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

Speaker Biographies

Jarralynne Agee is the provost and vice president at Miles College.

Stuart Andreason is the director of the Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He conducts research and works across the country to support Federal Reserve and partner organization efforts in workforce development, the labor market, and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income workers. Andreason has been at the Federal Reserve since 2014 and previously served as a senior adviser on human capital and workforce development. In that role he has published articles on workforce development practice and policy and labor market trends, including deep analysis of opportunity occupations, or middle-skill jobs that pay high wages. He is the editor of *Developing Career-Based Training and Models for Labor Market Intermediaries*.

Prior to joining the Atlanta Fed, Andreason was a research associate at the Penn Institute for Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn IUR). There, he helped develop a set of indicators of livable and sustainable communities for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded by the Ford Foundation. He was a fellow of the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences at Penn and a Lincoln Institute of Land Policy C. Lowell Harriss fellow. Previously, he led two nonprofit organizations focused on economic revitalization in central Virginia and worked for the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia and a PhD in city and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Cynthia Anthony is the interim president at Lawson State Community College. Anthony has 30 years of higher education experience, most recently serving as interim vice chancellor for student success for the Alabama Community College System and executive vice president and dean of students at Lawson State. Prior to her leadership at Lawson State, Anthony served at Bessemer State Technical College, which merged with Lawson State in 2005. In addition to various other leadership roles within the ACCS, she served as interim president at three other ACCS institutions: Drake State Community and Technical College, Shelton State Community College and Enterprise State Community College. Anthony earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Talladega College. She received both her educational specialist degree in educational leadership and her master of education degree in counseling from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She completed her doctorate in educational leadership through a joint program at UAB and the University of Alabama. She was awarded UAB's Department of Education's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2005.

LaChaun Banks is the Associate Director of the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), Ash Center's Innovations in Government Program, where she leads initiatives in inclusive and equitable governance. Before joining the HKS, Banks led a multi-state program focused on economic inclusion and development based at UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. As Associate Director of NCGrowth, she worked with public, private, and philanthropic leaders in economically distressed communities across North Carolina and South Carolina, to strengthen their economies. Banks assembled and managed a network of advanced undergraduate and graduate students from multiple universities to support these under-resourced government clients. During her tenure, Banks doubled the program's initial funding, ultimately creating two signature initiatives focused on entrepreneurial and economic development in rural

communities. Banks earned a B.A. in International Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a concentration in global economics, trade, and development. She later earned her M.B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School. In addition, she studied Asian business and management as well as Chinese government and politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Pam Benoit is senior vice president of Academic Affairs and provost at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Benoit held many leadership positions at the University of Missouri, where she chaired the Department of Communications in the College of Arts and Sciences, and served as associate and assistant dean of the Graduate School before being named executive vice president and provost at Ohio University. Benoit's more than 20 years of experience in administration and academics includes advocacy; board relations; strategic budgeting and planning; diversity and inclusion; globalization; fundraising; economic development; and faculty, student, staff and alumni relations. She received her master's degree in communication from Central Michigan University and her Ph.D. in communication from Wayne State University. Early in her career, she served on the faculty of Bowling Green State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she also held a position in the Department of Communications.

Josh Carpenter serves as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Birmingham. He leads a team focused on executing a vision of making Birmingham a hub of qualified and diverse talent and a premier destination for small businesses, startups, and businesses looking to expand, propelling shared prosperity through innovation and inclusive growth. Previously, Carpenter served as the Director of External Affairs in the Office of the President at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he worked on strategic projects in a portfolio of issues in community engagement and economic development. In 2016, Carpenter spearheaded a partnership between 15 partners and 30 employer sponsors to secure \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, and he led a team to train 925 disconnected youth for high-demand, high-wage IT jobs in Birmingham.

A Rhodes Scholar, Carpenter earned his M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy and a D.Phil. in Politics at the University of Oxford where his dissertation explored the intersections of political participation and healthcare access. Carpenter was named a young Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, and he is currently a member of the Aspen Institute's Inclusive Innovation in American Cities Collaborative. He teaches in the UAB Collat School of Business and researches how job attainment alters notions of efficacy.

Antiqua Cleggett is a native of Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from the University of Alabama with a Master of Arts degree in Advertising and Public Relations. She has over a decade of experience serving the non-profit and workforce development sectors. Antiqua has worked with nonprofits to include the Emerald Cities Collaborative, Boy Scouts of America Greater Alabama Council the Urban League and the United Way of Central Alabama. Antiqua also worked with Atlanta Technical College and was responsible for building industry-sector partnerships, creating workforce pipelines across multiple industry sectors and securing over \$12 million for programs and services. Antiqua is currently serving as the Executive Director of Central Six Development Council- Central Six AlabamaWorks, a regional collaborative to support workforce initiatives across the Birmingham Metropolitan region.

