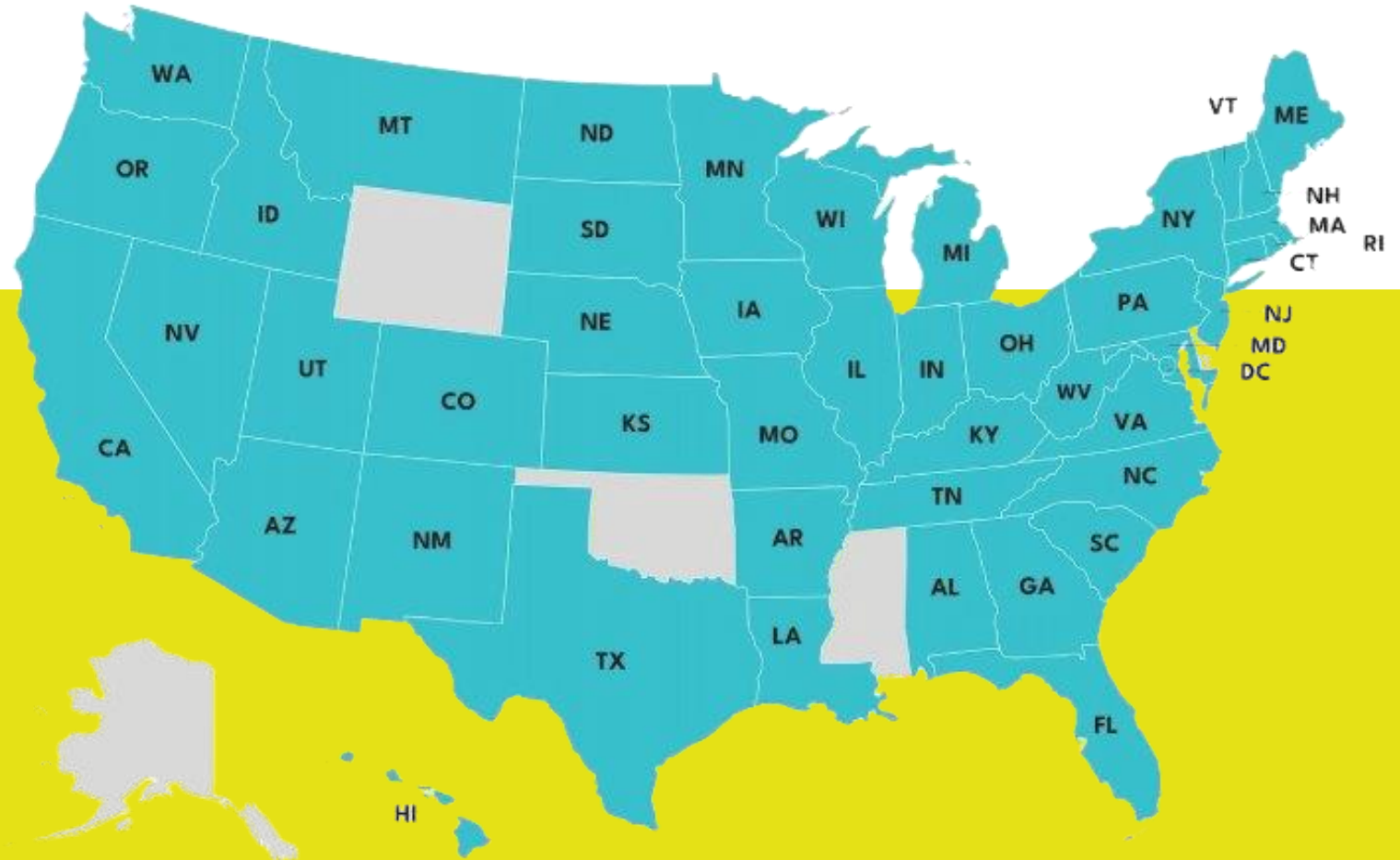
 **imaginable**  
futures

 Mellon  
Foundation

# ELEVATE Has Members in

46

States!



# The ELEVATE Team



**Greg DeSantis**  
Associate Vice President,  
Education Practice  
JFF



**Sylvia Cini-Grenada**  
Senior Manager  
JFF



**Stacy Holliday**  
Director I  
JFF



**Quinton Stroud**  
Senior Manager  
JFF

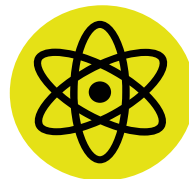


**Erin Bowes**  
Coordinator  
JFF

# The ELEVATE Philadelphia Experience



Plenary Sessions



Action Labs



Sensemaking Activities



Evening Reception &  
Local Student Art  
Showcase



Wisdom Exchanges &  
Reflection Opportunities



Concurrent Sessions



Agenda

# Connection Moment

**Why is it important that you're here today?**

- Grab your ELEVATE notebook.
- Take 1 minute for silent reflection.
- Share with a partner

# At JFF, we believe...

Work-based learning supports **people of all ages** to build the skills they need to access quality jobs and meet their career goals. At its core, work-based learning is a **comprehensive career preparation strategy** that connects **structured instruction with valuable workplace experiences**, giving people a direct route to better jobs. You can **enter or exit a work-based learning experience** at any stage in your career, making it a powerful tool for both early exposure and lifelong advancement.

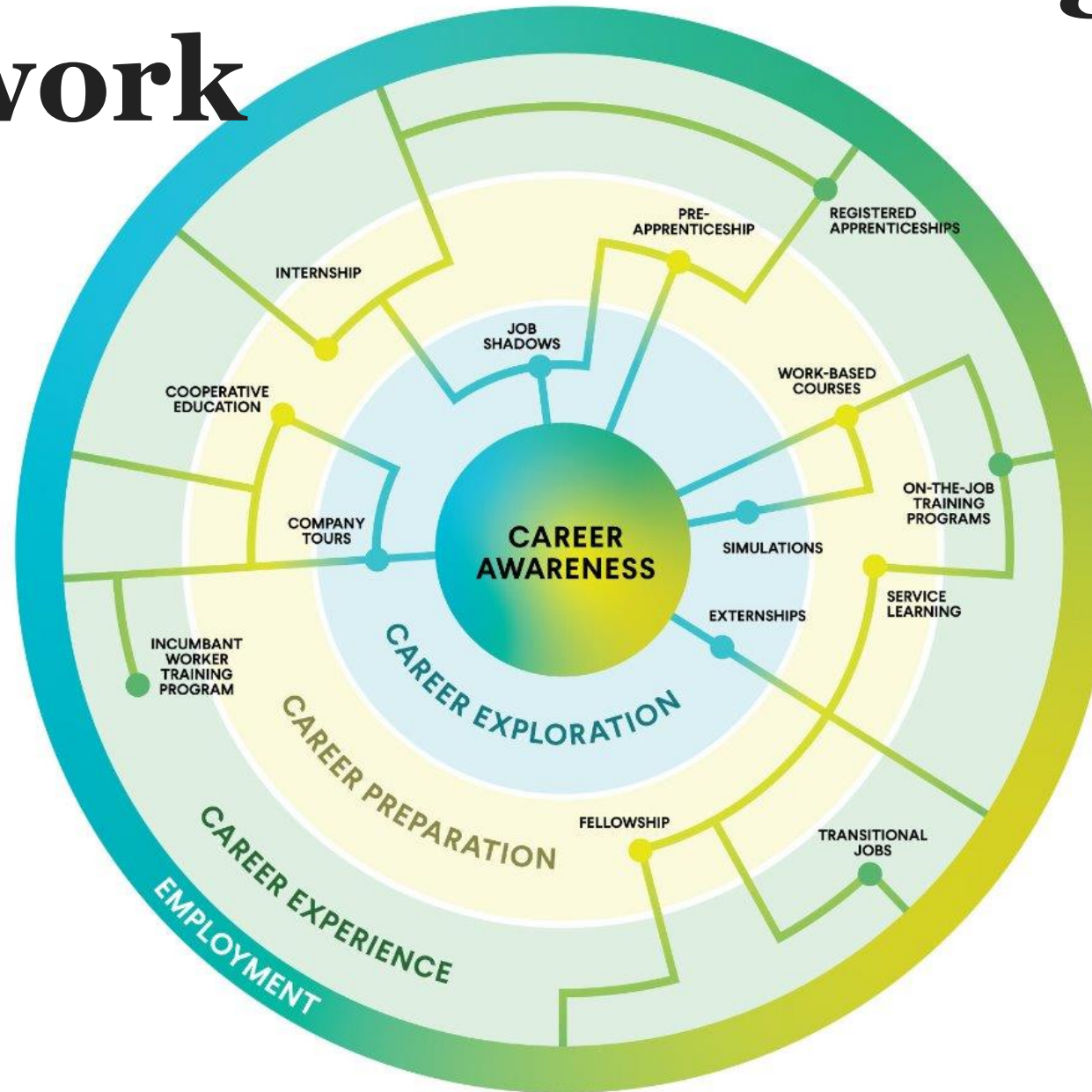
## ... that all learners should have a high-quality WBL experience.

