



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## *MLC Economic Development Committee*

Sunday, July 11 – Tuesday, July 13 | The Monument | Rapid City, South Dakota

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### Agenda

*Sen. Linda Holmes, Illinois, Co-Chair | Rep. Robert Wittke, Wisconsin, Co-Chair  
Rep. Ethan Manning, Indiana, Vice Chair*

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 11 | COMMITTEE MEETING | RUSHMORE HALL F (Upper Level)**

**3:00 – 3:10 p.m. Welcome and Introductions**

**3:10 – 3:55 p.m. Post-Pandemic Economic Development-Related Policy Challenges: Addressing Community Needs to Foster Economic & Workforce Development**

*A robust economy requires investment in essential community needs such as housing, childcare, internet access, community services, and quality of life amenities. In this time of renewed attention on how these factors can either impede or enhance meaningful development and workforce participation, this session will explore strategies for addressing these issues in a way that fosters growth and prosperity for the region's communities and families.*

*Presenters*

*Michael Horrigan, President, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research*

**3:55 – 4:15 p.m. Facilitated Roundtable Discussion: State and Provincial Strategies and Programs that Support the Workforce and Economic Development**

*Lead discussants:*

*Sen. Brad Bekkedahl, North Dakota*

*Sen. Jessica Castleberry, South Dakota*

*Sen. Dale Fowler, Illinois*

*Sen. Matt Hansen, Nebraska*

*Sen. Ken Horn, Michigan*

*Sen. Tina Maharath, Ohio*

*Rep. Mari-Lynn Poskin, Kansas*

*Sen. Annette Sweeney, Iowa*

*Facilitator:*

*Rep. Robert Wittke, Wisconsin; Chair, MLC Economic Development Committee*

**4:15 – 4:30 pm. Discussion of Committee Business**

**MONDAY, JULY 12 | COMMITTEE-SPONSORED POLICY SESSION | RUSHMORE HALL E**  
**(Upper Level)**

**10:45 a.m. - Noon    **The Future of Work and Employment in a Post-Pandemic Economy****

*The COVID-19 pandemic caused major economic and labor force disruptions in our communities and states, while also shining a new spotlight on long-standing challenges to economic growth and prosperity for all. What lessons have we learned in the past 18 months and what post-pandemic challenges lie ahead? This session will explore the future of work, persistent workforce challenges, prospects for a post-pandemic recovery, and public policies and practices that promote opportunities for growth.*

*Presenters:*

**Michael Horrigan**, President, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research  
**Ben Hammersley**, Futurist, Journalist and Technologist.

*Facilitator:*

**Sen. Linda Holmes**, Illinois; Chair, MLC Economic Development Committee

**TUESDAY, JULY 13 | CO-HOSTED COMMITTEE-SPONSORED POLICY SESSION | RUSHMORE**  
**HALL E (Upper Level)**

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.    **Vocational Education: Preparing Talent for High-Demand, High-Wage 21st Century Careers****

*In a session being led jointly by three MLC policy committees — Agriculture & Natural Resources, Economic Development, and Education — participants will explore policies and innovative models that foster greater collaboration among education and workforce systems with a goal of helping residents be ready become prepared to take advantage of promising careers in emerging and high-demand economic sectors. This session will explore the role of vocational education in helping workers to acquire new skills and adapt to changes in today's workplace, as well as highlight strategies for ensuring a nimble, demand-focused workforce.*

*Presenters:*

**Deni Amundson**, Program Manager, Build Dakota Scholarship  
**Laura Hasselquist**, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, South Dakota State University  
**Mark Pogliano**, Principal, Jackson Area Career Center. Michigan

*Facilitator:*

**Sen. Marci Francisco**, Kansas; Chair; MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee