

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19:  
A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES**

**Agenda for Workshop #1: Birmingham, Alabama**

Friday, October 9, 2020

12:00 – 3:30PM Central Time

Webcast available at <https://bit.ly/3iHFMrm>

***Workshop Objective:***

*To explore the resilience, alignments, and adaptability of key workforce training institutions within Birmingham in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**12:00 - 12:10 PM      Welcome and workshop overview**

Planning committee member welcomes attendees provides background on the workshop series

- Dr. Josh Carpenter, Director of Economic Development for the City of Birmingham
- Ms. Maria Flynn, President and CEO of Jobs for the Future (JFF)

**12:10 - 12:30 PM      Birmingham Data**

*Data provided to frame the workshop discussions, including economic, labor force, educational attainment, and demographic data for the Birmingham metro area*

- Dr. Stuart Andreason, Director of the Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity at Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
- Dr. Josh Carpenter, Director of Economic Development for the City of Birmingham

**12:30 - 1:15 PM      Panel 1: Birmingham's economic outlook prior to and during COVID**

*Panelists discuss pre-COVID investments in workforce training programs and the impact of the pandemic on their workforce alignment and learner access.*

- Mr. Joseph Parilla, Metropolitan Policy Program Fellow of The Brookings Institute
- Dr. Sanjay Singh, Advisor and Board Member of Pack Health
- Moderator: Antiqua Cleggett, Executive Director of Central Six AlabamaWorks!

**1:15 - 1:30 PM      Break**

**1:30 - 2:15 PM            Panel 2: Workforce programming changes and options in Birmingham**

*Panelists discuss emerging workforce training programs for the Birmingham region and efforts to address labor inequities exacerbated by the pandemic.*

- Ms. Suzanna Fritzberg, Executive Director of BhamStrong
- Ms. Rachel Harmon, CEO of Birmingham Promise
- Mr. Waymond Jackson, CEO of Ed Farm
- Ms. Emily Wykle, Acting PI and Board Member of Innovate Birmingham; Director of External Affairs, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Moderator: Ms. LaChaun Banks, Associate Director of the Ash Center's Innovations in Government Program, Harvard Kennedy School

**2:15 - 3:00 PM            Panel 3: Higher education programming for the Birmingham workforce**

*Panelists discuss higher education efforts in the Birmingham region, both during the pandemic and in the future, to support local workforce development.*

- Dr. Jarralynne Agee, Provost Office of Academic Affairs at Miles College
- Dr. Cynthia Anthony, Interim President of Lawson State Community College
- Dr. Pam Benoit, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost at University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Mr. Guin Robinson, Associate Dean of Economic Development at Jefferson State Community College
- President Daniel Coleman, President of Birmingham Southern College
- Moderator: Mr. Cassius Johnson, Senior Director of Education Strategy Group

**3:00 - 3:30 PM            Workshop Summary**

*Summary remarks of the key themes, challenges, and policy opportunities around workforce training and program development for Birmingham.*

- Dr. Josh Carpenter, Director of Economic Development for the City of Birmingham
- Ms. Sarah McMillan, Director of Workforce and Talent Development for the City of Birmingham

## **MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19: A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES**

### **Statement of Task**

A committee will plan and host a series of six virtual workshops to identify immediate and near-term regional science, technology, engineering, math, and medical (STEMM) workforce needs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted workforce demand that includes, but is not limited to, data analytics for logistics and operations, health care, manufacturing, agriculture, and IT infrastructure. The workshops will highlight promising practices that 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions, as well as non-academic training and certification programs, can utilize to respond urgently and appropriately to those needs. In this context, effectiveness of the practices will be judged, in part, on the number of learners who can be reached, especially in the skilled technical workforce. A series of five regionally-specific virtual sessions will address the following questions:

- How have the current and near term regional STEMM labor market needs changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the needs for the skilled technical workforce (e.g., in IT and computing fields, health tech sectors, manufacturing)?
- To what extent can a regional profile be created that links STEMM educational and training resources with COVID-19 impacted workforce needs, including retraining and certification of professionals?
- What practices and policies can local higher education institutions and workforce training organizations adopt to respond to local industry STEMM workforce needs, both individually and as part of regional coalitions? Which effective practices and policies are replicable and scalable? What barriers, if any, exist that inhibit these programs from meeting COVID-19 shifts in regional STEMM workforce needs?
- How can workforce training and education systems address the significant and urgent needs of the underrepresented minority population, which has been especially impacted by the effects of COVID-19? Can the recent events related to the death of George Floyd raise awareness of the disenfranchisement of the nation's underrepresented minority populations that result from institutionalized racism, and therefore increase focus on the particular needs of those populations?
- What actions are needed to assist local higher education institutions, training and certification programs, industry, and policy makers at the local, state, and federal levels in fostering improved linkages between education and training resources and STEMM workforce needs at the regional level as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Following the five regional sessions, the Committee will convene a concluding virtual workshop, and a designated rapporteur will prepare a proceedings of the workshop series.