

Compete Connect

December 2024 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



Deborah L. Wince-Smith
President and CEO
Council on Competitiveness

As the Council on Competitiveness team heads into holiday break, I want to extend to our members and community a big “thank you” for the support and engagement over the past year.

And I am proud to share the latest manifestation of that support – our new, major policy report coming out from our flagship “National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers”: [*Competing in the Next Economy – Innovating in the Age of Disruption and Discontinuity.*](#)

This call-to-action documents more than 50 strategic recommendations to bolster U.S. innovation capacity and capability tenfold / 10X – with the recommendations organized in 7 competitiveness pillars:

PILLAR 1: Renewing 10x the Nation’s Strategic Vision for an Age of Technological Revolution and Geo-Strategic Challenge

PILLAR 2: Unleashing 10x the Most Competitive Business Climate for Innovation

PILLAR 3: Asserting 10x U.S. Global Leadership

PILLAR 4: Expanding 10x the Transition to Energy Abundance, Security, and Sustainability

PILLAR 5: Accelerating 10x Technology Development and Deployment at Speed and Scale

PILLAR 6: Empowering 10x Skilled Workforce

PILLAR 7: Expanding 10x Place-Making Innovation and Collaborative Innovation Networks

Stay tuned for additional background and supporting materials early in the new year – as we build out and launch our communications and engagement platform with the new Trump administration and 119th Congress. In the meantime, please find recommendations for sharing the new report on your social channels below.

We released this report at our 2024 National Competitiveness Forum (NCF), which brought together leaders from business, academia, labor, national laboratories, government, and the nonprofit community to explore a range of complex challenges and opportunities emerging and converging in the United States and around the world – from the future of the bioeconomy, to pathbreaking advancements in energy, to the power of transformative computing. The Honorable Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), provided a compelling keynote – documenting the agency’s progress in promoting innovation everywhere and opportunity for everyone.

I would also highlight a range of cross-cutting findings, themes, and take-aways from my perspective, based on the contributions of our members across an array of incredible panels and dialogues during the NCF:

- The United States must lead the world in innovation, not only for the good of the American people but for the good of the world. The U.S. open-source and market-based model of innovation produces the best technology by ensuring access to virtually unlimited capital and by rewarding innovators and investors. The history of innovation in America — from the computer to the internet to semiconductors — is a history of leading the world to a better place.
- Stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem must make a sustained and collective effort to advocate for innovation. As a nation, we must remember and reiterate the incredible value of our science and technology ecosystem. We must reassert the importance of investing in the full spectrum — basic research to innovation — to power our competitiveness and security.
- Partnerships are innovation’s lifeblood. And a quickly evolving technological landscape demands new partnership models based on a critical, core concept: radical collaboration. Radical collaboration has three key tenets: scale, urgency, and empowerment. Our nation must scale up the speed and scope of our collaborations, so that we can empower all partners to apply their unique skills and assets to address urgent challenges and seize opportunities.
- Place-making innovation rests on three foundational tenets: people, resources, and collaboration. We must invest in all three to establish successful, impactful, innovation ecosystems.
- There is broad-based agreement that we must (1) accelerate the speed of innovation and (2) broaden participation in innovation. One key lever that can contribute to both goals is a nationally distributed innovation infrastructure. When communities across the country have access to innovation infrastructure (e.g., national user facilities), a much broader set of people can join the innovation workforce pipeline.
- Accelerating innovation requires a more supportive and competitive policy environment. Our current environment is slow-moving and action averse. A more supportive policy regime would value speed and account for the cost of inaction, not just action. From permitting, to intellectual property protection, to federal collaborations, we must redesign our policy environment to support and accelerate innovation rather than slow it down.

