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**Session III: Cultivating a Ready Workforce**

**February 10-11, 2020**

**Wednesday, February 10***\*\*All Times Eastern\*\**

**Morning Session**

9:00 – 9:15 am **Welcome & Opening**

9:15 – 9:30 am **Coffee Talk***Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville*

9:30 – 10:30 am **Breakout Discussion: Medicine Wheel, Work Styles**

*Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact*

10:30 – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **The Covid-19 Labor Market Rebound: When, How, and For Whom**

*Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, Associate Professor of Economics, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Former White House Senior Labor Economist and member of the Federal Workforce Policy Advisory Board*

**Afternoon Session**

1:45 – 2:00 pm **Coffee Talk***Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville*

2:00 – 3:00 pm **National and Regional Trends in Ready Workforce**

*Dr. Katie Cahill, Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy*

*Dr. Tim Ezzell,* *Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**

3:15 – 4:30 pm **The Role of Education in Economic Development and Ready Workforce**

*Dr. Erin Hardin, ASPIRE: Appalachian Students Promoting the Integration of Research in Education*

*Dr. Courtney Taylor, Executive Director of The Communiversity & Workforce Development, East Mississippi Community College*

*Dr. Celeste Carruthers, Editor-in-Chief of Economics of Education Review*

*Moderated by: Dr. Tim Ezzell,* *Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

4:30 – 5:30 pm **Breakout Discussion: Creating New Narratives**

*Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville*

**Thursday, February 11***\*\*All Times Eastern\*\**

**Morning Session**

9:00 – 9:05 am **The Day Ahead** *Jessica Mosley, Program Manager, Appalachian Leadership Institute*

9:05 – 9:20 am**Coffee Talk**

*Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact*

9:20 – 10:20 am**Jeopardy: Appalachia Edition**

10:20 – 10:40 am **Break**

10:40 am – 12:00 pm **Organizations Leading the Way**

*Nick Erwin, Director of Human Resources, Bellisio Foods, Inc..*

*Faith Knutsen, Director of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (Ohio)  
Jeff Whitehead, Executive Director, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) (Kentucky)*

*Moderated by: Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville*

**Afternoon Session**

2:00 – 3:00 pm **Book Discussion: Hollowing Out The Middle**

*Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact*

3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**

3:15 – 5:45 pm **Team Challenge:** **Discovering Blue Oceans**

*Dr. Tim Ezzell,* *Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*