

AGENDA

Memphis, Tennessee

- 7:30am – 8:30am** **Registration** *(Continental breakfast provided)*
- 8:30am – 8:45am** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Chris Caldwell, Federal Co-Chairman, Delta Regional Authority
Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority
- 8:45am – 9:45am** **The Role of Workforce Development in Rural Economies**
Mark Goodman, CEcD, President of Goodman & Associates
Jay C. Moon, CEcD, FM, HLM, President and CEO, Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Workforce development and economic development are inextricably linked in the modern economy. To ensure the prosperity of rural economies, workers and employers must adapt to meet ever-changing demands and opportunities. In this session, participants will be exposed to the existing workforce challenges facing the Delta region and hear how continued investment in skills training and workforce development can reinvigorate rural economies.

- 9:45am – 10:00am** **Networking Break**
- 10:00am – 11:30am** **Industry-Driven Workforce Development in the Delta Region and Beyond**
Shari Franey, Chief Operating Officer, Hamilton-Ryker
Richard Heath, SPHR, Director of Training and Safety, Massey Electric Company
Kagan Coughlin, Co-Founder & Trustee, Base Camp Coding Academy
Bill Renick, WIOA Division Director, Three Rivers PDD
David Rousseau, Louisiana Operations Apprenticeship Tech Leader,
The Dow Chemical Company
Moderator: Jay C. Moon, CecD, FM, HLM, President and CEO,
Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Workforce development continues to be a critical component of comprehensive economic development policy. It is essential that workforce development practitioners, training providers, and industry develop a strategic approach to educating and training the next generation of workforce to meet the needs of the 21st century economy. This session provides examples of existing workforce development programs in the Delta region and around the country aimed at improving workforce outcomes and rural economies.

- 11:30am – 12:00pm** **Q&A with the Morning Presenters**
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm** **Lunch**

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12:20pm—1:00pm

Introduction to Registered Apprenticeship

William A. “Bill” Kraus, State Director (GA), U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship

The Registered Apprenticeship (RA) system has been used to meet the needs of America’s skilled workforce for almost a century. The nation’s oldest earn-and-learn model has been utilized across industry sectors to train the next generation of skilled tradesman in both traditional and non-traditional fields of work. In this session, participants will learn how RA programs provide workers with the opportunity to seek high-skilled, high-paying jobs and how employers implement these programs to build a pipeline of qualified workers in their local communities.

1:00pm – 2:15pm

DOL’s Workforce Opportunity in Rural Communities (WORC) Grant Program: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

In this session, representatives from the Delta Regional Authority will introduce the U.S. Department of Labor’s WORC Grant and provide a thorough overview of the funding opportunity to help participants develop competitive applications.

DRA’s Delta Workforce Grant Program: Request for Proposals (RFP)

Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

In this session, representatives from the Delta Regional Authority will introduce the agency’s DWP Grant and provide a thorough overview of the funding opportunity to help participants develop competitive applications.

2:15pm – 2:30pm

Networking Break

2:30pm – 4:50pm

Project Development and Stakeholder Collaboration

Various facilitators representing each DRA state

In this session, participants will breakout by state with their respective community/county/regional area to discuss how to build an effective workforce development program, how to scale, and how to create a strong workforce pipeline attractive for existing businesses, industry expansion and relocation, and prospective residents alike.

4:50pm – 5:00pm

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Aury Kangelos, Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority

5:00pm

Adjourn

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