As we move into 2025, the Council is excited to help shape the nation’s dialogue on competitiveness priorities by leveraging our new report. I am also honored to announce our exciting “Competitiveness Conversations Across America” series is expanding in the coming next year – building off of three strong editions this year, taking us to more regions in our great country to explore best and “next” innovation practices. Please take a look at our [Competitiveness Conversations landing page to track where we are headed – and plan to join us in some of these important regional summits.](#)

The momentum the Council has built in 2024 will serve to turbocharge 2025, and I look forward to all of your taking part in building our exciting action agenda. Thank you for a great 2024, and have a wonderful holiday season and new year.

Warm regards,

Deborah Wince-Smith
President & CEO
Council on Competitiveness

Council News

The Council Bestows Its 2024 National Competitiveness Award to Brian Moynihan



Left to Right: The Honorable Deborah Wince-Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council on Competitiveness; Mr. Brian T. Moynihan, Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Bank of America and Chair, Council on Competitiveness.



Left to Right: Mr. Chad Holliday, Chair Emeritus, Council on Competitiveness and Chair, Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC); Mr. Brian T. Moynihan, Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Bank of America and Chair, Council on Competitiveness; The Honorable Deborah Wince-Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council on Competitiveness; Mr. Dan Helfrich, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Ms. Joan Gabel, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh.

At this year's National Competitiveness Forum Gala dinner, Brian Moynihan – Chair and CEO of Bank of America, and Chair of the Council on Competitiveness – received the 2024 National Competitiveness Award. This honor highlights Mr. Moynihan's sustained efforts over his career, as well as during his time as Council chair, to advance efforts and initiatives that support sustainability, resiliency, innovation, and competitiveness. In accepting the award, Mr. Moynihan outlined the tremendous innovation potential inherent in the United States, highlighting the nation's unparalleled higher education system, unique national laboratories, industrial capability, and robust capital markets.

Snapshots of the National Competitiveness Forum





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A Request: Sharing the Competing in The Next Economy Call To Action

Competing in the Next Economy

Innovating in the
Age of Disruption
and Discontinuity

A Call to Action

Help the Council share the new report!

Consider launching social posts tagging the Council on [X \(@CompeteNow\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Below are samples to use or customize. And if you have other ideas to collaborate on this, we are game!

Sample X post: .@CompeteNow has released a new, ambitious #innovation & competitiveness agenda for the country – w/ recs on how best to compete in an era of disruption & discontinuity. Read here: <https://compete.org/2024/12/05/competing-in-the-next-economy-innovating-in-the-age-of-disruption-discontinuity/> #CompetingInTheNextEconomy

Sample LinkedIn post: [The Council on Competitiveness](#) has released a new, ambitious policy and action agenda for the United States – with 50+ strategic recommendations to boost U.S. #innovation tenfold – 10X – in an era of disruption and discontinuity. Read the report here: <https://compete.org/2024/12/05/competing-in-the-next-economy-innovating-in-the-age-of-disruption-discontinuity/>

Why is this call to action needed now? The United States' long-term prosperity is built on the productivity of its people, capital, and natural resources. The Council's report provides recommendations for the United States to expand its innovation

capacity and capability across seven pillars — all intended to strengthen U.S. global competitiveness and dynamism.

#CompetingInTheNextEconomy

Council Community News

University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory Join Forces to Advance AI and Supercomputing

The University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory are partnering to create a cutting-edge facility for high-performance computing and AI research in Washtenaw County. This transformative initiative will enhance the university's capabilities in science, energy, and national security while creating new jobs and positioning Michigan as a leader in the growing AI and information economy. Dr. Santa J. Ono, President of the University of Michigan and National Commissioner for the Council on Competitiveness, highlighted the project's significance: "This partnership will sustain and strengthen the University of Michigan's excellence in research, innovation, and discovery. It will also create high-quality jobs and invigorate Michigan's place in the flourishing information economy." [Read more via The University Record.](#)

University of Texas San Antonio to Launch College of AI, Cyber and Computing



UTSA announced the fall 2025 launch of its College of AI, Cyber and Computing, a pivotal step in advancing innovation in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, computing, and data science. Anchored at the state-of-the-art San Pedro 1 Data Science Center, which also houses the National Security Collaboration Center, the college will prepare over 5,000 students for high-demand careers while solidifying San Antonio's role as a leader in critical infrastructure protection. USTA's continued

support of cybersecurity will be further explored in the upcoming [Competitiveness Conversation](#) in San Antonio, which will broadly focus on Texas' work in supporting critical infrastructure. [Read more on UTSA Today.](#)