# The Future of WBL

- Built around intentional goals for student outcomes
- Integrated rather than accessory
- Credit-bearing or financially incentivized
- Career and pathway aligned rather than nice to have
- Uses condensed and streamlined policies to work smarter not harder
- Navigates employer partnerships as integral to the build of WBL
- Probably still hard to scale, but are nuanced to support your regional ecosystem



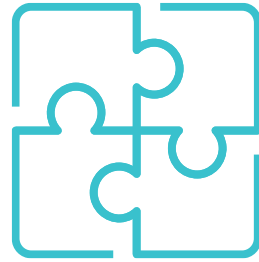
# The Work-Based Learning Framework



# Quality Indicators



Universal  
Access



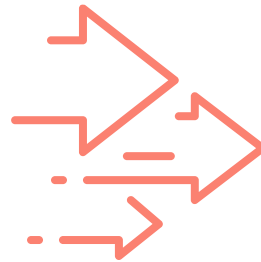
Intentional Alignment



Financial Support



Personalized  
Mentorship



Pathway Integration



Collaborative Partnership



# Connection Moment: Individual & Pair Reflections

*Think about a work-based experience that shaped your trajectory — a job, internship, apprenticeship, mentor, project, clinical experience, or other opportunity that helped catapult you toward becoming the person sitting in this room today.*

- What was the experience?
- What did it give you beyond a line on your résumé — a skill, relationship, confidence, exposure, clarity, or opportunity?
- What made that experience possible for you?

# Big Topic #1: Work-Based Learning as Pathway Redesign



**Amanda Abens**  
Dean of Workforce Development  
& Continuing Education,  
Pima Community College



**Krysti Specht**  
Senior Director,  
Center for Apprenticeship &  
Work-Based Learning  
JFF



**Alisha Bazemore**  
Assistant Director of Innovative  
Work-Based Learning Initiatives,  
State Council of Higher Education  
for Virginia



**Greg DeSantis**  
Associate Vice President,  
Education Practice,  
JFF

# 1. Choose an example

**4 minutes**

**Form a group of four with people near you.**

Choose a program or learning experience that someone knows or is developing.

Briefly describe who it serves and what learners are preparing to do.

**One person provides the context. Everyone contributes ideas.**

## 2. Map the learner experience

6 minutes

**Where do learners...**

Discover career options and explore different kinds of work?

Practice relevant skills and gain experience?

**Identify opportunities that are missing, arriving too late, or disconnected.**

# 3. Strengthen one opportunity

8 minutes

**Choose one gap to address.**

What would you add or improve?

What would learners discover, practice, or demonstrate?

**How would this help learners move forward?**

# 4. Test for quality

8 minutes

**Consider your proposed experience through these lenses:**

Access • Alignment with learning • Financial support

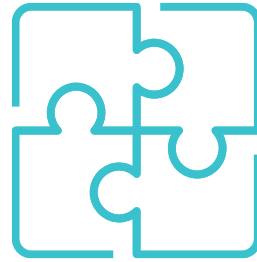
Mentorship • Connection to the broader program • Partnerships

**Identify the biggest concern. Adjust your idea to address it.**

# Quality Indicators



Universal  
Access



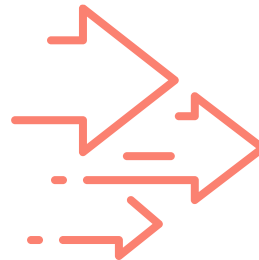
Intentional Alignment



Financial Support



Personalized  
Mentorship



Pathway Integration



Collaborative Partnership

# 5. Bring it back to your work

**4 minutes**

**Take a moment to write individually.**

What is one idea you could apply in your own role?

Who would you need to involve, and what is a first step?

**Briefly share your next step with your group.**

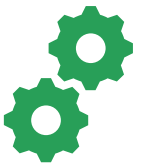
# Making Meaning of Work-Based Learning as Pathway Redesign



What **challenged** your current approach?



What feels **promising**?



What **friction point** could prevent WBL from becoming more equitable, integrated, or sustainable?



# 15-minute break



# A Conversation on the Future of Work & Learning



**Michael Collins**  
Vice President,  
Education & Training,  
JFF



**Quintina Gallion**  
Associate Executive Director  
Strategy & Planning,  
American Association of  
Collegiate Registrars  
& Admissions Officers



**Heather Perfetti**  
President,  
Middle States Commission on  
Higher Education



**Randy VanWagoner**  
President,  
Mohawk Valley  
Community College

## Audience poll

# Which feature of today's system most limits people's ability to move between learning, work, and advancement?

- rigid approaches to time, credits, and degree design
- weak connections between college programs and work
- skills and credentials that employers cannot easily understand or use
- limited guidance and re-entry points for people returning to learn
- one-size-fits-all approaches that overlook different learner needs
- fragmented data, policies, and decision-making that slow change



**Scan to vote**

**Scan the QR code and choose one.**



# Lunch

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

# Emerging Shifts Panel



**Stacy Holliday**  
Director I  
JFF



**Andrea Crowley**  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Student Success  
Center, North Carolina Community  
College System



**Ashley Finley**  
Vice President of Research  
& Senior Advisor to the  
President  
American Association of  
Colleges & Universities



**Sylvia Cini-Grenada**  
Director I  
JFF

# Emerging Shifts: Cost and Affordability



## THE SIGNAL

Is the issue that higher education isn't affordable, or that we haven't sufficiently diversified affordability?

## WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

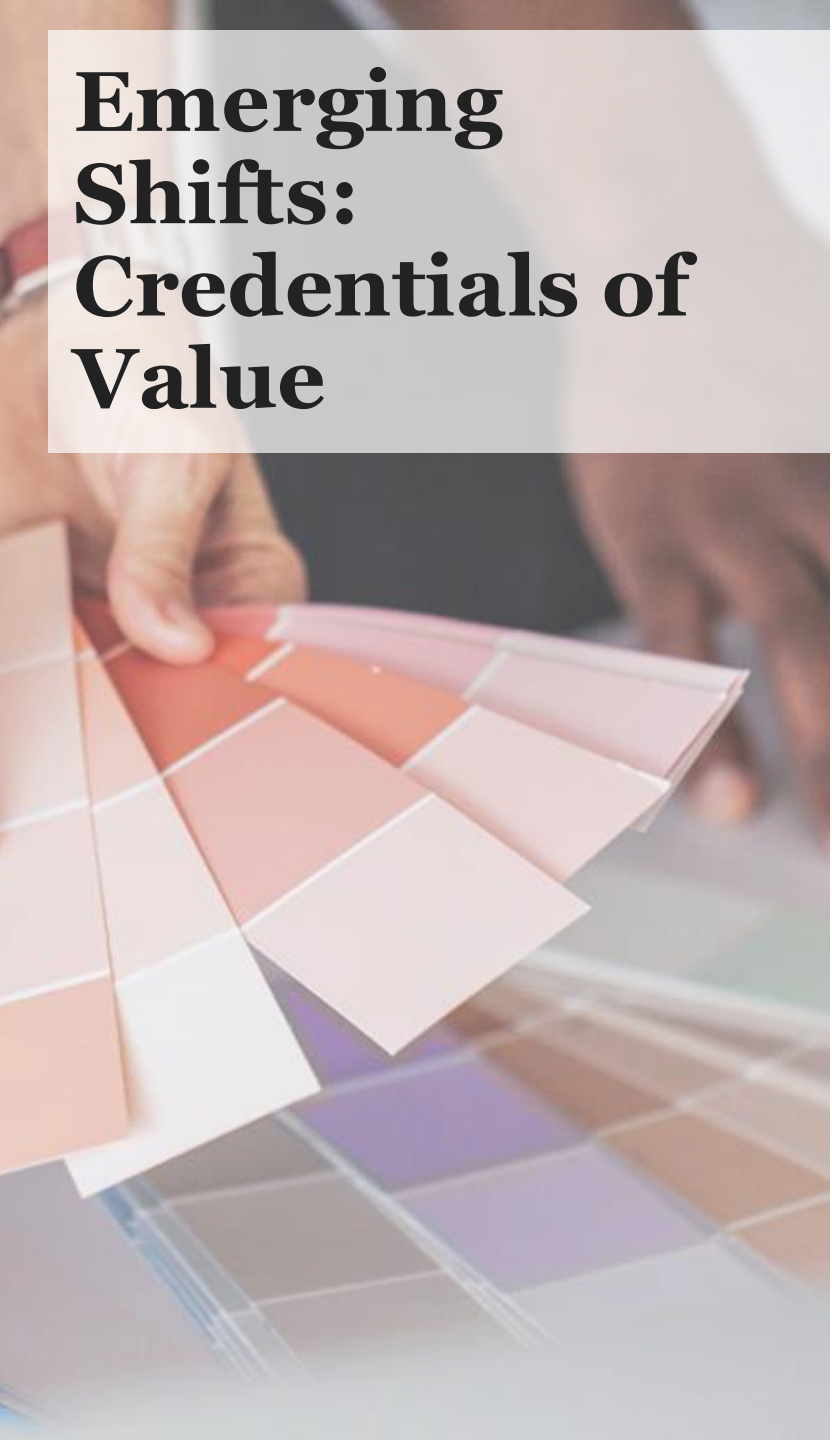
- 40+ million adults with some college and no credential. (National Student Clearinghouse 2025)
- 68% of employers said a candidate with a degree (+) a credential would be their top choice (AAC&U 2023)

## KEY RESPONSES:

- Microcredentials at scale (SUNY system, University of Notre Dame)
- 90 credit BA
- Learning and Employment Records/Comprehensive Learner Records

## WHY IT MATTERS:

All or nothing degrees are not serving higher education or learners. It is time to systematize different processes for bundling achievement.



# Emerging Shifts: Credentials of Value

## THE SIGNAL

Learners, policymakers, and employers want credentials with clear value not just in terms of employment, earnings, and continued mobility, but other measures.

## WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

- BA holders earn 60-75% more than workers with just a HS diploma over their careers. This has been the trend for decades. (BLS, 2026; CEW, 2021; CollegeBoard, 2026)
- Value varies significantly by program, field, institution, labor market, and across worker cohorts. (CEW, 2026; National Partnership for Women & Families, 2026)
- States are wrestling with complex ways of articulating value beyond earnings like building wealth, utilization of public benefits, personal and social well-being, etc. (CEW, 2026)
- 73% of adults w/out a degree say earning a credential is just as important today as it was 20 years ago; but they have concerns about cost and value. (Gallup, 2026)

## KEY RESPONSES:

- Fund programs based on outcomes / Don't fund programs or credentials that don't add value.
- Define value and line up your data systems to track it.
- Build employer validation and WBL into credentials; not around them.
- Design credentials to provide immediate labor-market value *and* a clear next step.

## WHY IT MATTERS:

Institutions must be able to show learners what each credential will help them earn, access, and pursue next.

# Emerging Shifts | Skilling & AI

## THE SIGNAL

AI is absorbing routine tasks and rearranging the worker skillset

## WHAT WE'RE SEEING:

Digital and Thinking Skills Equally Important  
Durable Skills Must Port with People  
Employers want Level-3, Day-1 Ready Talent

## KEY RESPONSES:

Flipped-T Competencies; ISLO  
Digital and Data Fluency LO's into Humanities  
Humanities LO's through the Lens of CTE  
Reimagine Assignments and Assessments;  
PBL | WBL



## WHY IT MATTERS:

Human talent, creativity and empathy, is our advantage. Without it, technology scales mediocrity. **#HumansintheLEAD**

# Concurrent Learning Sessions

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

# Day 1



# Two-Generation Strategies

How can our postsecondary systems serve student parents to drive economic mobility?

- **Andrea Crowley**, Executive Director, *North Carolina Student Success Center*
- **Chrystal Seeley-Schreck**, Associate Vice President, *Wisconsin Technical College System*
- **Felita Carr**, Dean of Retention and Student Support, *Johnston Community College*
- **Rachel Pleasants McDonnell**, Director, *JFF*

# 90-Credit Baccalaureate

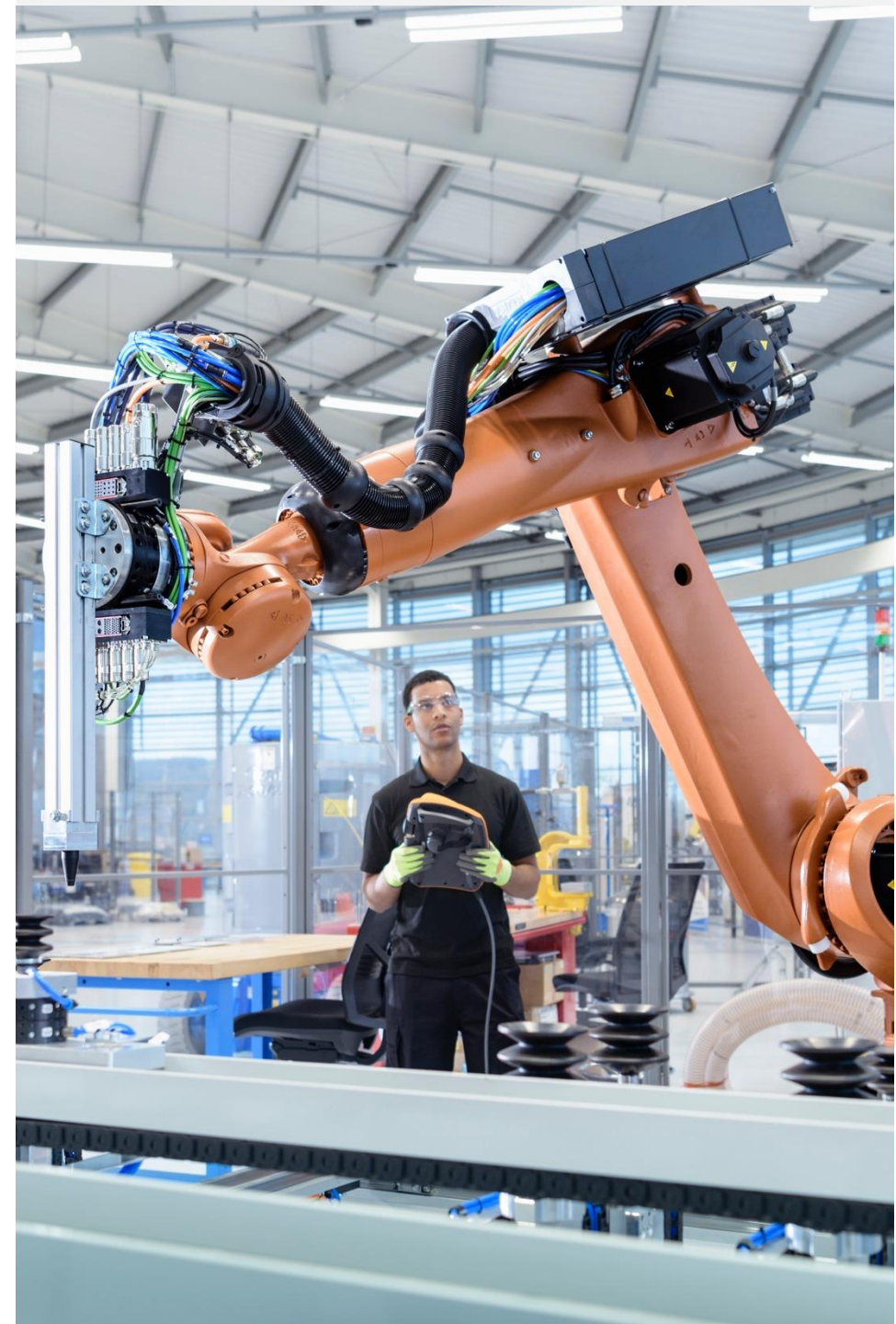
What becomes possible when we redesign the bachelor's degree instead of assuming four years or 120 credits are fixed?

