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MIT Report: Workforce Education and the Implications of COVID-19

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Speaker Biosketches

WILLIAM BONVILLIAN

William B. Bonvillian is Senior Director, Special Projects, in MIT Open Learning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Lecturer in the MIT Science Technology and Society Department. Prior to this position, from 2006-17, he was Director of the MIT's Washington, D.C. Office, reporting to MIT's President. In this position he worked to support MIT's longstanding relations with federal R&D agencies, and its role on national science policy. He has assisted with major MIT technology policy initiatives, on energy technology, the "convergence" of life, engineering and physical sciences, advanced manufacturing, and online higher education. Prior to that position, he served for seventeen years as a senior policy advisor in the U.S. Senate, where his legislative efforts included science and technology policy and innovation issues. He is on the National Academies of Science standing committee for its Innovation Policy Forum, chairs the American Association for the Advanced of Science (AAAS) standing Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPP), and was elected a Fellow in 2011 by the AAAS. He is the coauthor of three books and coeditor of another and has authored numerous articles. His recent book, Advanced Manufacturing: The New American Innovation Policies, with Peter L. Singer, was published in 2018 by MIT Press. He has degrees from Columbia and Yale.

DAVID HART

David M. Hart is Professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University and senior fellow at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). Prof. Hart's research focuses on clean energy innovation policy. His recent work for ITIF includes "Mind the Gap: A Design for a New Energy Technology Commercialization Foundation" and "More and Better: Building and Managing a Federal Energy Demonstration Project Portfolio," both published in May 2020. Prof. Hart served as senior associate dean of the Schar School from 2013 to 2015 and as assistant director for innovation policy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) from 2011 to 2012. He co-chairs the Innovation Policy Forum at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and serves on the board of the Industry Studies Association.

TED MITCHELL

Ted Mitchell is president of the American Council on Education (ACE). Mitchell brings a wide array of experience and accomplishments from across the higher education sector to ACE, as well as a long-standing focus on helping more students gain access to a postsecondary education and complete their degrees. His background includes service as president of a private liberal arts college, senior administrator at a state university, and trustee of a major research institution. Mitchell was president of Occidental College from 1999–2005. He served as U.S. under secretary of education from 2014 until January 2017, reporting to the secretary of education and overseeing postsecondary education policies and programs. He has also served as vice chancellor and dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and professor and chair of the Department of Education at Dartmouth College. He has been a member of the Stanford University Board of Trustees.

Prior to becoming under secretary of education, Mitchell was chief executive officer of the NewSchools Venture Fund from 2005–14, which provides seed capital and counsel to leading education entrepreneurs at the K–12 level, and served as the president of the California State Board of Education. After concluding his service at the Department of Education, Mitchell served as a consultant to ACE in the areas of education attainment and innovation and leadership development.

Mitchell received his bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees from Stanford University.

JENNA MYERS

Jenna E. Myers is a PhD candidate in the Organization Studies program at the MIT Sloan School of Management. She uses qualitative research methods to study education and training, organizational and institutional change, and topics related to the future of work. She is currently completing a project examining the promotion of education as a workforce development strategy through state and local reforms that create career pathways in secondary and post-secondary institutions that are aligned with regional workforce needs. Prior to MIT Sloan, Jenna was a Teach for America Corps Member in Memphis, TN teaching high school chemistry and physics. She was also part of a team that started a new Master of Science program at Northwestern University's School of Communication.

MEGHAN PERDUE

Meghan Perdue is a Digital Learning Fellow in the Digital Learning Lab at MITx. In her role, she works with MIT faculty to create online courses and digital learning tools for the School

of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and researches and conducts experiments into the best practices in online pedagogy. She recently completed a Masters Degree in Political Science at Harvard University, where her thesis focused on developing a policy proposal for federal funding to support more cohesive relationships between universities, community colleges, and private industry to create a rich body of online work training resources. Prior to her work at MITx, she was a Project Manager in the Political Science department at MIT, where she managed a portfolio of research projects looking at government–citizen engagement and methods for increasing citizen self-efficacy in sub-Saharan Africa.

SANJAY SARMA

Sanjay E. Sarma is the Fred Fort Flowers (1941) and Daniel Fort Flowers (1941) professor of mechanical engineering and the Vice President for Open Learning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is credited with developing many standards and technologies in the commercial RFID industry. Sarma is co-author of The Inversion Factor: How to Thrive in the IOT Economy (MIT Press, 2017), along with Linda Bernardi and the late Kenneth Traub. Sarma also serves on the board of the MOOC provider edX as a representative of MIT. In November 2012, Professor Sarma was appointed the first Director of Digital Learning at MIT with a mandate to assess how initiatives such as MITx and EdX are affecting instruction on campus. The MIT Office of Digital Learning, established in 2013, then included MITx and MIT's historic OpenCourseWare project. Sarma was later named Dean of Digital Learning, and in April 2013, he was appointed as a co-chair of the Task Force for the Future of Education at MIT. The Task Force published its final report in August 2014, delivering a series of recommendations for MIT's education on campus and beyond. Based on the report's recommendations, in February 2015, MIT President L. Rafael Reif announced a significant expansion of MIT's programs in learning research and online and digital education — from early childhood through higher education to lifelong learning. In this announcement, Sarma was appointed Vice President for Open Learning, where he now leads MIT Open Learning which oversees MIT's digital learning initiatives like MITx and MIT OpenCourseWare, as well as new programs launched under Sarma's leadership including the MicroMasters Program, the MIT Integrated Learning Initiative (MTili) and Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (J-WEL), and this Workforce Education Project. He has degrees from IIT, Carnegie Mellon and Berkeley.

JENNIFER WORTH

Jen Worth is senior vice president, workforce and economic development, for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Ms. Worth designs, develops, and oversees projects that partner community colleges with workforce boards, economic development entities, labor market intermediaries, employers, and other community organizations to drive workforce and economic opportunities. She interfaces with federal agencies and fosters relationships with foundations and industry partners to align talent pipelines from colleges. Ms. Worth also directs AACC's Workforce Development Institute (WDI), an annual

event for workforce development professionals at community colleges. Ms. Worth has held positions at the National Center on Education and the Economy, the Academy for Educational Development, the Center for Post-Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning, and the National Association of Workforce Boards. She serves on the board of SkillsUSA and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship. She holds a Master of Public Policy and Management degree from the University of Melbourne in Australia.