

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



**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-11:00AM	REGISTRATION	---	Moutain State Suite	---
9:00AM-10:00AM	FIRST2 NETWORK STEERING MEETING	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 Network Leadership
9:00AM-10:00AM	WV JOBS NETWORK STEERING MEETING	---	Capitol City Suites B & C	WV Jobs Network Leadership
10:00AM-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-11:50AM	FACILITATED NETWORKING	Networking Activity	Capitol City Suite A	Margaret Falletta, High Rocks
12:00PM-1:00PM	LUNCH	Generational Diversity and Labor Market Trends in West Virginia	Capitol City Suite A	Chris Rich, Workforce WV
1:10PM-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-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	Ty Landis and Michelle Richards-Babb, West Virginia University
2:20PM-3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION B	WV Entrepreneurship Ecosystem	Capitol City Suite A	Lauren Prinzo, West Virginia University; Carrie White, E3 WV

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TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
2:20PM-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, Northern Kentucky University; Erica Harvey, First2 Network
2:50PM-3:20PM		Learnings from First2's Improvement Science Ticket and Tracker		Emily Helton and Mary Ellen Sullivan, First2 Network
2:20PM-3:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION B	Screening of "Small Town Universe"	Kanawha River Suite	---
3:20PM-3:50PM	SNACK BREAK	---	Moutain State Suite	---
3:50PM-4:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION C	WV Filmmaking and Film Industry Careers	Capitol City Suite A	Ben Berry, Mtn Craft; Dave Lavender, WV Film Office and Department of Economic Development; Tijah Bumgarner, Marshall University; Deana White, WV All STAR
3:50PM-4:50PM	CONCURRENT SESSION C	WV Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) Data Presentation	Capitol City Suites B & C	Zornitsa Georgieva and Jennifer Grossman, WV HEPC
5:00PM-5:30PM	CLOSING	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
6:00PM-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-9:00AM	BREAKFAST	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
9:00AM-9:15AM	WELCOME	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
9:15AM-10:40AM	PLENARY PANEL	Aligning Colleges, Communities, and Employers to Transform Education and Workforce Development	Capitol City Suite A	Andy Malinoski, WV Secretary of Commerce Office; Jonathon Compton, Workforce WV; Alexia Biafore Burge, The Thrasher Group; Jacob Hannah, Coalfield Development; Michelle Morrison, Marshall University; Rodney Sanders, Mountwest Community and Technical College
10:50AM-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-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-11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION D	Professional Headshots	Kanawha River Suite	Erin Hurst, Erin Hurst Photography
12:00PM-1:00PM	LUNCH	---	Capitol City Suite A	---

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PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, MAY 16

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
1:10PM-2:10PM	CONCURRENT SESSION E	Unlocking Potential, Power, and Purpose in your Workforce	Capitol City Suite A	Coalfield Development Crew Members
1:10PM-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-3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION F	Campus Clubs as an Improvement Science Team Network Wide Change Idea	Capitol City Suite A	Sue Ann Heatherly, First2 Network
2:20PM-3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION F	American Job Center's Business Services	Capitol City Suites B & C	April Campbell and Bradlee Jordan, HRDF WV
2:20PM-3:20PM	CONCURRENT SESSION F	First Ascent: Work Anywhere, Choose Home	Kanawha River Suite	Emily Huguenin, West Virginia University
3:20PM-3:50PM	SNACK BREAK	---	Mountain State Suite	---
3:50PM-4:50PM	WORKSHOP	From Gaps to Gains: Strengthening Workforce and Education Pathways	Capitol City Suite A	Sarah Riley, High Rocks
5:00PM-5:30PM	CLOSING	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
6:00PM-7:00PM	DINNER	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
7:00PM-8:00PM	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	Posters by First2 Network Students	Capitol City Suites B & C	---

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PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17

TIMES	ACTIVITY	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)
8:00AM-9:00AM	BREAKFAST	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
9:00AM-9:15AM	WELCOME	---	Capitol City Suite A	First2 and WV Jobs Network Leadership
9:15AM-10:40AM	INSTITUTIONAL SHARING	First2 Institutional Team Round-Robin: Sharing Successes, Challenges, and Future Plans	Capitol City Suite A	First2 Institutional Teams
9:15AM-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-11:50AM	CONCURRENT SESSION G	Opportunity Ready: How to Interview with Confidence and Impact	Capitol City Suite A	Samantha Mitchell, High Rocks
10:50AM-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-11:50AM		Faculty Belonging and Social Capital		Marjorie Darrah, West Virginia University
12:00PM-1:00PM	LUNCH	---	Capitol City Suite A	---
1:10PM-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, Van Preston, and Grace Geraghty, High Rocks

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PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17

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

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