- **Eric Bain-Selbo**, Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, *Southeast Missouri State University*
- **Ashley Finley**, Vice President for Research & Senior Advisor to the President, *American Association of Colleges & Universities*
- **Ifeatu Oliobi**, Senior Researcher, *Ithaka S+R*
- **Greg DeSantis**, Associate Vice President, Education, *JFF*
- **Ben Williams**, Director, *JFF*

# Skills-First Design & Employer Connections

What changes when skills and employer needs become part of how we design credentials and pathways?

- **Audrey Ellis**, Founder and Principal Consultant, *T3 Advisory*
- **Sara Lozano**, Vice President for Academic Success, *Northwest Vista College*
- **Michell Ward**, Senior Director of Learning Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, *Columbus State Community College*
- **Josh Copus**, Senior Director, *JFF*
- **Sara Lamback**, Associate Vice President, *JFF*





# Workforce Pell: Federal & State Perspectives

How do we use new funding opportunities to redesign pathways, not simply fund what already exists?

- **Justin Nalley**, Manager, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, *Maryland Department of Labor*
- **Steve Voytek**, Senior Policy Advisor, *Foresight Law + Policy*
- **Karishma Merchant**, Associate Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, *JFF*

# Concurrent Learning Sessions: Choose Your Question + Break the Boundary

| SESSION                                                 | THE QUESTION                                                                                                          | LOCATION                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>2Gen / Student Parents</b>                           | How can our postsecondary systems serve student parents to drive economic mobility?                                   | Congress BC, 4th Floor          |
| <b>90-Credit Baccalaureate</b>                          | What becomes possible when we redesign the bachelor's degree instead of assuming four years or 120 credits are fixed? | Regency C2, 2nd Floor Mezzanine |
| <b>Skills-First Design &amp; Employer Connections</b>   | What changes when skills and employer needs become part of how we design credentials and pathways?                    | Congress A, 4th Floor           |
| <b>Workforce Pell: Federal &amp; State Perspectives</b> | How do we use new funding opportunities to redesign pathways, not simply fund what already exists?                    | Regency C1, 2nd Floor           |

# Wisdom Exchange

**4:00 PM – 4:50 PM**

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**PRESENTED BY**

**Sylvia Cini-Grenada**

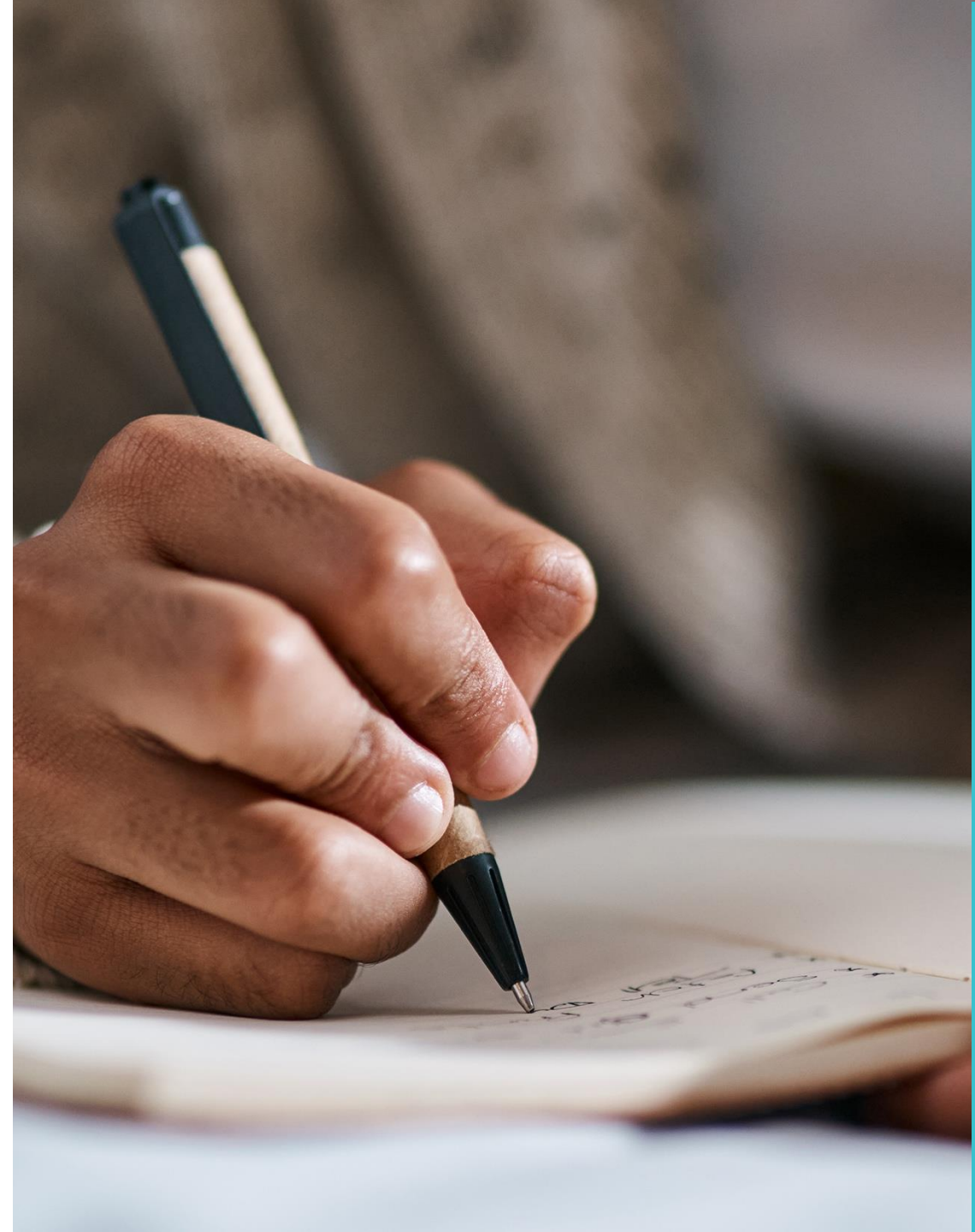


**Sylvia Cini-Grenada**  
Director I  
JFF

# Take a moment to reflect.

1. What shifted for you today? Is there an idea, assumption, or question you are thinking about differently?
2. What feels most useful? Something you heard that could influence your work.
3. What are you still wrestling with? A tension, an unanswered question, or a challenge that deserves more conversation.

