Rutgers Business School Symposium
for Business Community Engagement

Taking the Pulse of the Region’s Business:
Is Our Workforce Healthy Enough to Thrive?

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Place: Rutgers Business School, 1 Washington Park, Newark, NJ

How can our business community prepare the current and next generation workforce for the careers in the current regional economy and the future ‘new economy’? This symposium addresses developments on how you can get the talent that you need to meet current and future needs. Symposium participants will have an opportunity to share and to brainstorm solutions with the panelists and other attendees.

8:00 – 8:30  Registration, Breakfast, Networking

8:30 – 8:35  Welcome, Lei Lei, Dean, Rutgers Business School -Newark and New Brunswick

8:35 – 9:20  Panel 1: What is the workforce problem facing business today?

Moderator:


Panelist on Workforce Development Systems:

Heather McKay, Director, Rutgers Education and Employment Research Center

Panelist on the “Future of Work” Study:

Umesh Goel, Partner, McKinsey & Company

Panelist on Manufacturing Sector:

John Kennedy, CEO, New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program

9:20 – 9:30  Remarks by Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University - Newark

9:30 – 9:40  Remarks by Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark
9:40 – 10:25 Panel 2: What is going on now address the workforce problem?

Moderator:

Kevin Lyons, Director of the Rutgers Business School Public Private Community Partnership Program

Panelist on NJ Workforce Initiatives:

Aaron R. Fichtner, Commissioner, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Panelist on Workforce Transformation:

Derrick Register, Vice President - Manufacturing, Coca-Cola Refreshments

Panelist on Talent Acquisition:

Keisha Hutchinson, Audit Partner - New Jersey, KPMG LLP

10:25 – 10:35 Short Networking Break

10:35 – 11:25 Panel 3: What needs to change to address the problem?

Moderator:

Michele Siekerka, President & CEO, New Jersey Business and Industry Association

Panelist:

Jessica Paolini, Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Development, Rutgers University.

Panelist:

Kimberly McLain, CEO, Newark Alliance

11:25 – 11:30 Closing Remarks, Lei Lei, Dean, Rutgers Business School - Newark and New Brunswick

* Door Prize drawing of attendee business cards for lunch with Dean Lei*
**Speaker Biographies**

**Lei Lei**, Ph.D. is the Dean of Rutgers Business School. Before that, she served as the founding chair of the school’s Department of Supply Chain Management since 2008. She is a recipient of five (5) best teacher awards at Rutgers Business School since 1990, and was listed in Business Week as one of the two Most Popular Business Professors at Rutgers University (BusinessWeek, Oct. 2nd, 2000). She was nominated as the U.S. Professor of the Year (2010).

**Lauren Weber** is a reporter for the Wall Street Journal where she writes about workplace and career issues. Her coverage has included the evolution of contracting and contingent work, controversies surrounding the classification of independent contractors and employees, among many other topics.

**Heather McKay** is Director of Education and Employment Research Center of the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations. Her research interests include state and federal workforce development systems, skills development, college completion, workplace literacy, and innovative and technology-based training programs.

**Umesh Goel** is a Partner with McKinsey & Company in the Mid-Atlantic Division. He assists manufacturing and industrial clients on a range of operational topics concerning skill set evaluation, automation options, offshore capacity, and other operations transformation issues. His goal is to improve clients’ performance and to sustain the momentum.

**John Kennedy** is CEO of the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program. NJMEP is a not-for-profit organization that works with New Jersey’s small to mid-sized manufacturers to help them become more efficient, profitable and globally competitive.

**Nancy Cantor**, Ph.D., is Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark, with nearly 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students. She is recognized nationally as an advocate for re-emphasizing the public mission of colleges and universities, both public and private, viewing them not as traditional “ivory towers,” but as “anchor institutions” that collaborate with partners from all sectors of the economy to fulfill higher education’s promise as an engine of discovery, innovation, and social mobility.

**Ras Baraka** is the 40th and current Mayor of Newark. A key initiative of his is the Newark 2020 Program which aims to find full-time employment for 2,020 residents by 2020.

**Kevin Lyons**, Ph.D., of Rutgers Business School is Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Supply Chain Management and Director of the Public Private Community Partnership Program. The PPCPP seeks to demonstrate the potential of enhancing opportunities of communities for sustainable strategic on-off campus partnerships for local income enhancement, sustainable livelihoods and participatory development across all sectors and topics.

**Aaron Fichtner**, Ph.D., is Commissioner of the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Before joining the department, Dr. Fichtner was the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University.
**Derrick Register** is Vice President - Manufacturing, Coca-Cola Refreshments. He has regional responsibility for P&L, strategy development and execution at nine manufacturing facilities while balancing short- and long-term goals.

**Keisha Hutchinson**, CPA, is an Audit Partner in KPMG’s Short Hills, NJ office. Her clients are in the financial services and related industries. She is co-lead of the Short Hills’ African-American Employee Resource Group and participates in the firm's college recruitment activities.

**Michele Siekerka**, Esq., is President & Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. NJBIA is the largest statewide employer association in the U.S. representing over 20,000 member companies and 1.1 million employees within the state.

**Jessica Paolini** is Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Development for Rutgers University. The Office stimulates strategic partnerships between Rutgers, an institution of higher education, and the state's business and industries. Her focus is on business attraction and international partnerships.

**Kimberly McLain**, CPA, is Chief Executive Officer of Newark Alliance which is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the ongoing economic revitalization of Newark. It represents the region's largest corporations and anchor institutions.