

Challenges to Upward Mobility Solutions Summit Agenda
Tuesday, October 20, Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center
Register: <http://bit.ly/Oct20gtw>

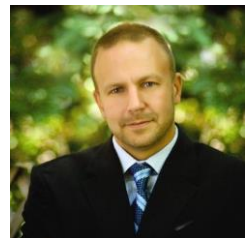
Panel 1—What's the problem? Overview of "Getting to Work" report findings, Bridge reporting on challenges to upward mobility, and statistical realities in West Michigan

In this panel, we'll discuss what the Michigan public shared in our "Getting to Work" community conversations and polls, as well as the economic and employment picture in West Michigan and the state as a whole. Michigan residents' concerns include layoffs for experienced workers who worked in fields that have changed, insufficient communication between education systems and employers about skills and knowledge needed in the workforce, and college grads struggling to find work. Participants have identified several ideas for improving opportunity to upward mobility for both new and experienced workers.

Panelists include:

Kevin Stotts, President, Talent 2025

Kevin Stotts is the President of Talent 2025. Talent 2025's vision is for West Michigan to be globally recognized as a top 20 region in the U.S. where entrepreneurship thrives, and employers want to be, because diverse talent wants to work, learn, and live here. Talent 2025 is a catalyst to create a truly integrated talent development system designed to make West Michigan a magnet for both talent and jobs.



John Bebow, President and CEO, The Center for Michigan

John Bebow is president and CEO of the Center for Michigan. Prior to joining the Center in 2006, he worked for 16 years as a professional journalist, mainly as an investigative reporter for The Chicago Tribune, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Ann Arbor News, and Traverse City Record-Eagle. He covered the 2003 invasion of Iraq for the Detroit News and Gannett newspapers. He also served as editor-in-chief of MLive.com, Michigan's largest online news and information service. He lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Monica, and their daughter, Delaney. He holds a bachelor's degree with honors in English from Western Michigan University and a MBA with distinction from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.



Amber DeLind, Outreach Director, The Center for Michigan

Amber DeLind serves as outreach director of the Center for Michigan. Previously, Amber worked as a grant programs consultant for the Michigan Nonprofit Association, and completed two years of national service as an AmeriCorps*VISTA and VISTA Leader for Michigan Campus Compact. She received a B.A. in psychology from the Michigan State University Honors College and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Grand Valley State University. She lives in Farmington with her husband, David.



Panel 2--How can we eliminate structural unemployment?

In this panel, we will discuss ideas for overcoming long-term and structural unemployment in Michigan. Experts will explore expanding job and basic skills training, individualized workforce development supports, and the conclusions of Talent 2025's Workforce Development CEO work group.

Panelists include:

Jeannine LaPrad, President and CEO, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

Jeannine is responsible for helping CSW advance its mission of catalyzing transformative change in education, economic, and workforce development through research and action. She has spent the last 15 years researching and promoting innovative economic, education, and social policies and practices that help people successfully engage in sustainable work and lifelong learning. Jeannine also brings strong subject matter expertise and diverse relationships across the energy, economic, and workforce development fields in the Midwest. She served as the project director for CSW's work with the Midwestern Governors Association to develop a New Energy Economy Jobs Platform and currently is leading some related work on the development of the industrial energy efficiency manufacturing supply chain and workforce in the region. She has a Bachelor's degree in organizational psychology and communications and a Master's degree in higher education policy from the University of Michigan.



Andrew Brower, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Andrew Brower is a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He co-leads the Grand Rapids place-based team, co-directing both strategy and investments. Brower is responsible for developing and coordinating strategic grantmaking activities addressing systemic barriers that create vulnerable conditions for historically marginalized communities and children. His work includes implementing programmatic and grantmaking activities to increase social change impact, ongoing analysis of solutions and trends, developing relationships within the field, fostering alliances with community and philanthropic partners, and supporting the overall direction and implementation of the Kellogg Foundation's strategic framework. Andrew also serves as co-lead for the New Options Project, an effort focused on prototype development for market-based pathways to employment for disconnected young people ages 16 to 24.



Kathy Crosby, CEO, Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

Kathy Crosby serves as CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids. Throughout her 30-year career with the Goodwill Industries organization, Crosby has filled roles in various communities and has spent time on its International Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Leadership Development Committee. Given her acumen and dedication to the people served by the organization, she was named President & CEO in 2007. In addition to her duties as CEO, Crosby is a mentor to high-potential employees in the Goodwill organization and others, including the Jandernoa Entrepreneurial Mentoring program. She also serves on the 2011 Campaign Cabinet of Heart of West Michigan United Way, the Huntington Bank Women's Advisory Board, Varnum's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council, and the boards of the Economic Club of Grand Rapids, and MARO, a state-wide non-profit association.



