

Plenary Sessions

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

9:00–10:00 Plenary Session: Expanding Opportunities



Adine Forman has over 30 years of managerial experience with Los Angeles based social service, workforce development and governmental organizations. She is currently the Executive Director of the Hospitality Training Academy (HTA), a non-profit institution and a labor-management partnership/Taft-Hartley fund that provides benefits to both contributing employers and the UNITE HERE Local 11 labor union, serving Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties and the entire State of Arizona.

The HTA trains and upgrades the skills of UNITE HERE Local 11 hospitality and food service workers, who are predominantly women and people of color, and hail from all corners of the planet. The HTA works not only to upskill existing employees that are represented by the union, but also provides a variety of workforce services, registered apprenticeships, vocational ESL, and training programs that are funded by foundations and government agencies to train homeless, justice-involved, foster youth, veterans, transgender, and low income, marginalized individuals for good union jobs with benefits, career pathways and worker voice.



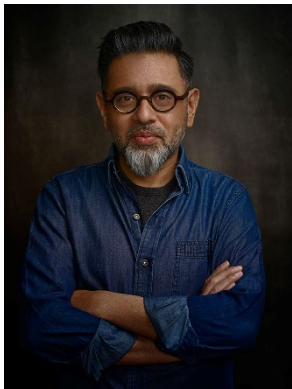
Mr. Joseph Quintana joined United American Indian Involvement in the fall of 2015 to lead the organization's new development projects. During this time he has increased the visibility of the organization, developed new partnerships while maintaining existing ones, and has been involved in the diversification of funding sources. Mr. Quintana's work has improved the health outcomes of community members, and his work on the Native American Employment and Training Council has ensured that education and training will increase the economic health of Native people in Southern California. Joseph and his family are active participants in the LA Native community, where he has also served the LA Mayors' office, the LA Travel Commission, and the COVID-19 Advisory Community Council.



Nicole Schwartz is the Executive Director of TradesFutures and leads with ample experience in education and workforce development. Most recently, Schwartz served as North America’s Building Trades Union’s (NABTU) Apprenticeship Readiness Program Coordinator, overseeing nearly 200 ARP programs across the U.S. in conjunction with state and local Building and Construction Trades Councils and their partner community-based organizations.

Prior to her time at TradesFutures, Nicole spent nearly a decade educating youth as a High School and Middle School Social Studies and Spanish Teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Outside of the classroom, Nicole worked on several initiatives, including Restorative Practices, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and Potter’s Forest – Ropes and Challenge Course. After moving to DC in 2015, Nicole worked as a Pastry Cook and Urban Farmer before deciding to focus her efforts on workforce development and broadening pathways to family-sustaining careers for all.

Nicole graduated with a BA from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in International Affairs and Spanish for the Professions in 2004. In 2007, Nicole received her Master’s in Education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.



An activist and community organizer, **Saket Soni** is the executive director of Resilience Force, which organizes migrant workers to clean up natural disasters. He is recognized as a national expert on post-disaster economies, immigrant rights, and the future of work. Saket was profiled as an “architect of the next labor movement” in *USA Today*, and has testified before Congress, and at the United Nations. His advocacy efforts have been featured in *The New Yorker*, *TIME Magazine*, and on NPR and the front page of *The New York Times*. His writings have appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Hill*, *The Nation*, *Latino Journal*, *Talking Points Memo*, and CNN.com.

Saket rose to national prominence by directing a people’s campaign to free 500 Indian workers who were coerced into coming to the U.S. and forced into labor camps. His account of the heroic efforts of the Indian workers, and himself, are the subject of his forthcoming book, *THE GREAT ESCAPE*.



Dr. Corey Wiggins was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2022, to serve as Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman. Nominated by President Biden on December 15, 2021, Wiggins became the fifth DRA Federal Co-Chairman to serve in the position.

A native of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, Chairman Wiggins most recently served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President of Policy at Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union. He also served as Executive Director of the Mississippi Economic Policy Center and as Director of the Hope Policy Institute, where he focused on strengthening communities, building assets, and improving lives in economically distressed parts of the Midsouth.

In addition, Wiggins served as a Barbara Jordan Health Policy Fellow in the United States Senate and as a policy analyst for the Mississippi Legislature Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Committee. Wiggins also held the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management at Jackson State University.

Chairman Wiggins completed his undergraduate studies with a B.S. in Biology from Alcorn State University. He received a M.S. in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Policy and a Ph.D. in Health Promotion and Health Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Additionally, he has a certificate of nonprofit leadership from Boston College and has furthered his training through fellowships with the Kaiser Family Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Since 2005, **Janet Murguía** has served as President and CEO of UnidosUS (formerly known as National Council of La Raza)—the nation’s largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization. In that role, Murguía has sought to strengthen UnidosUS’s work and enhance its record of impact as a vital American institution. Murguía has also work to amplify the Latino voice on issues affecting the Hispanic community such as education, health care, immigration, civil rights, and the economy.

