



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL SUMMIT

2024

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL SUMMIT

THE POWER & POTENTIAL OF EARN AND
LEARN PROGRAMS

APRIL • 5 • 2024 | ROUND ROCK, TX





ABOUT SUMMIT

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY REGIONAL SUMMIT

Expanding Opportunity, a Central Texas Regional Summit, is a biennial event that brings together elected, policy and community leaders from across the five county Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Area to explore how we can do a better job of improving access to economic opportunity for individuals and families in the region.

HOW CAN EARN AND LEARN PROGRAMS ENSURE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY?

The 2024 Central Texas Regional Summit on Expanding Opportunity will explore how we can develop our local workforce through “earn & learn” and other up-skilling programs that help job-seekers connect with local opportunities and our community meet its workforce needs in high-need and high-demand industries. “Earn & learn” programs are work-based learning opportunities: in which participants are paid while they receive training in that industry; and that can, in some instances, lead to permanent employment for the participant.

SUMMIT GOALS

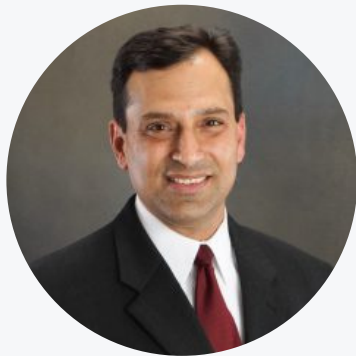
- Create a clearer sense of shared challenges and opportunities
- Increase awareness of the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate efforts
- Highlight collaborations already happening; and
- Foster new connections, ideas and actions to create an economically inclusive future for all people.

8:30 AM	REGISTRATION
9:00 AM	WELCOME Raul Alvarez, CAN Executive Director Craig Morgan, Round Rock Mayor
9:05 AM	A SPOTLIGHT ON ROUND ROCK
9:08 AM	WELCOME - AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Chris Cervini, Vice Chancellor- Community & Public Affairs
9:13 AM	WELCOME & SUMMIT OVERVIEW & PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS Liz Johnson, CAN Board Chair
9:20 AM	PANEL 1 - REGIONAL WORKFORCE PROFILE Tamara Atkinson, Workforce Solutions Capital Area Paul Fletcher, Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area
9:50 AM	OVERVIEW OF APPRENTICESHIPS MATERIALS & INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER Raul Alvarez, CAN Executive Director
9:55 AM	WOMEN AND PARENTS IN THE WORKFORCE Travis Evans, Young Invincibles
10:25 AM	PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS Raul Alvarez, CAN Executive Director
10:30 AM	PANEL 2: MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF "EARN & LEARN" PROGRAMS Aurora Geis, New Apprenticeship Eric Meija, Jail to Jobs Ron Modesty, Capital IDEA Dr. Todd Sherron, Texas State University
11:40 AM	TABLE TALK & REPORT OUT
11:55 AM	LUNCH
12:20 PM	EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT Sam Dowdy Sr., Dowdy Group Dr. Lindsie Almquist, Dowdy Group
12:50 PM	CLOSING REMARKS & EVALUATION

SUMMIT AGENDA



BIOGRAPHIES



RAUL ALVAREZ

Community Advancement Network
Executive Director

Raul has served as the Executive Director of the Community Advancement Network (CAN) since 2015. CAN is a network of 25 government and non-profit agencies collaborating to address critical needs and advance overall well-being in our community. Raul served as an Austin City Council member from 2000-2006. After serving on the City Council, Raul was elected to serve on the ACC Board of Trustees. He also has served: on the Capital Metro Board of Directors; on the Electric Utility Commission; as Chair of the Early Childhood Council; as Co-chair of the Anti-Displacement Task Force; and as Co-Chair of the MBK Scholars Program. He is the board president of the East Austin Conservancy, an organization working to address displacement of residents in Central East Austin. Prior to CAN, Raul worked for Austin ISD as an Administrative Supervisor in the Office of Teaching and Learning. Raul holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University and a Master of Science in Community/Regional Planning from the University of Texas.

LIZ JOHNSON

St. Edward's University Senior Director of External Affairs
CAN Board Chair

Liz advances relationships between Saint Edward's University and greater Austin, all in support of the institution's mission to enhance students' knowledge and skills, as well as serve and engage with the broader community. She serves as the primary liaison between community members, elected officials, businesses and non-profits. Through this role, Liz provides a strategic linkage between industry and workforce talent needs and the university's investments in forming future leaders and thinkers. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in health administration as well as an MBA from St. Edward's University. Liz also serves as a board member for Lone Star Circle of Care.