Since joining Central Six in 2014, Antiqua has led the organization in successfully aligning community college grant funding toward training programs that address the needs expressed by business and industry. This alignment has encouraged increased state funding allocations and resulted in placement of incumbent workers into credential training programs. Moreover, the collaborative has developed partnerships between k-12 systems and business and industry that have been successful in engaging business and industry in discussions regarding their future workforce and apprenticeship training models. Additionally, CSDC applied and received status as a National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) site with access to learning communities across the country focusing on workforce issues.

Daniel Coleman is the President of Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) and an adjunct professor of finance at the college. Prior to leading BSC, Coleman was CEO of the global financial services firm KCG Holdings until its sale in 2017. At KCG, Coleman played a leading role in the evolution of automated trading in global financial markets. Before KCG, Coleman was the CEO of GETCO, a privately-held automated trading firm based in Chicago, and global head of equities for UBS Investment Bank. Coleman has served on boards for KCG, GETCO, NASDAQ Inc., the Options Clearing Corporation, and the Boston Options Exchange. In addition, he has served on the boards of the Alabama Symphony Endowment and Build Up, an innovative early-college workforce development program centered in the Ensley neighborhood. Coleman earned a B.A. in English at Yale and an M.B.A. at the University of Chicago.

Maria Flynn is president and CEO of Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems. Flynn is a national authority on the future of work, the role of technology in the labor market, career pathways for underserved individuals, and employer engagement. In 2018, Flynn launched JFF Labs within JFF to bridge the traditional education and workforce systems with innovative approaches and technology-enabled solutions. Before becoming CEO in 2016, Flynn was JFF's senior vice president and led the Building Economic Opportunity Group, helping entry-level workers advance to family-supporting careers while enabling employers to build and sustain a productive workforce. She also led JFF's federal policy and advocacy strategies, which focus on advancing the educational needs of underserved Americans and developing a skilled workforce.

Before joining JFF in 2007, Flynn was a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service in the U.S. Department of Labor, where she held several high-level positions involving employment, training, and research. At the DOL's Employment and Training Administration, she oversaw the development of policies for training programs serving both young people and adults, supervised the agency's research and evaluation strategy, and managed its \$12 billion annual budget. She was a key driver of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the National School-to-Work initiative, and the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills initiative. Flynn received her B.A. from Saint Joseph's University and her M.G.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Suzanna Fritzberg is the Executive Director of BhamStrong, a public-private partnership in Birmingham, Alabama focused on promoting public health and economic resilience in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She served as a policy advisor to Pete Buttigieg in his campaign for the 2020 Democratic nomination, leading the campaign's work on economic mobility and women's issues, and worked previously as Buttigieg's Deputy Chief of Staff at the City of South Bend, and in the philanthropic sector. Fritzberg received her B.A. from Yale University with research in gender studies and political science, and holds M.S. degrees from the University of Oxford in social policy and political theory.

Rachel Harmon is Birmingham Promise's inaugural Director. She is responsible for the management and execution of the initiative's strategic plan, as well as the oversight of all partner relationships, programs, fundraising and community outreach. Prior to leading Birmingham Promise, Harmon was deputy director of Talent Development in the Birmingham Office of Innovation and Economic Opportunity. She was the city's chief liaison to regional partnerships aimed at expanding opportunities through talent development, retention and attraction. As a state policy fellow through the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Harmon analyzed state and local economic policy choices for low-income residents. Her professional and research interests include racial and economic stratification, labor policy, state and local politics and macroeconomic policy. Harmon has a B.S. in Labor and Industrial Relations from Cornell University and earned her M. Phil. in Evidence-Based Policy Evaluation from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Waymond Jackson is the Vice President of Education and Workforce Development for the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA). He is responsible for carrying out the BBA's goal of developing a dynamic 21st