Murguía began her career in Washington, DC as legislative counsel to former Congressman Jim Slattery from her home state, Kansas. She worked with Congressman Slattery for seven years before joining the Clinton administration, where she served for six years as a deputy assistant to President Clinton, including deputy director of legislative affairs.

After serving in the Clinton administration, Murguía went on to serve as deputy campaign manager and director of constituency outreach for the Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign where she was the primary liaison between former Vice President Gore and national constituency groups. In 2001, Murguía joined the University of Kansas (KU) as Executive Vice Chancellor for University Relations, where she oversaw KU’s internal and external relations with the public. She is credited for coordinating the university’s strategic planning and marketing efforts at the four KU campuses. Over the course of her career, Murguía has been featured in various magazines and newspapers for her work and leadership. This includes being highlighted on Hispanic Business Magazines’ "100 Top Latinas" and "100 Most Influential Hispanics" lists, Washingtonian magazine’s “100 Most Powerful Women in Washington,” The

NonProfit Times's list of top 50 leaders of "Power and Influence," People En Español's "100 Most Influential Hispanics," Newsweek's Third Annual Women and Leadership issue, Poder magazine's "The Poderosos 100," Latino Leaders magazine's "101 Top Leaders of the Hispanic Community," and Hispanic magazine's "Powerful Latinos." Murguía was also the first Hispanic to give the keynote speech at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast in Birmingham, Alabama. Murguía also received Alpha Phi's Frances E. Willard Award in 2018. In 2019 Murguía was inducted into the Starr Women's Hall of Fame which recognizes Kansas City women who have made significant and enduring contributions to their fields of endeavor and helped open new frontiers for women. Murguía is currently a Board member of the Clinton Foundation, and the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility. She also serves as a member of Diversity Advisory Councils for Bank of America, Charter Communications, Comcast/NBC Universal, and Wells Fargo. She received three degrees from KU: a B.S. degree in journalism, a B.A. degree in Spanish, and a J.D. degree from the KU School of Law. She has also received several honorary degrees—a Doctor of Humane Letters from California State University, Dominguez Hills, an honorary Doctor of Laws from Wake Forest University, and an honorary Doctor of Laws from Williams College.

1:30–2:30 Plenary Session: Future of Work



Economist **Byron Auguste** is the co-founder and CEO for Opportunity@Work – an organization shaping business practices and public policy to rewire the U.S. labor market. Opportunity@Work launched the ["Tear the Paper Ceiling"](#) Ad Council campaign with 50+ national partners to connect employers with the 70+ million STARS – U.S. workers who are Skilled Through Alternative Routes (STARS), rather than a bachelor's degree. [Opportunity@Work partnered with Maryland](#) to enact a first-in-the-nation executive order to remove degree requirements and hire STARS - a move that has been [endorsed by the National Governors Association](#) and the [many states that have followed suit](#) - including Utah, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and more.

Byron served as White House economic policy advisor in the Obama Administration, and advised Fortune 500 companies at McKinsey & Company, where he led the firm's social sector practice. He also serves on the National Advisory Council on Innovation & Entrepreneurship (NACIE), advising U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo on national competitiveness and talent.

Byron's expertise on the labor market and business case for STARS has been featured in [the New York Times](#), Wall Street Journal, [Washington Post](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), and [NBC's Today Show](#), and he's been invited to speak by the Federal Reserve, Brookings Institute, World Economic Forum, and more.



Maria Flynn is president and CEO of JFF, a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems.

Maria's commitment to JFF's vision of equitable economic advancement for all and her leadership in workforce policy have made her a national authority on the future of work, the role of technology in the labor market, career pathways for learners and workers underserved by the education and workforce systems, and employer engagement.

As CEO, she has strengthened JFF and overseen a period of unprecedented growth as it has evolved into a leading-edge organization.

Before joining JFF in 2007, she was a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service. In the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, she oversaw the development of policies for training programs, supervised the agency's research and evaluation strategy, and managed the development of its \$12 billion annual budget.

With three decades of experience and a reputation as an expert on workforce development, Maria is frequently invited to speak at national events, and is regularly interviewed by major news organizations.

She has also been recognized by the Commonwealth Institute and the Boston Globe Magazine as CEO of one of the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, most recently in 2021.