MAYOR CRAIG MORGAN

Round Rock Mayor

Craig Morgan was elected to serve as Mayor of Round Rock in May 2017. Morgan, a Round Rock attorney, has been an active member in the Round Rock community. He currently serves on the St. David's Round Rock Medical Center Board of Trustees, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board (CAMPO) and is a member of the Rotary Club of Round Rock. Additionally, Morgan attends the Fellowship at Forest Creek in Round Rock.

He is a Leadership Round Rock graduate and has previously served on the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Chasco Family YMCA board of directors and the Leadership Round Rock Planning Board. Additionally, Morgan served as a Commissioner on the Round Rock Planning and Zoning Commission, is a former member of the Ridgeview Middle School PTA and served as a member of the Round Rock Charter Review Commission in 2007. In 2020, Morgan was selected as the Round Rock Chamber's Citizen of the Year. That same year, he was awarded the Greater Round Rock Community Foundation's Innovation in Philanthropy Award. He was recognized for these awards for his leadership in spearheading the Round Rock Cares initiative, a public-private partnership to help small businesses at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BIOGRAPHIES



PAUL FLETCHER

CEO of Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Paul Fletcher is the Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area, the nonprofit community partnership providing no cost recruitment, employment services and childcare assistance, to businesses and job seekers in Central Texas. This nine-county region includes Bastrop; Blanco; Burnet; Caldwell; Fayette; Hays; Lee; Llano; and

Williamson counties. He has been in this role since July 2017, after spending the previous 20 years as the workforce center operator for the 9-county Rural Capital Area. Paul graduated high school in Sugar Land, Texas and is a Business Administration graduate of Abilene Christian University. Paul currently serves as the President for WinTexas which is the state association of workforce boards.

TAMARA ATKINSON

CEO of Workforce Solutions Capital Area and
CAN Board Vice Chair



Ms. Atkinson is responsible for strategic alignment and performance of all operations within the organization, as well as external relations with community leaders, elected officials, and national education and workforce entities. She manages a board of directors comprised of 29 public/private sector representatives from across Travis County. Ms. Atkinson has served Workforce Solutions for 24 years. The Workforce Solutions board of directors, local leaders, and staff facilitate the Hire Local Plan, which aims to create career pathways for all Austin/Travis County residents. She holds her undergraduate degree from The UT at Austin, and a Master of Arts in Linguistics from UNT, later leading an English language school in North Africa for five years.



DR. CHRIS CERVINI

Vice Chancellor- Community & Public Affairs

Chris is responsible for engaging ACC's external stakeholders to create deeper connections between the college and community. Chris works with elected leaders at the local, state, and federal levels; local community-based organizations; and other stakeholders, to advocate for the college and its students. In his current role, he oversees the Center for Nonprofit Studies (Nonprofit Austin), ACC's elections and voter

registration efforts, its community engagement and public affairs activities, and the Military Families Center. He received his doctorate in higher education leadership at the University of Texas at Austin, has a master's degree in political science from The American University in Washington, D.C., and received his bachelor's degree in political science and journalism/mass communications from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

BIOGRAPHIES



TRAVIS EVANS

Young Invincibles
Southern Regional Director

As the Regional Director, Travis is responsible for leading the regional strategy for organizing, campaigns, policy work, and young adult leadership programs. He has a 12 year track record in non profits in specialized areas - from a focus on early childhood education, school age programs, youth and young adult development, social emotional support, health/wellness, and education programs in over 7 states. He previously served as the Director of Workforce Readiness for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston. As Director, he is responsible for all operational responsibility and partnership developments for creating Workforce Pathways for youth. He leads and supports program development, implementation, and budget management of the workforce pathways.

SAM DOWDY SR.

Sam Dowdy, Owner at S&D Plumbing, LLC



Sam is the visionary founder of Craftsman Center for the Trades, a place where the art of expert craftsmanship has been redefined. With 50 years of experience in the plumbing trade, Sam started out as an apprentice and went on to become the founder and visionary of his own residential plumbing company, S & D Plumbing. Drawing from this rich background, he established Craftsman Center, a testament to his passion for educational advancement in the trades. Through his hard work and dedication, Sam has made Craftsman Center a symbol of innovation and excellence, setting new standards for the world of skilled workmanship. His extensive work experience has been instrumental in shaping the future of this remarkable institution.