Deloitte Releases Tech Trends 2025 Report



Mr. Dan Helfrich, Chair and CEO, Deloitte Consulting LLP, and Business Vice-Chair, Council on Competitiveness, announcing the 16th edition of Deloitte's Tech Trends 2025

Deloitte has released its sixteenth annual *Tech Trends* report: *Tech Trends 2025*. This report identifies artificial intelligence as an essential, yet almost invisible, foundational technology of the future. Much like electricity or the internet today, AI is poised to become seamlessly integrated into our lives, quietly powering smarter, faster, and more intuitive systems that we will simply take for granted. See what other innovations will quietly revolutionize industries and daily life in Deloitte's *Tech Trends 2025* list [here](#).

Council Executive Vice President Joins University of Minnesota President and Vice President at 2024 Corporate Engagement Dinner



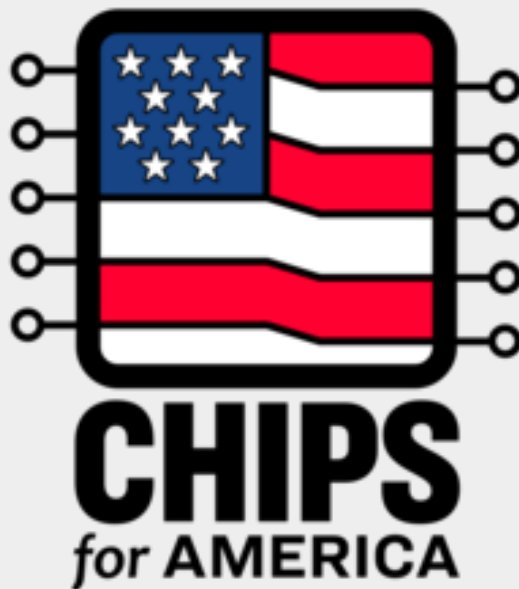
Left to Right: Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Council on Competitiveness; Dr. Shashank Priya, Vice President for Research, University of Minnesota

Council Executive Vice President Chad Evans participated in the University of Minnesota's latest Corporate Engagement Center Dinner – sharing with 100+ state public and private sector leaders the major findings from the Council's latest report, [*Competing in the Next Economy: Innovating in an Age of Disruption and Discontinuity*](#). Council member and University of Minnesota President Rebecca Cunningham keynoted the evening. She also participated in a panel moderated by Vice President Shashank Priya, focusing on the university's goals to launch a new strategic planning process in 2025.

"It was great for leadership from the Council on Competitiveness to visit Minnesota's innovation ecosystem, and to join us and share thoughts at our first annual dinner event. I think joint awareness is critical for Minnesota's success; we need to know what national leaders on competitiveness are thinking and how they are strategizing, and they need to know about the many unsung strengths and advantages we have here in the Upper Midwest so they can make more connections and drive more partnerships for us in Minnesota." **Dr. Shashank Priya**, Vice President for Research, University of Minnesota