century workforce by promoting educational excellence in the Greater Birmingham region through targeted improvements in pre-K and secondary education, post-secondary education, higher education and through better workforce training and support programs. Since joining the BBA, Jackson has implemented initiatives that focus on increasing the region's talent pool of skilled and degreed workers; aligning K-12 and higher education curriculum to meet the needs of industry; and working with regional workforce partners to provide training for business and industry. Prior to joining the BBA, Jackson served as committee assistant to Birmingham City Council President Roderick V. Royal. Jackson serves on various boards in the Birmingham community, including the Birmingham Education Foundation, the UAB School of Education Advisory Board, the Central Six Development Council and the Jefferson County Workforce Investment Board. Jackson earned B.A. in history from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Cassius Johnson is a Senior Director at Education Strategy Group (ESG). Prior joining ESG, he was Vice President of Organizational Strategy and Policy at Jobs for the Future, where he was responsible for the overall success of strategy execution and business development; management and development of national and federal education and workforce policy initiatives; and development and implementation of a Jobs for the Future research strategy. Johnson has worked in philanthropy and public policy. He held the position of Director of Government Affairs and Policy at Year Up, Inc. He was also a program officer at the Carnegie Corporation of New York where his work focused on advancing national education reform and new school designs. Prior to that, he was Associate Vice President at Jobs for the Future, where he launched the organization's DC operations and directed national and federal policy activities. Johnson began his policy career in the Texas State Legislature where he was Chief of Staff for a member of the House of Representatives. Johnson served on the Massachusetts State Board of Education and chaired the Youth Committee. He is a member of the iMentor Board of Directors. Johnson received his B.A. in Political Science from Texas Tech University and attended the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Joseph Parilla is a Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, where he oversees a research and strategy portfolio focused on the trends and policies that influence inclusive economic growth in cities across the U.S. and the world. A published author, Parilla delivers public presentations, and provides commentary to media on topics such as economic development, small business trends, and talent development. Most recently, Parilla has delivered real-time analysis and practical guidance on how local and regional leaders can mitigate economic damage from COVID-19 and drive an inclusive recovery. He has led applied research engagements that offer local economic assessments, practical policy and programmatic solutions, and goals and metrics to guide government, business, and philanthropic leaders in regions across the country, including Birmingham. Prior to his work at Brookings, Parilla was a research associate in the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, where he focused on housing and urban policy. Parilla received a B.A. in Economics and Geography from Macalester College and an M.P.P. Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy.

Guin Robinson Guin Robinson is the Associate Dean of Economic Development for Jefferson State Community College. From 2004-2006, he was the Executive Director of Region 2020. Guin was the first full-time mayor of Pell City, Alabama. He was elected to the position in 2000. He had served as the part-time mayor in 1999, having been appointed by the City Council to fill a vacancy. He had served on the Council since 1996. As mayor, he was instrumental in improving the safety of Interstate 20 and presided over the city during a period of significant growth. Guin has long been involved in regional efforts. He served as chairman of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC), a planning organization for 92 governments in a six-county region. He also chaired the Birmingham Regional Transit Authority. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, former Chairman and Board member of Alabama Humanities Foundation, former Chairman and current Board member of Vulcan Park and Museum, former president of Birmingham Children's Theatre, Board of Trustees and former REV Birmingham executive committee member. He is also a Board Member of Personnel Board

Jefferson County, The Women's Fund, Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation, REV Birmingham and serves as Advisory Board Member to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Sanjay Singh is an Advisor and Board Member for Pack Health. Previously, Singh was faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He taught and supervised masters' and doctoral students in the schools of business, engineering, computer science and healthcare administration. Singh is a former partner with Computer Technology Solutions (CTS), a regional software firm that merged in 2017 with CGI. He serves on the boards of Founders Investment Bank, CS Equities and Pack Health as well as on various civic boards including the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, Rotary Club of Birmingham, Birmingham Business Alliance, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alys Stephens Center, Leadership Alabama and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Singh obtained an M.B.A. from Georgia College and State University and a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems and Strategic Management from the University of Georgia.

Emily Wykle is a Project Director in the Office of the President at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Her work focuses on community engagement, government relations, and economic development. As the liaison between UAB and community and corporate partners, Wykle works to connect Birmingham with UAB's assets and expertise. She serves as the Principal Investigator for UAB's Child Care Access Means Parents in School grant and chairs UAB's Civic Giving program. Prior to her current role, Wykle led UAB's leadership development program and internal coaching practice. Previously, she worked at Equal Measure, a consulting firm headquartered in Philadelphia that partners with foundations to advance social change. During her time at Equal Measure, she worked with clients including Aspen Institute, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on initiatives related to strategy development, evaluation, and capacity building in the philanthropic space. Wykle earned a B.A. in English and Political Science from Davidson College and an M.P.A. from the University of Georgia. She also completed an executive coaching credential through Columbia Business School.