Education at a Crossroads: A Call for Creative Policy and Action

Thanks for joining us! We will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. ET.

- Use the "questions" area to submit questions as they arise.
- This webinar will be archived at NROC.org.
  and you will receive a follow-up email with a link to the recording and slides.
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a conversation w/

DR. KATHERINE CASEY

DR. CASEY SACKS

THE NROC PROJECT
We cultivate relationships that empower an ever-increasing number of learners to take charge of their academic journeys.
Secondary
Postsecondary
Adult Education

Learner-centered
Equitable
Anywhere-Anytime
Responsive
Competency-based
Relevant
New models for Credentials
Alternative Assessments
Experiential
Integrated Programs of Study
Shared Data Systems
Lifelong Ecosystem
Education at a Crossroads: A Call for Creative Policy and Action

Our panelists today:

**Dr. Katherine Casey**
Co-author of *A Promise for Equitable Futures* (Aurora Institute, 2020)
Founder of imaginEDU

**Dr. Casey Sacks**
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges,
OCTAE
U.S. Department of Education
Before the COVID crisis, 4.6 Million young people 16 to 24—1 in 9—were disconnected from school and work.

Today, that number is estimated at 8 Million.

Our Challenge: COVID-19 Magnifies the Disconnection Crisis

- Interrupted educational pathways
- Experiences of disengagement or disillusionment in learning
- Health, mental health, and trauma-related needs
- Desire or need to learn and earn
Our Opportunity: A Promise for Equitable Futures

- How might we admit and advance learners of all ages through alternative and meaningful demonstrations / recognitions of learning?
- How might we develop learner-centered and personalized programs of study that integrate learning, community, and work?
- How might we deepen and sustain systems of mentorship and support that help learners to thrive?
Connecting Employment with Learning

Casey K. Sacks, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges
Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education
Today’s teenagers are less likely to have work experience than their counterparts from recent prior generations. The summer job that was once a rite of passage for most teenagers is now a minority experience.

Since 2000, there has been a drop in participation in the labor force by adolescents ages 16 to 19 of all races and ethnicities. It has occurred during the summer months... 

Low-income youth are less likely to be employed during the summer.

There are still a significant number of youth who want to work during the summer but can’t find a job. About one-fifth of Black and Hispanic youth were looking for a job this past July.

The drop in summer employment has coincided with an increase in youth enrollment in school during the summer.

School enrollment accounts for some of the decline in labor force participation by teens. What are other possible factors?

• Federal and state minimum wages increased sharply after 2005, pricing teenagers out of the job market.⁵

• Competition from older workers, immigrants, and college graduates for low-wage jobs also may have driven down labor force participation by adolescents.⁶
Impact of decreased youth labor participation

Students say in their first job:
- Learn what you don’t like
- Helps with budgeting
- Time management
- People skills
- Learn that skills are needed for promotion and high-wage occupations

Employers say new employees without work experience:
- Missing “soft-skills”
- Show up on time
- Look work appropriate
- Talk to your supervisor
- Collaborate with co-workers
- Be open to feedback
Expanding Work-based-learning RFI

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/02/2020-26483/request-for-information-on-expanding-work-based-learning-opportunities-for-youth
What’s your action item?
Some related resources:

- [A Promise for Equitable Futures: Enabling Systems Change to Scale Educational and Economic Mobility Pathways](https://example.com) by Katherine Casey and Susan Patrick (Aurora Institute Publication, October 2020)

- [Request for Information on Expanding Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Youth](https://example.com) (OCTAE opportunity due January 2021)


- [How the Pandemic Worsened — and Highlighted — Community Colleges' Chronic Challenges](https://example.com) by Lee Gardner (Chronicle for Higher Education, December 2020)

- [Tableau Graphic on Unemployment and Community College Enrollment](https://example.com) (December 2020)

- [The 60-Year Curriculum: A Strategic Response to a Crisis](https://example.com) by John Richards and Chris Dede (Educause Article, October 2020)
Special thanks to our presenters:

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Thank you for joining us!

You will receive a link to the recording and presentation assets, also available at NROC.org.