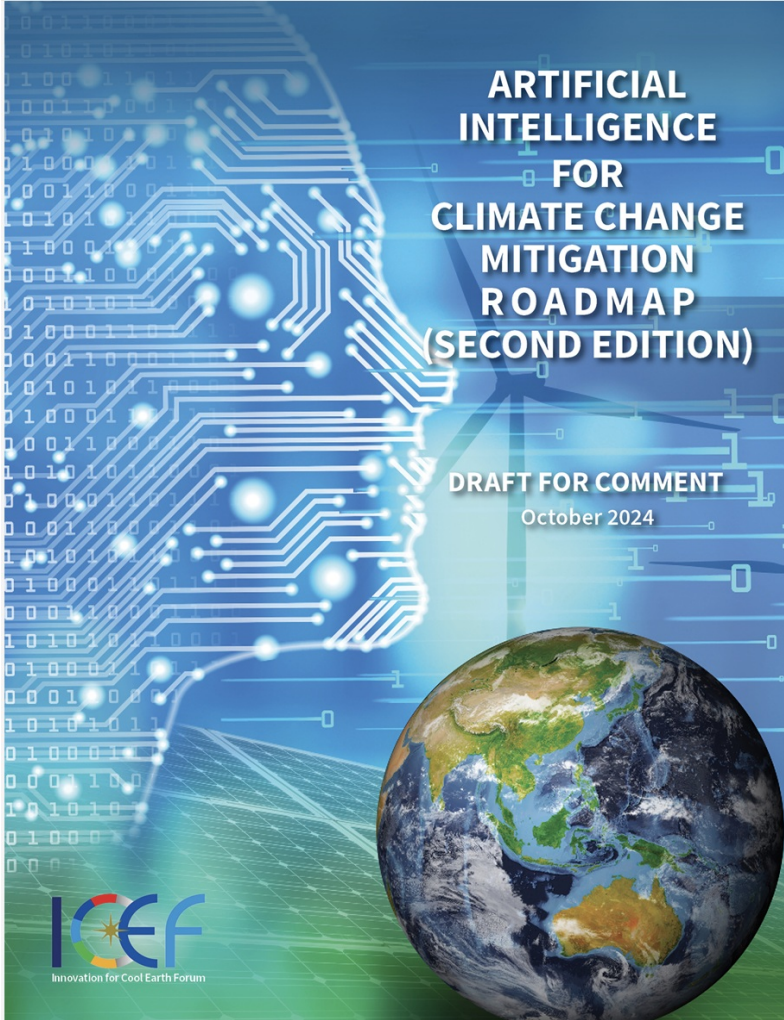
Other News and Updates

Major CHIPS Act Boost for U.S. Memory Chip Manufacturing



The Department of Commerce has awarded up to \$6.165 billion in CHIPS Act funding to Micron Technology to expand advanced Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) production facilities in Idaho and New York, part of a \$125 billion vision over two decades. This investment aims to boost U.S. advanced memory manufacturing from under 2 percent to 10 percent by 2035, creating 20,000 jobs and strengthening domestic supply chains for critical technologies, including AI and automotive systems. Additionally, the Commerce Department announced a preliminary agreement with Micron for \$275 million to modernize its Virginia facility, enhancing production of legacy DRAM chips vital for defense and industrial markets. These projects are part of the CHIPS for America initiative, managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce. [Read more on NIST's website here.](#)

[Balancing AI Growth with Sustainability: Strategies to Reduce Its Carbon Footprint](#)



The rapid growth of AI is driving significant increases in electricity demand at data centers. While AI currently accounts for a small fraction of global electricity use, its rapid expansion raises concerns about emissions from both energy consumption and data center construction. Strategies to reduce AI's carbon footprint include improving energy efficiency in hardware, optimizing training locations to access low-carbon power, and adopting carbon capture technologies. Interestingly, AI will also help discover solutions for balancing innovation with sustainability, as AI will help optimize power grids, make advances in material science, and other necessary innovations. [Read more on Carbon Direct's website here.](#)

America Drives Global Semiconductor Innovation Amid China's Challenges

America's leadership in advanced semiconductor technology continues to outpace global competition, cementing its dominance in critical sectors like AI, HPC, and automotive applications. Despite significant efforts by China to localize chip production and reduce reliance on foreign technology, American companies remain unmatched in delivering cutting-edge, reliable, and high-performance processors. Meanwhile, China's domestic chip industry faces hurdles, including limitations in advanced manufacturing, software development, and production scale, making it difficult to compete with American-made technology. Read a summary of the [DigiTimes report](#) on Tom's Hardware [here.](#)

From all of us at the Council on Competitiveness, Happy Holidays!

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