**5 minutes**





# With a partner at your table...

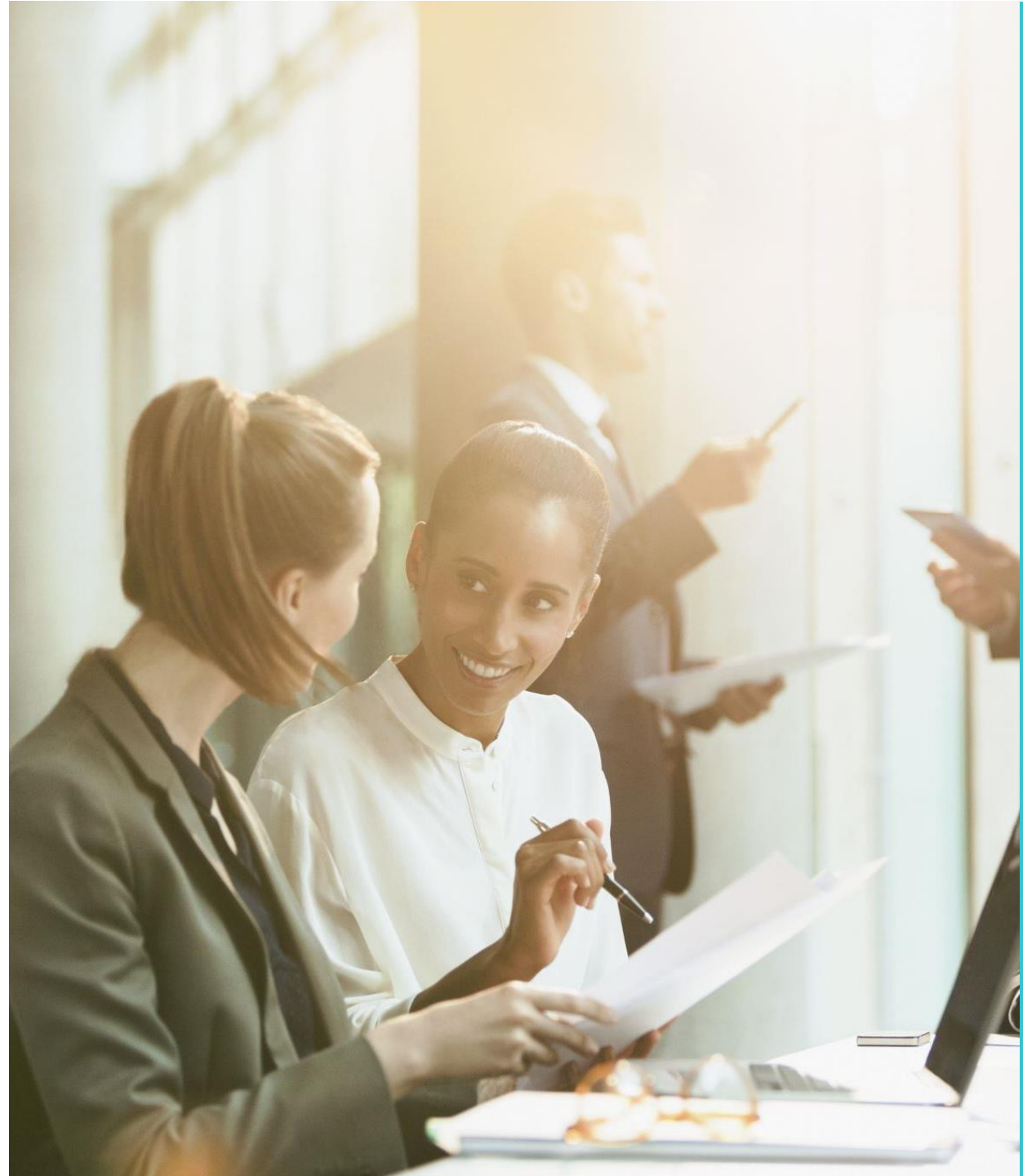
1. Take turns sharing your individual reflections.
2. Discuss connections, tensions, and questions.

**10 minutes**

# Double the fun!

What are we seeing across our four perspectives that feels important for postsecondary leaders?

**13 minutes**



# Distill it down...

1. What one insight should the rest of the room hear?
2. What one question is worth carrying forward?

**7 minutes**

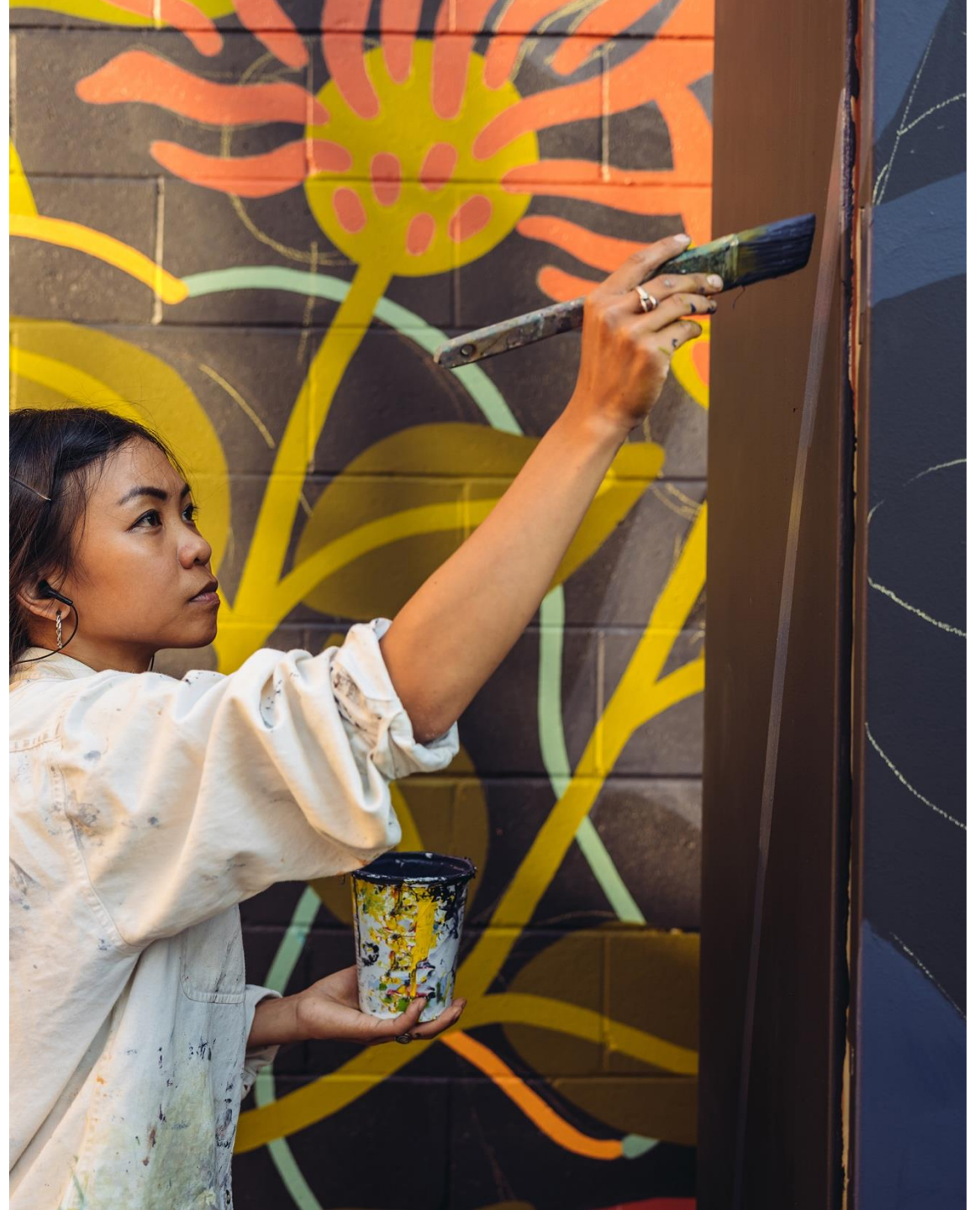


# Day 2 Agenda

| Time              | Session                                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00–9:00 AM      | Breakfast and Networking                                   |
| 9:00–9:10 AM      | Welcome/Opening Overview                                   |
| 9:10–10:50 AM     | Big Topic #3: AI as a Catalyst for the Future of Education |
| 10:50–11:20 AM    | Break/Check-Out                                            |
| 11:20 AM–12:00 PM | Federal Policy Update                                      |
| 12:00–1:00 PM     | Lunch                                                      |
| 1:00–1:15 PM      | Concurrent Session Overview                                |
| 1:15–2:30 PM      | Concurrent Learning Sessions                               |
| 2:30–3:00 PM      | Co-Creating Future Visions/Closing Remarks                 |

**Thank you for  
joining us for Day 1  
of the ELEVATE  
Convening!**

*Please make your  
way to the exit for the  
Evening Reception &  
Local Student Art  
Showcase*





# Evening Reception and Local Student Art Showcase

*5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Regency Foyer, 2nd Floor Mezzanine*

**The reception will feature:**

- **Faith The Violinist**
- **Spoken Word Performances**
- **Jazz Performance**
- **A Cappella Performance**
- **Local Visual Artists**

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**WiFi**

*Network: ELEVATE*

*Password: fall2026*

# Big Topic #2: AI

What does it mean for AI to serve as a *catalyst for the future of education*?