Duane Berger, Special Assistant to Governor's Office

Duane Berger serves as special assistant to Governor Snyder's office. Previously, he worked as Chief Deputy/Chief Operating Officer for the Michigan Department of Human Services, with direct leadership responsibilities for all operational/financial activities of department.



Panel 3--How do we increase skills for workers throughout their careers?

In this panel, we will discuss ideas for improving skills for Michigan workers of all ages. Expert panelists will discuss paid internships for youth, Career Technical Education and hands-on experiences for Michigan high school students, apprenticeship-style programs, retraining scholarships and credentialing for adults, and the State of Michigan's resources available for residents seeking job opportunities.

Panelists include:

Dierk L. Hall, President & CEO, City Connect Detroit

Dierk L. Hall is President and CEO of City Connect Detroit. Mr. Hall joined City Connect Detroit in 2002 and has since served the organization in a variety of progressive capacities, including Program Officer and Vice President. Prior to joining City Connect Detroit, Mr. Hall worked as a Program Officer for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. He is currently a member of the board of Adult Well-Being Services and the Homeless Action Network of Detroit. Mr. Hall holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing.



Brandy Lovelady Mitchell, Principal, Kent Innovation High

Dr. Brandy Lovelady Mitchell is a lifelong children's advocate who is passionate about education and helping students and educational staff maximize their potential. She began her career at what is now Network 180, connecting children and families in mental health and substance abuse services. From there she took her love of children to the most logical place – our public schools. Like many educators, Brandy has a true love of learning. This, combined with the influence of her parents, led her to continue her own education with a host of degrees. Dr. Lovelady Mitchell recently completed a Doctorate of Education Leadership at Eastern Michigan University. Her professional work and doctoral studies caused Eastern Michigan University to describe her as an “upcoming educator to watch” and the university recently honored her as one of their 2015 Scholars of Excellence. HBCUTE of Grand Rapids also recently named her an Elite Educationalist.



Amy Koning, Associate Dean of Operations, GRCC's School of Workforce Development

Amy serves as Association Dean of Operations of the School of Workforce Development at Grand Rapids Community College. She coordinates the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, a collaboration between West Michigan manufacturers, students, Michigan Works! Region 4 and Grand Rapids Community College to address the talent shortage the region is experiencing.



Larry Good, Chair, Co-Founder, and Senior Fellow, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

Larry provides strategic leadership across the organization's practice. Larry engages with policy and practice leaders nationally as part of CSW's efforts to inform change in public policy and investment in workforce development. Larry is a leader in designing and implementing transformative workforce development change strategies that result in scalable results. Larry currently is co-leading an initiative to develop a competency-based Credentials Framework that connects the dots among degrees, certificates, industry certifications and other credentials. Larry led a major engagement assisting the State of Michigan in developing and implementing a total rethinking of state workforce policy, initiatives, and structure, including the landmark No Worker Left Behind initiative. Prior to becoming CSW's Chair in 2006, Larry served as President and CEO from 1991 to 2005. Larry has an MBA from Michigan State University and a BA in political science from Oakland University in Michigan.



Stephanie Comai, Director, Michigan Talent Investment Agency

Stephanie Comai is the Director of the Michigan Talent Investment Agency. Previously, she worked as a consultant at Comai Consulting, LLC. Ms. Comai served as a Special Adviser for information technology in the executive office of Governor John Engler. Prior to her role as Special Adviser, she was Director of the e-Michigan Office, which launched in July 2001 a new web portal to all of the State of Michigan's online services and information. Prior to her appointment to e-Michigan, she served as the Director of State Government Affairs for Governor Engler; worked in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Labor. Ms. Comai served as the Chairman and Trustee of Central Michigan University Inc. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and holds a master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University.



Panel 4: How can employers support talent development?

In this panel, we'll discuss ideas for providing employer-supported talent development in our state. Our panelists will discuss how they support the development of skills and talent in their own employees, through such methods as building their own talent pipelines, encouraging and building systems for skills attainment, and providing on-the-job training.

Panelists include:

Mark Peters, CEO, Butterball Farms

Mark is the Chief Executive Officer for Butterball Farms, Inc., the nation's leading producer of embossed and specialty butter and margarine for the hotel and restaurant industry. Mark grew up in the operations side of the business working with his father, Leo Peters, Founder of Butterball Farms. After the death of Leo Peters in 1995 Mark succeeded his father as President. There were challenges with productivity and cash flow, but Mark's entrepreneurial spirit and determination was to build the company. He brought in talented team members and, under Mark's leadership, developed international partnerships and initiatives, and increased the overall growth and status of the organization. . Mark has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Calvin College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Davenport University, as well as two semesters of engineering from Grand Valley State University.



Jon DeWys, President, DeWys Manufacturing

Jon DeWys is President of DeWys Manufacturing. The small shop's original service was the fabrication of fireplace inserts, racks, and various small metal parts. Thirty-five years later, DeWys Manufacturing employs over 150 team members, serve 11 different industries, and over 115 different clients located in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

