



Raising the Floor: Strategies That Make Jobs Work for All

Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Omni Providence Hotel

One West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903

EVENT AGENDA

7:30 AM **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Welcome**
Sol Carbonell, Assistant Vice President
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

8:35 AM **Conversation: Why Job Quality Matters to New England's Economic Well-Being**
While the economy is strong by many indicators, many workers have not reaped the benefits of the recovery and continue to struggle. This session will feature a conversation between a senior economist at the Boston Fed and a leading expert in employment and labor policy as they explore how work and the social compact has changed over the past few decades and what that implies for the future of our economy.

Jeff Fuhrer, Executive Vice President and Senior Policy Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

David Weil, Dean and Professor
Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management
Author, *The Fissured Workplace: Why Work Became So Bad for So Many and What Can Be Done to Improve It*

9:15 AM **Panel Discussion: The Business Case for Job Quality Solutions**
There are numerous strategies employers could implement to address key business challenges and improve the quality of jobs, particularly for low-wage workers. Focusing on job quality solutions is not only beneficial for employees but also could increase the bottom line for businesses through improved employee retention, engagement, and productivity. Hear from businesses who have broken from sectoral practices and invested in their frontline workers as they discuss their motivations, their methods, their challenges, and their outcomes.

Moderator: Prabal Chakrabarti, Senior Vice President
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Karen Colberg, Co-CEO
King Arthur Flour

Gerardine Ferlins, President/CEO
Cirtronics

Todd Miner, Meat Manager
Costco

John Pepper, Co-Founder and CEO
Boloco

10:30 AM

Investing for Job Quality Impact

Panelists will discuss how innovation within their own organization is leading to the creation and preservation of quality jobs for the future. The discussion will address promising investment strategies, lending opportunities, and technical assistance as well as challenges faced by financial institutions and community development practitioners as they strive to have impact.

Moderator: Michelle Volpe, President
Boston Community Loan Fund, Boston Community Capital

Betsy Biemann, Chief Executive Officer
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Mary Jo Cook, President & CEO
Pacific Community Ventures

Karin Gregory, J.D., Co-Founder and General Partner
Blue Highway Capital

11:45 AM

Lunch and Keynote Speech: *Strategies to Advance Job Quality*

Economic inequality—partially driven by our economy’s transition from higher-wage production jobs to lower-wage service jobs—poses a crucial challenge to our economy, our society, and to the American ideal. Maureen Conway will highlight business leaders who are reimagining the structure of work in service industries to yield jobs that are more rewarding for workers and will generate better results for businesses and outline how policy and investment changes can align business incentives with public interest to boost job quality, particularly across low-wage sectors.

Maureen Conway, Vice President for Policy Programs
Economic Opportunities Program, Aspen Institute

12:15 PM

Facilitated Group Discussions

Based on what has been learned throughout the day, attendees will consider and discuss which approaches and techniques would be most useful for advancing the quality of entry-level, low-wage work. Table teams will have the opportunity to discuss the question posed at the outset of the event, “What can your organization do to advance the quality of low-wage jobs?”

1:15 PM

Profiles: The Next Generation of Workforce Intermediaries

The U.S. labor market is the tightest it has been in decades; as a result, the interests of low-income jobseekers and employers are now more wholly aligned—a once-in-a-generation convergence. This session argues that the workforce field and its funders must fundamentally redefine the types of services they offer, the strategies they pursue, and the very nature of how they finance workforce operations. JVS and Civic Works will discuss how they are leading the charge for a new generation of workforce intermediaries positioned to help employers invest in and leverage their frontline workers—helping businesses to not only create quality jobs, but also achieve operational excellence in order to secure and defend their competitive business advantage.

Moderator: Steven Dawson, Consultant

Eli Allen, Director
Center for Green Careers, Civic Works

Jerry Rubin, President and CEO
Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)

Workforce System Response: Cheryl Scott, Executive Director
Massachusetts Workforce Development Board, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

2:15 PM

Final Thoughts

Sol Carbonell, Assistant Vice President
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

2:30 PM

Adjourn