**9:10 AM - 10:50 AM**

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**Alex Swartsel**  
Vice President,  
Center for Artificial Intelligence  
& the Future of Work  
JFF

# AI is already transforming jobs.

## Notable: widening gaps in the early career.

Stanford's Digital Economy Lab found:

- Employment of young workers (ages 22–25) in AI-exposed occupations **19% below** where it would be had it kept pace with that of their less-exposed peers
- Divergence operates primarily through **reduced hiring** of young workers rather than increased separations
- Declines concentrated in **occupations where AI usage primarily substitutes for human tasks**; where usage primarily *complements* workers, employment is flat or rising, especially for experienced workers

**"Management is the  
new entry-level skill."**

-- Speaker at JFF and Google.org's  
"Skills for a Human-Agent Future" convening, July 2026

# The benefits of AI are not distributed equally

- Regular AI users are **more likely to have quality jobs**: 52% among weekly users vs 46% among infrequent users
- 70% of **high-earning workers** say AI makes their work faster, vs. 58% of lower-earning workers
- Employees **aged 18 to 24** are the most likely to say AI has led their employer to ask them to take on more responsibility (38%, compared with 31% or less in every other age group)





# 3 key questions for higher ed leaders:

- How do we understand deeply enough how AI is changing jobs & skills without depending on employers to have all the answers?
- How do we leverage higher ed's own adoption of AI to inform decisions about the disciplines, skills, and pathways we prioritize?
- How do we use these combined experiences to build the muscles our institutions will need for constant change?

# Take 5 minutes to reflect independently:

At my institution, what's one thing we're doing well, and one thing we're still figuring out, about:

How are we staying abreast of how AI is changing in-demand jobs and skills across industries?

How are we learning from our own adoption of AI to inform our understanding of changes to the future of work?

# Panel Discussion: AI as a Catalyst for the Future of Education



**Alex Swartsel**  
Vice President, Center for  
Artificial Intelligence & the  
Future of Work  
JFF



**David Ferreira**  
Provost  
Charter Oak State College



**Ryan Lau**  
Co-Founder, CEO  
Straia

# Take 10 minutes to discuss at your tables:

**An a-ha moment or insight from the panel that informs your thinking about one or both of these questions:**

How are we staying abreast of how AI is changing in-demand jobs and skills across industries?

How are we learning from our own adoption of AI to inform our understanding of changes to the future of work?

# Action Lab: No-regrets moves

## What we'll do together:

- Choose a notetaker
- Pick 3 "moves" to discuss for 10 minutes each
- In the last 5 minutes, pick the move you'd be most excited to test at your institution

## Discussion questions:

- How important is this?
- What enablers / barriers to this move exist at your institution today?
- What's one step you could take to test this?
- What support would you need?



## Candidates for no-regrets moves:

1. Triangulating multiple labor market signals
2. Building continuous employer feedback loops
3. Translating higher education AI adoption into future-of-work insights
4. Establishing new institutional mechanisms to guide change
5. **FREE SPACE** – Choose your own!

# Full group share & takeaways



A close-up photograph of a white ceramic teapot pouring tea into a white cup on a saucer. The tea is a golden-brown color, and a stream of liquid is captured mid-pour. The background is dark and out of focus. The overall mood is warm and relaxing.

# 30-Minute Break

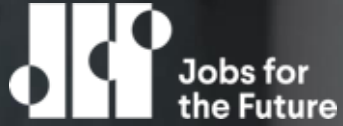
*10:50 AM – 11:20 AM*

# Federal Policy Update

11:20 AM - 12:00 PM



**Karishma Merchant**  
Vice President, Head of Policy  
& Advocacy  
JFF



# 2026 Federal Updates & the Election

October 2, 2026

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Karishma Merchant, VP Policy & Advocacy

# Today's Agenda

- ✓ Quick Overview: Poll Results
- ✓ Current Federal Landscape
- ✓ Post-election Predictions
- ✓ Discussion



# JFF Polling – What do you think?

What issues are registered voters saying **should be a priority for elected officials?**

Go ahead and share what you think the **top 2 or 3 choices** are with the folks around you.

| Issue Area                                                            | A top + An important, but lower priority |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Reducing the federal budget deficit                                   | ???                                      |
| Making health care more affordable for Americans                      | ???                                      |
| Protecting the environment                                            | ???                                      |
| Countering the influence of foreign adversaries like China and Russia | ???                                      |
| Preparing young people to enter the workforce                         | ???                                      |
| Regulating tech companies                                             | ???                                      |
| Bringing down the price of goods and services                         | ???                                      |
| Halting the construction of AI data centers                           | ???                                      |
| Reducing the amount of U.S. aid to foreign countries                  | ???                                      |
| Deporting undocumented immigrants                                     | ???                                      |

# JFF Polling – What voters say

82% of registered voters said that **preparing young people to enter the workforce** should be a priority for elected officials – just behind making healthcare and the price of goods more affordable.

| Issue Area                                                            | A top + An important, but lower priority |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Making health care more affordable for Americans</b>               | <b>88</b>                                |
| <b>Bringing down the prices of goods and services</b>                 | <b>87</b>                                |
| <b>Preparing young people to enter the workforce</b>                  | <b>82</b>                                |
| Reducing the federal budget deficit                                   | 82                                       |
| Protecting the environment                                            | 76                                       |
| Countering the influence of foreign adversaries like China and Russia | 74                                       |
| Regulating tech companies                                             | 71                                       |
| Halting the construction of AI data centers                           | 65                                       |
| Reducing the amount of U.S. aid to foreign countries                  | 65                                       |
| Deporting undocumented immigrants                                     | 60                                       |

2024 Election Impact

# Voters see system falling short

People, including younger voters, reflected on their own experiences in school

39%

Of voters are confident that young people leaving high school today are prepared to pursue a career path.

24%

of young people, 18-27, say they graduated high school with a clear plan for their future.

23%

Of voters say a school counselor helped them feel prepared to think about their career path

42%

Of voters said they did not have an opportunity to build job-related skills through a hands-on workplace experience.

34%

Of young people, 18-27, with 1-5 years of experience say they lack the knowledge and skills they need to adapt their career plans due to AI impacts.

96+%

want schools to help students identify and explore career interests, build a career plan, and have work-related skills and experiences before they graduate from high school.

# Voters want action

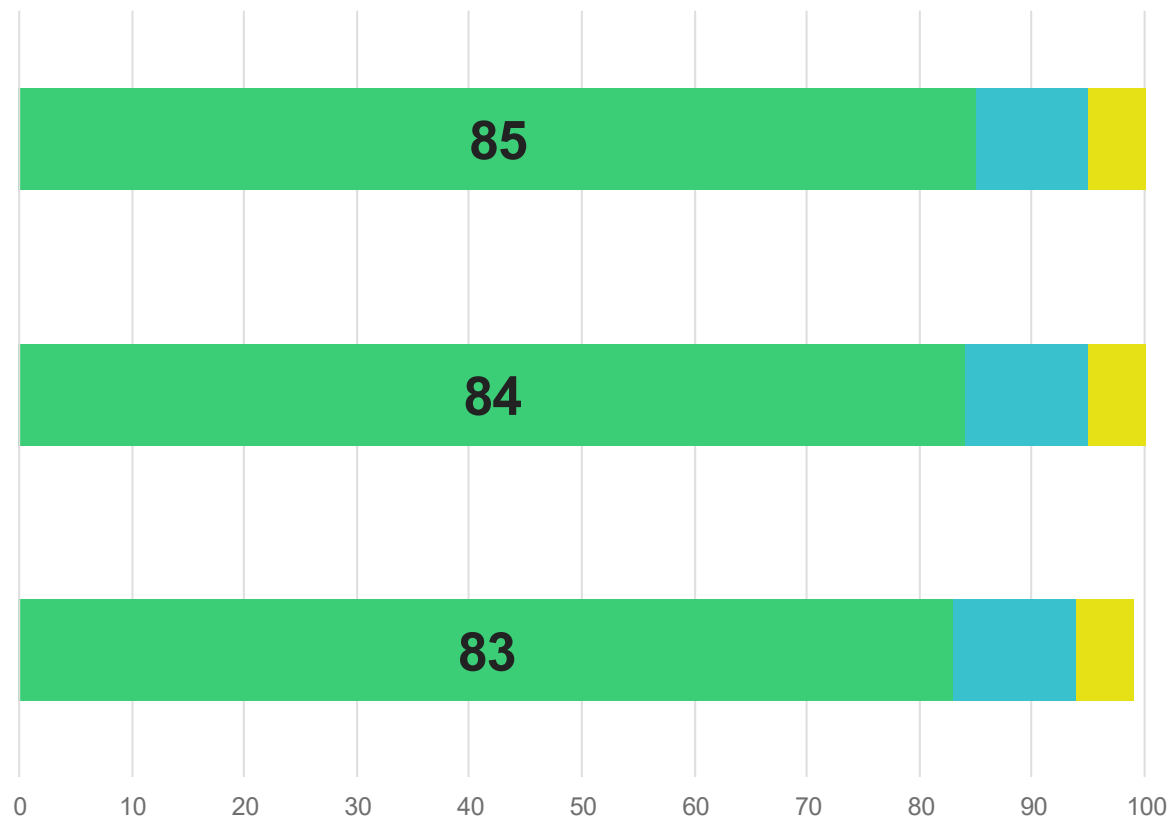
How important is it that elected officials in your state take action after this year's midterm elections to help young people...

Get the guidance they need to navigate shifts in the job market.

Gain the education, skills, and/or work experience they need to get a job.

Learn about the world of work to determine their career interests and develop a plan.

■ Very + Somewhat Important    ■ Not too + Not at all important    ■ No opinion



# Support for a full slate of policies



Voters across all demographic groups overwhelmingly support state and federal elected officials adopting **15** federal and state policies we tested for, including:

S  
T  
A  
T  
E

85%

Provide funding so all high school students can access work-based learning opportunities.

86%

Provide training for staff in how to guide middle school students in career awareness activities.

85%

Ensure state financial aid is available for short-term programs that lead to a credential.

F  
E  
D

82%

Provide funding to states to train current school counselors.

81%

Provide funding to states to hire additional school counselors or similar staff.

82%

Provide funding to states to establish a technology tool or platform to support career counseling.



**Current Landscape**

## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

# Congress - FY27 Appropriations

- Currently on a Continuing Resolution (CR) until December 11, 2026
- Conversations are stalled until after the midterm elections
- TBD on whether there will be a continuing CR or a FY27 funding bills





## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Institutions of higher education have adapted to significant regulatory actions over the last two years:

- Student loans
  - GRAD PLUS eliminated
  - PARENT PLUS loans capped
- Negotiated Rulemaking
  - Workforce Pell
  - Restrictions on direct loans
  - Accreditation

## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- April 2025 Executive Order – "Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future"
- March 2026, DOL launched the "Make America AI-Ready" Initiative
- WIOA waiver requests
- Apprenticeships
- Interagency agreements to transfer programs from U.S. Department of Education (ED)

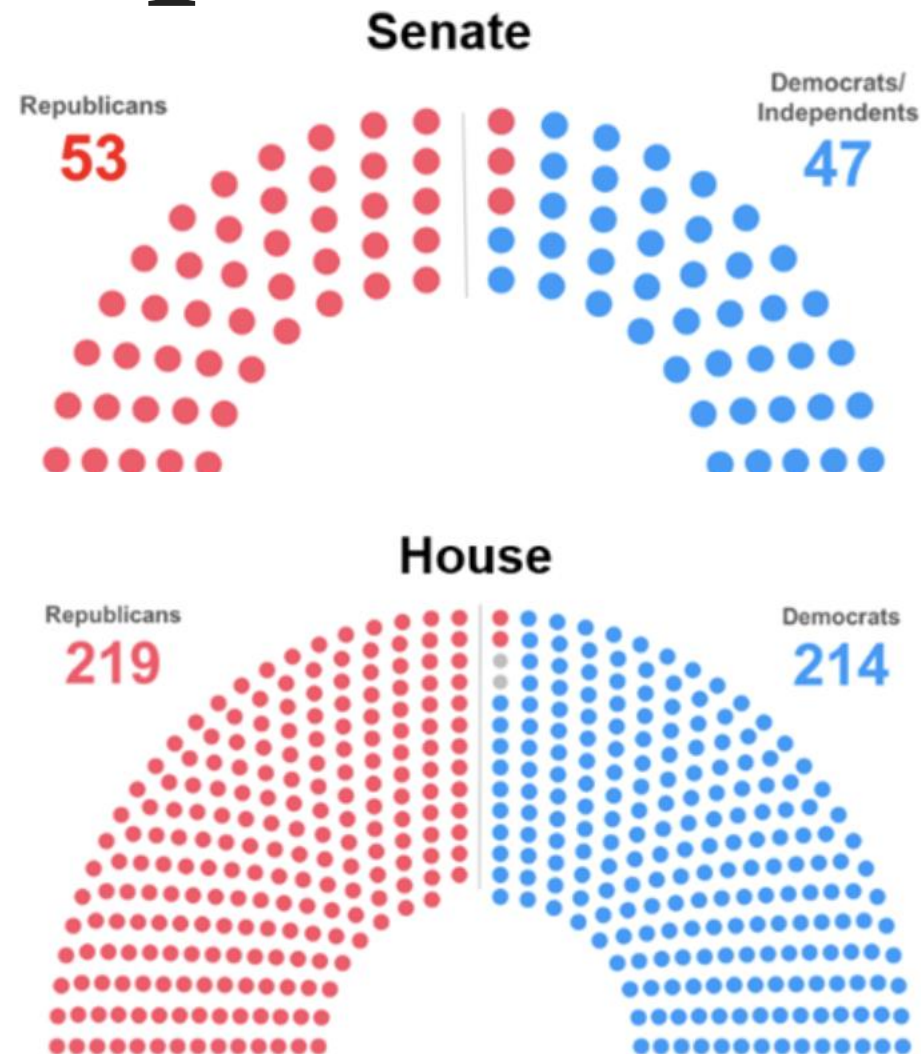


# Federal Elections Outlook



# The Political Landscape

- Very close election
- Many possible scenarios at play
  - one-party control, divided government, etc.
- Hyper-partisan environment



# The Policy Landscape

- Many unknowns this election
- Seeking bipartisanship will still be critical with Senate filibuster, President retains veto power
- Committee control will be a factor in determining legislative focus
- Unclear how much Congressional oversight action will deter Executive branch actions.
- Must act on:
  - Debt ceiling





## POST-ELECTION LANDSCAPE

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Education and Workforce Committee <-->  
Education and Labor Committee

- Republican Chair or Ranking Member
  - Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
- Democratic Chair or Ranking Member
  - Rep. Bobby Scott (VA), however being challenged
- Committee focus:
  - Oversight hearings
  - Potential legislative action
    1. WIOA
    2. Apprenticeships
    3. Perkins CTE
    4. Higher Education potentially if D majority



## POST-ELECTION LANDSCAPE

### SENATE

#### Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

- Republican Chair or Ranking Member
  - Potentially Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Democratic Chair or Ranking Member
  - Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT)
- Committee focus:
  1. WIOA
  2. Apprenticeships
  3. Perkins CTE



## POST-ELECTION LANDSCAPE

# **BUT WHAT IS ACTUALLY FEASIBLE?**

- Education and workforce provisions included in must-pass bills
- "Messaging" bills
- Appropriations
- Legislation
  - Apprenticeship legislation
  - WIOA reauthorization
  - AI Workforce bills



Q & A



**JFF**



# Lunch

*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

# Concurrent Learning Sessions

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

# Day 2



# Transforming Systems & Practices to Support Justice Impacted Learners

What would postsecondary access look like if justice involvement were not treated as a boundary to educational opportunity?

