



## Reimagining the Delta Workforce: Mississippi



Coahoma Community College  
 3240 Friars Point Road  
 Clarksdale, MS 38614  
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

### Registration

8:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration and continental breakfast
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### Workforce Summit Agenda

9:00 am to 9:15 am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Assembling leaders in business and industry, education, and local and state governments, this summit will use the report <i>Future of the South: Re-imagining Workforce Development</i> as the framework for the day's discussion.</p> <p>Panels will address the challenges, needs, and opportunities to strengthen our region's workforce systems into an effective workforce pipeline of trained and skilled workers. This summit is about job creation, education, and economic development for the Delta Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Valmadge Towner, President, Coahoma Community College</li> <li>• Mayor Bill Luckett, City of Clarksdale</li> <li>• Chris Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman Delta Regional Authority</li> </ul>
9:15 am to 10:15 am	<p><b>Snapshot of Mississippi Demographics</b></p> <p>Dr. James H. Johnson Jr., Professor of strategy and entrepreneurship and Director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center          University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</p>
10:15 am to 11:45 am	<p><b>Re-imagining Workforce Development Report</b></p> <p>A report sponsored and supported by DRA and compiled by the Southern Growth Policies Board.</p> <p>Presentation of Report Findings.....Ted Abernathy, Economic Leadership LLC, Co-Author <i>Re-imagining Workforce Development</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Re-imagine Readiness</li> <li>2. Re-engage Adult Learners and Disconnected Youth</li> <li>3. Re-align Relationships and Resources</li> <li>4. Listening to the South</li> </ol>
11:45 am to 12:00 pm	<b>Break</b>

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm	<p><b>Lunch/ Business &amp; Industry Roundtable</b></p> <p>A roundtable discussion centered on the needs of business &amp; industry and the challenges they face in retaining and recruiting skilled workers.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finding solutions for manufacturers' emerging workforce needs</li> <li>2. The role of business and industry in developing a skilled workforce</li> <li>3. Career paths, credentials, curriculum and training that work</li> <li>4. Industry recommendations for workforce training</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jay Moon, President, Mississippi Manufacturing Association</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Lynn Bagley CCP/CBP, Metso Minerals Industries</li> <li>• Steve Raines, Baxter Healthcare</li> <li>• Lyn Arnold, Tunica County Economic Development Foundation</li> </ul>
1:15 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:30 pm to 2:00 pm	<p><b>Mississippi Today</b></p> <p><b>Governor Phil Bryant</b></p> <p>“State of the Workforce”</p>
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	<p><b>Federal and National Initiatives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programs and opportunities within the federal government, congressional activates and national initiatives within the private sector</li> <li>2. Impact of federal and national initiatives on regional, state and local efforts in workforce development and training.</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jim Youngquist, Director, Institute for Economic Advancement</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Hermes, American Association of Community College</li> <li>• Janelle Duray, Jobs for America's Graduates</li> <li>• Debra Lyons, ACT</li> </ul>
3:00 pm to 3:15pm	<b>Break</b>
3:15 pm to 4:00 pm	<p><b>The Educational and Career Training Stakeholder Perspective</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the role, focus, and responsibility of our state's educational institutions and stakeholders when building a workforce development system?</li> <li>2. What is the future of their partnership in trying to address current and future workforce needs?</li> <li>3. Where do the educational activities align and what are the opportunities for greater collaboration between education, economic development, and business and industry?</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mitzi Woods, Workforce Director, South Central PDD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest Mississippi Community College Workforce Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ David Campbell, Dwayne Case, Doug Freeze, &amp; Jennifer Casey</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gail Adams, Employee Administrator, Schulz Xtruded Products</li> </ul>
4:00 pm to 4:15 pm	<b>Wrap-up and Takeaways</b>