Joseph Fuller is Professor at the Harvard Business School. He oversees two ongoing research projects on the future of work, Harvard Business School's Managing the Future of Work Project and Harvard University's Project on the Workforce. Fuller has published extensively on the various forces affecting the evolution of work, including technology, demographics, the skills gap, the care economy, and the role of AI in distorting labor market outcomes. He has also written extensively on education-to-employment transitions, ranging from the effectiveness of various college to career programs, the relationship between businesses and community colleges and the effectiveness of apprenticeship programs. Joe is a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Business School. He is a Trustee of Western Governors University, a director of PVH Corporation, Aera Technology and Helios Consulting and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.



Livia Lam is a program officer on the Future of Work(ers) team. She leads the policy portfolio, which aims to support new policies and regulations at the federal, state, and local levels that increasingly protect worker rights and advance social protections.

Livia brings over two decades of experience developing and shaping economic policies to successful implementation. She has served more than 10 years in Congress, including as U.S. Senator Patty Murray’s legislative director and as senior labor policy advisor for the Committee on Education and Labor chairman George Miller. Here, she was the key architect and champion of a legislative proposal to reauthorize the nation’s federal job training programs, which led to the successful passage of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act.

In the Senate, Livia served as a labor policy advisor for the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee chairs, Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Tom Harkin. She began her career in Congress as outreach director and legislative assistant to Senator Maria Cantwell.

Livia’s extensive policy background also includes researching education and labor issues at the Center for Work-Life Policy and the Learning Policy Institute. As a resident senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, her work on redesigning workforce policy has been published in the *California Law Review*, *Market Watch*, *The Hill*, *Real Clear Policy*, *Morning Consult* and *Law360*.

She has also led government affairs in both the private and the public sector on federal policy. Livia was deputy director for Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor under President Barack Obama, a senior vice president at the public affairs consulting firm Strategies 360, and senior manager of community and government affairs at SEIU 775.

Livia holds a PhD in public and urban policy from The New School and a masters in public administration from Seattle University.



Randi Weingarten is president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, a union of 1.7 million teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators. The AFT is dedicated to the belief that every person in America deserves the freedom to thrive, fueled by opportunity, justice and a voice in our democracy.

Prior to her election as AFT president in 2008, Weingarten served for 11 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and

education. Weingarten taught history at Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn’s Crown Heights neighborhood from 1991 to 1997, and helped her students win several state and national awards debating constitutional issues.

Weingarten was included in *Washingtonian*’s 2021 Washington’s Most Influential People, and in 2013, the *New York Observer* named Weingarten one of the most influential New Yorkers of the past 25 years.

Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She worked as a lawyer for the Wall Street firm of Strock & Strock & Lavan from 1983 to 1986. She is an active member of the Democratic National Committee and numerous professional, civic, religious and philanthropic organizations. Born in 1957 and raised in Rockland County, N.Y., Weingarten now resides in the Inwood neighborhood of New York City.



Chauncy Lennon, Ph.D., is the New York-based vice president for learning and work and senior strategy advisor at Lumina Foundation, an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. He leads Lumina's community college strategy to equitably expand access to high-quality short-term credentials and associate degrees.

He came to Lumina in 2018 after nearly five years as the managing director for workforce strategy at [JPMorgan Chase & Co.](#), where he drove the firm's \$350 million investment in philanthropic initiatives. He previously managed portfolios at the [Ford Foundation](#) related to economic advancement and workforce development.

He serves on the board of the City University of New York Research Foundation and is a board observer of two education technology firms: [Beam](#), a cloud-based platform providing equitable and fast delivery of education and public benefits programs, and [Noodle](#), the nation's fastest-growing online higher education network.

Lennon is a graduate of [Williams College](#) and holds a doctorate in anthropology from Columbia University. He taught urban studies at [Barnard College](#) and Columbia's [School of International and Public Affairs](#).



Kaitlyn Dowsett is a second-year student in the Classroom Academy Program in New York. While working as a full-time Student Apprentice, she has completed her dual certification for Childhood and Special Education 1-6. The Classroom Academy Program has allowed Kaitlyn the opportunity to work alongside experienced teachers where she is able to hone in on the important skills needed to be a successful teacher. Over the course of two years, Kaitlyn has built strong connections with colleagues and students, while being able to implement daily lessons, classroom management skills, and differentiation in the classroom.

Kaitlyn has over a year's worth of experience working in a 6th-grade classroom, along with a 6-week experience in a 6:1:1 Learning Center classroom for 1st and 2nd graders at Sanford Street Elementary, Glens Falls, NY. Currently, she works at Mont Pleasant Middle School in Schenectady, NY, in a 6th grade Social Studies classroom, where she is able to implement the skills learned during her time in the program. Prior to becoming a Student Apprentice, Kaitlyn attended Siena College where she completed her BA in Psychology. While completing her degree, she played Division 1 Women's Lacrosse, until graduating in 2021. She uses her sports background to connect with students by attending games and cheering students on.