- **Stacy Holliday**, Director I, *JFF*
- **Joel Negron**, Manager, Center for Justice & Economic Advancement, *JFF*
- **Julia Perez Stotts**, Director of Strategic Priorities, *Alamo Colleges District*
- **Andrea Cantora**, Director of Higher Education in Prison, *University System of Maryland*

# Advising, Educational Plans & Holistic Supports

What if students did not have to navigate the complexity of college on their own?

- **Sylvia Cini-Grenada**, Director, *JFF*
- **Monica Bullock-Green**, Director, Student Success Center, *Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges*
- **Amunoo Tembo**, Student Success & Pathway Navigation Policy Associate, Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
- **Mike Buccilli**, Synergy Educational Consulting





# Humanities & the Future of Work

In a skills-first, AI-enabled economy, what forms of human learning become more important, not less?

- **Pam Eddinger**, President, *Bunker Hill Community College*
- **Greg DeSantis**, Associate Vice President, Education, *JFF*
- **Ashley Finley**, Vice President of Research & Senior Advisor to the President, *American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)*

# Concurrent Learning Sessions: Choose Your Question + Break the Boundary

| SESSION                                                                          | THE QUESTION                                                                                                                | LOCATION                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Transforming Systems &amp; Practices to Support Justice Impacted Learners</b> | What would postsecondary access look like if justice involvement were not treated as a boundary to educational opportunity? | Regency C1, 2nd FL Mezzanine |
| <b>Advising, Educational Plans &amp; Holistic Supports</b>                       | What if students did not have to navigate the complexity of college on their own?                                           | Congress A, 4th FL           |
| <b>Humanities &amp; the Future of Work</b>                                       | In a skills-first, AI-enabled economy, what forms of human learning become more important, not less?                        | Regency C2, 2nd FL Mezzanine |

# Co-Creating Future Visions

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

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PRESENTED BY

Greg DeSantis & Quinton Stroud



**Greg DeSantis**  
Associate Vice President,  
Education Practice  
JFF



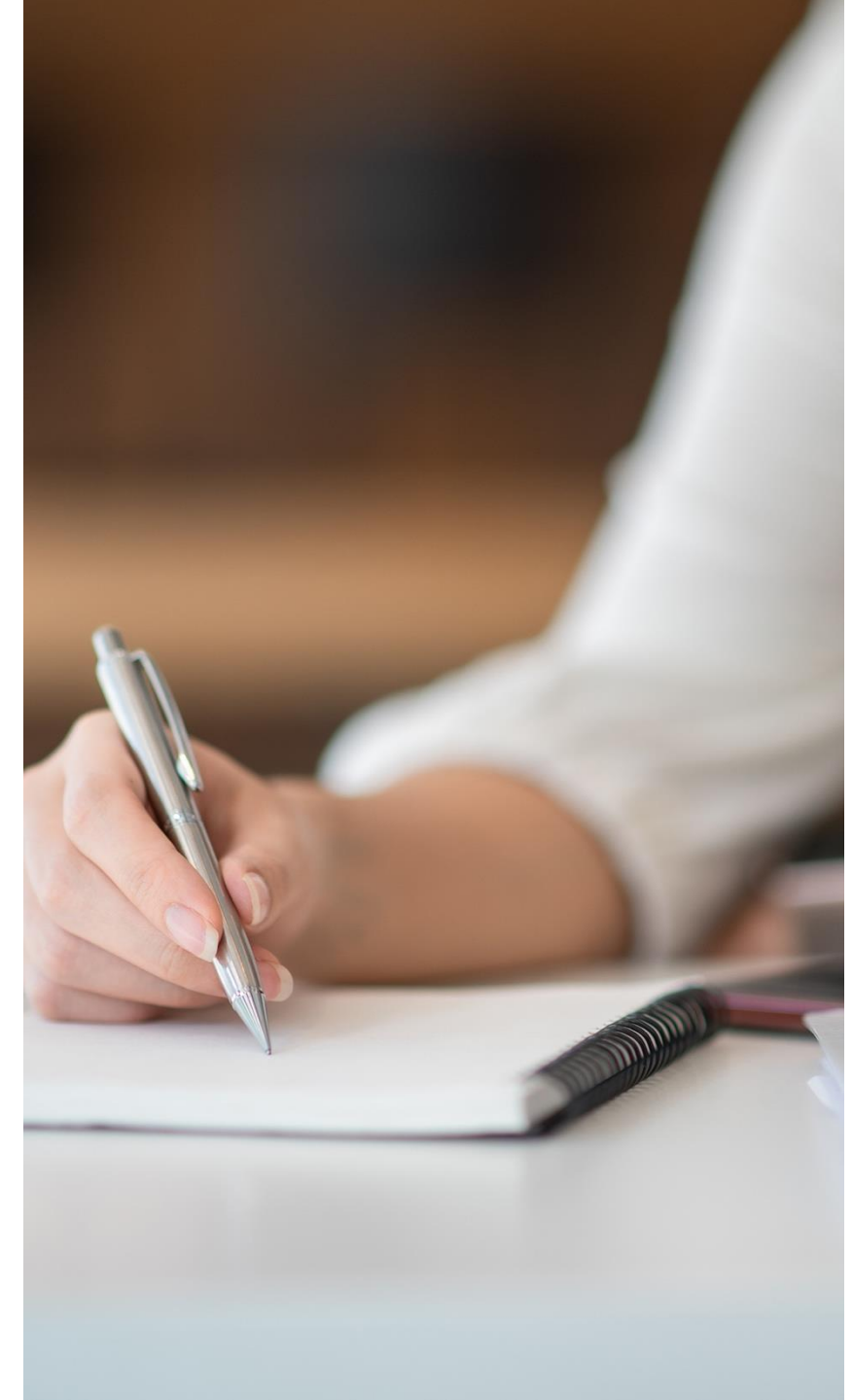
**Quinton Stroud**  
Senior Manager  
JFF

# Initiate

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION • 60 SECONDS

What positive change in postsecondary education are you most inspired to help create? Why does it matter for learners?

Write in your ELEVATE journal.



# Imagine

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION • 90 SECONDS

Imagine it is 2030 and this change has taken hold. What are learners experiencing? What do you see, hear, or feel? What are we celebrating?

Write in your ELEVATE journal.



# Implement

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION • 30 SECONDS

What is the next move you could make?  
Write the first credible action that  
comes to mind.

Write in your ELEVATE journal.



# Discuss Your Next Move

In pairs, discuss your next move. Each partner should share for **two minutes**

# Thank you for attending!

## *STAY CONNECTED*

- Next virtual meeting: Feb 8, 2027

## *AMPLIFY THE WORK*

- LinkedIn: Jobs for the Future
- Facebook: Jobs for the Future
- X: @jfftweets

## *SHARE ELEVATE*

- [jff.org/idea/elevate](https://jff.org/idea/elevate)

## *FEEDBACK SURVEY:*





**JFF**