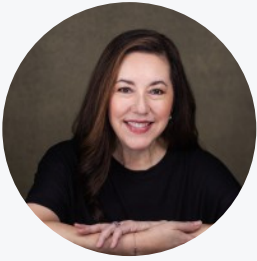


DR. LINDSIE ALMQUIST

President of Craftsman Center

Dr. Almquist proudly led, empowered, and served in public education as an Educator, Assistant Principal, Elementary, Middle, & High School Principal, Human Capital Director & Executive Director/Area Superintendent. She is currently the President of Craftsman Center, a non-profit trades school with a DOL consortium model for pre-apprentices and apprentices in the great state of Texas. She is also the Chief Culture Officer of Coppera, a Commercial Plumbing that is the sister company of S&D Residential Plumbing. Both companies are a part of the Dowdy Group family. She is an Adjunct Professor, Executive Coach, Public Speaker, Mentor, Advisory Board member and serves in children's ministry. She's an honored co-author of "The Impact of Influence Volumes 5 & 6" & most recently "It's Not About Me". She attended Texas A&M, Texas State & then attended The University of Texas Cooperative Superintendency Program where she graduated with her Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy.

BIOGRAPHIES



AURORA GEIS

New Apprenticeships
VP of National Partnerships, Head Coach

Aurora oversees National, Regional, and Local Workforce Partnerships, Grant Acquisitions, and Performance Coaches. Aurora is responsible for ensuring a national grant strategy with DOL Intermediaries to lower the cost of apprenticeship adoption providing clear operational standards and consulting to guide a highly effective performance coaching system to support our Employers and Workforce Partners. Aurora joined New Apprenticeship in 2016 as the Head Coach. She joined the National Grants team in 2019. Prior to joining New Apprenticeship, Aurora served in a variety of leadership roles including a Chief Operating Officer for a Digital Marketing start-up, Senior Credit Officer and Membership Officer for a Credit Union, Chairman of the Board for an Energy Company, and Director of Fannie Mae to expand affordable housing strategy. Aurora is the founder of A GO Strategy, LLC a Coaching and Consulting business since 2017, serving executive and mid-level managers to develop their leadership potential and that of their teams.

ERIC MEIJA

Jail to Jobs, Program Director

Eric has been working with troubled youth for the last 30 years. He believes one-on-one mentorship is the best way to help young people find their purpose and passion for life. After working with 1000's of young people I have learned that hope and a sense of Future is very transformative to a young person.



RON MODESTY

Capital IDEA
Sr. Employer Coordinator

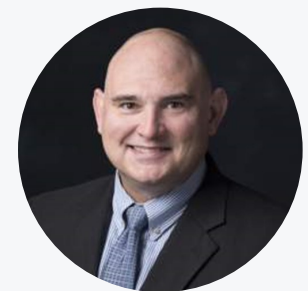


Ron will soon be celebrating his 25th year at Capital IDEA. Ron provides direct service to the community through outreach, recruitment, and placement for adults completing their training with local training providers. Each year, he works with over 100 Capital IDEA students, preparing them to conduct professional job searches prior to their graduation. To date, he has worked with over 2000 graduates to identify and successfully attain employment.

DR. TODD SHERRON

Texas State University
Associate Professor / Prior Learning Assessment Coordinator

Dr. Sherron is a native Texan who earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Southwest Texas State University, and his doctorate degree from the University of North Texas in Applied Technology, Training/Development, and Econometrics. Before joining Texas State University, Dr. Sherron is an associate professor of practice, and serves as the credit for prior learning (CPL) coordinator for Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies. As a principal investigator, Dr. Sherron has led a number funded initiatives dedicated to serving working adults, veterans, and service members. He was the recipient of the 2020 Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Adult Learner Impact Award and was recognized for the Above & Beyond Award for outstanding contributions to and support of student veterans at Texas State University, Veterans Alliance of Texas State, Student Diversity and Inclusion.





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

Community Advancement Network is a partnership of government, non-profit, private and faith-based organizations who work together to enhance the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Central Texas. CAN provides a unique, collaborative forum to enhance awareness of issues, strengthen partnerships connect efforts across issue area, and facilitate development of collaborative strategies.

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SCAN THE QR CODE
TO PROVIDE
FEEDBACK ON
TODAY'S SUMMIT!

