

FIRST2 NETWORK
AND
WV JOBS NETWORK
**SPRING 2025
CO-CONFERENCE**



WEST VIRGINIA



JOBS NETWORK

**ALIGNING COLLEGES, COMMUNITIES, AND EMPLOYERS TO
TRANSFORM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**MAY 15TH - 17TH
FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON IN CHARLESTON, WV**

THIS CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON:

- **FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LEARNING AND COLLABORATION AMONG STUDENTS, JOB SEEKERS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, WORKFORCE TRAINEES, EMPLOYERS, AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS.**
- **CHAMPIONING INTERDISCIPLINARY, COOPERATIVE STRATEGIES TO DRIVE SYSTEMS CHANGE AND ENHANCE THE IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND STEM EDUCATION INITIATIVES.**
- **FACILITATING MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POLICIES AT ALL LEVELS THAT INFLUENCE STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES TO DRIVE IMPACTFUL POLICY CHANGES.**
- **SHOWCASING SUCCESSES AND BEST PRACTICES TO ELEVATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND STEM EDUCATION OUTCOMES.**
- **IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS TO ENHANCE AND EXPAND BOTH NETWORKS.**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL MARGARET@HIGHROCKS.ORG OR
CREE@HIGHROCKS.ORG**



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The WV Jobs Network is powered by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and the Benedum Foundation

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PROGRAM FOR THURSDAY, MAY 15

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
9:00AM TO 11:00AM	REGISTRATION	---	Pre-Function Area	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
9:00AM TO 10:00AM	FIRST2 NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 Network Leadership
9:00AM TO 10:00AM	WV JOBS NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	---	Capitol City Suites B & C	WV Jobs Network Leadership
10:00AM TO 11:00AM	WELCOME	Overview Presentations of the First2 Network and the WV Jobs Network	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
11:00AM TO 11:50AM	INTRODUCTIONS AND FACILITATED NETWORKING	Speed Networking Tables Activity	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
12:00PM TO 1:00PM	LUNCH	Workforce Data Presentation	Capitol City Suite A	Chris Rich, Workforce WV
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION A	Data 'Walkshop': From Stats to Action - Understanding, Interpreting, and Using Current Workforce Data	Capitol City Suite A	Maribeth Saleem-Tanner and Cree Lahti, High Rocks; Josiah Hannah and Dreama Buck, Coalfield Development
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION A	WVU Change Ideas: Supplementing STEM Career Mentoring Through Bi-Weekly Emails and the 'You Belong in STEM!' Video Project	Capitol City Suites B & C	Michelle Richards-Babb, West Virginia University

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TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
2:20PM TO 3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION B	WV Entrepreneurship Ecosystem	Capitol City Suite A	Lauren Prinzo, West Virginia University; Carrie White, E3 WV
2:20PM TO 2:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION B	TRUE ACCESS and the First2 Network: Building and Sustaining Higher Education Collaboration Across States	Capitol City Suites B & C	Madhura Kulkarni and Kenneth Simonson, Northern Kentucky University; Erica Harvey, First2 Network
2:50PM TO 3:20PM	---	Learnings from First2's Improvement Science Ticket and Tracker	Capitol City Suites B & C	Emily Helton and Mary Ellen Sullivan, First2 Network
2:20PM TO 3:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION B	Screening of "Small Town Universe"	Kanawha River Suite	Deana White, WV Alliance for STEM and the Arts
3:20PM TO 3:50PM	NETWORKING AND SNACK BREAK	---	Moutain State Suite	---
3:50PM TO 4:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION C	WV Filmmaking and Film Industry Careers	Capitol City Suite A	Panelists TBA; moderated by Maribeth Saleem-Tanner, High Rocks
3:50PM TO 4:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION C	TBA	Capitol City Suites B & C	TBA
5:00PM TO 5:30PM	CLOSING AND REFLECTION	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
6:00PM TO 7:00PM	DINNER	---	Capitol City Suite A	---

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PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, MAY 16

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
8:00AM TO 9:00AM	BREAKFAST	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
9:00AM TO 9:15AM	WELCOME	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
9:15AM TO 10:40AM	PLENARY PANEL	Aligning Colleges, Communities, and Employers to Transform Education and Workforce Development	Capitol City Suite A	Brandon Dennison, Marshall University; Alexia Biafore Birge, Thrasher; Jonathon Compton, Workforce WV
10:50AM TO 11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION D	Navigating Workforce Development Resources in West Virginia	Capitol City Suite A	Lorrie Smith, Governor's Workforce Resiliency Office; Deb Harris, Jobs & Hope WV
10:50AM TO 11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION D	ARC POWER Career Collaborative for North Central WV	Capitol City Suites B & C	Erica Harvey, First2 Network; Cliff Jackson, Fairmont State University
10:50AM TO 11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION D	Professional Headshots	Kanawha River Suite	TBA
12:00PM TO 1:00PM	LUNCH	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION E	Unlocking Potential, Power, and Purpose in your Workforce	Capitol City Suite A	Coalfield Development Crew Members

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PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, MAY 16

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION E	Hard Conversations: How do I talk to my family about being a first-generation student on a college or industry path?	Capitol City Suites B & C	Kel Cecil, InspectionGo; Eric King, AVN Corp.; Craig Thomas, Syensqo
2:20PM TO 3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION F	Analyzing Strengths and Gaps in WV's Workforce Development Pathways	Capitol City Suite A	Sarah Riley and Maribeth Saleem-Tanner, High Rocks
2:20PM TO 3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION F	First Ascent WV	Kanawha River Suite	Emily Huguenin and Madison Hutchinson, First Ascent
3:20PM TO 3:50PM	NETWORKING AND SNACK BREAK	---	Mountain State Suite	---
3:50PM TO 4:50PM	WORKSHOP	Promising Practices in Workplaces and Higher Education Spaces	Capitol City Suite A	Sarah Riley, High Rocks
5:00PM TO 5:30PM	CLOSING AND REFLECTION	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
6:00PM TO 7:00PM	DINNER	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
7:00PM TO 8:00PM	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	---	Capitol City Suites B & C	---

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PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
8:00AM TO 9:00AM	BREAKFAST	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
9:00AM TO 9:15AM	WELCOME	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
9:15AM TO 10:40AM	INSTITUTIONAL SHARING	First2 Campus Presentations	Capitol City Suite A	First2 Institutional Teams
9:15AM TO 10:40AM	POWER SKILLS AND INTERNSHIPS	Interactive Panel Session and Discussion on Employee Development	Capitol City Suites B & C	Maribeth Saleem-Tanner and Cree Lahti, High Rocks; Power Skills Participants
10:50AM TO 11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION G	Interviewing Skills Workshop	Capitol City Suite A	Samantha Mitchell, High Rocks
10:50AM TO 11:30AM	CONCURRENT SESSION G	Discussing Barriers for Undergraduate Students to Participate in Research	Capitol City Suites B & C	Cinthia Pacheco, West Virginia University
11:30AM TO 11:50AM	---	Faculty Belonging and Social Capital	Capitol City Suites B & C	Marjorie Darrah, West Virginia University
12:00PM TO 1:00PM	LUNCH	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION H	Pipelines, Pathways, and Potential: Workforce Development as a Positive Force for Thriving People and Communities in Appalachia	Capitol City Suite A	Maribeth Saleem-Tanner, High Rocks; High Rocks AmeriCorps Members

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TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
1:10PM TO 2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION H	S-STEM Track 3 Planning Session	Capitol City Suites B & C	Aida Jimenez-Esquilin, West Virginia University Institute of Technology
2:20PM TO 3:00PM	CLOSING AND REFLECTION	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership

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