

Compete Connect

June 2024 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

Dear Council on Competitiveness
Community,

As we transition into the heat of the summer months and look forward to celebrating the July 4th weekend, the Council is in full gear on multiple fronts—from working with teams in [Idaho and the Mountain West](#) and the [Indiana-Illinois innovation corridor](#) on our next two editions of the Competitiveness Conversations series ([click the links to register; details below](#)); to planning our next meetings of the Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative (TLSI) , our National Commission Working Groups, and our University Leadership Forum; to reinvigorating the Council Fellows program; and, to planning the annual Gala Dinner and National Competitiveness Forum (December 2-3 at the Willard InterContinental in Washington, D.C.).

Among our ongoing efforts to advance these initiatives, we also hosted our Summer 2024 Meeting, which brought together members of the Board, Executive Committee, and National Commissioners. During the meeting, I was pleased to report that the "state of the Council" is strong. This is largely due to the active engagement of our members and that of Council's extensive community, and I would like to thank each of you for your support.

While reflecting on the insights shared during the Summer meeting, I am reminded of the critical importance of our mission to grow long-term productivity and inclusive prosperity for all Americans. The meeting served as a powerful reminder of the urgency of our work, as participants emphasized the growing global competition from China, and the mounting budgetary pressures that threaten critical funding for the science and innovation that helps keep America's economy humming.

During the Summer meeting, participants shared their insights and expertise on pressing issues facing the nation, including prioritizing and scaling the country's supercomputing and quantum capabilities, developing a national research strategy to focus resources on America's most critical competitiveness issues, and increasing federal investment in nuclear technology, particularly fusion. These recommendations will be available soon in a recap report from the meeting.

In addition to the Summer meeting, I was pleased to reconvene with our Council Fellows in early June. This group of experienced leaders from across industry, national laboratories, academia, and government is a tremendous asset to the Council. The group is engaged and ready to actively support our mission across multiple pathways, including the launch of a new thought leadership program that will debut in the coming months.

And, a final, sad note to share. We bid farewell earlier this month to a dear friend and colleague, President Michael Lovell of Marquette University. Michael, who cochaired the Council's University Leadership Forum, passed away on June 9 in Rome after a three-year battle with cancer. We share our deepest condolences with his family, friends, and colleagues at Marquette University. [Deeper reflections on President Lovell and his exceptional contributions to the Council community and United States competitiveness is shared on the Council website here.](#)

Once again, thank you for your engagement and involvement in the Council on Competitiveness. I am grateful for your energy, your ideas, and especially your partnership.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Deborah L. Wince-Smith
President & CEO
Council on Competitiveness

Council News



Join us for an in-depth exploration of the innovation landscape and future competitiveness trajectory for Idaho and the Mountain West, a region rapidly emerging as a national and global innovation hub. On August 6-8, we will gather leaders from across Idaho, the Mountain West, and the country for an immersive experience in Boise and on the Boise State University campus. Our hosts, Boise State University President Marlene Tromp, Idaho National Laboratory Director John Wagner, and Council President & CEO Deborah Wince-Smith, invite you to engage in thought-provoking discussions, tours of cutting-edge facilities, and opportunities to discover the “next” practices of innovation unfolding in the Mountain West.

[Register Today](#)



The Indiana-Illinois Competitiveness Conversation will explore the remarkable demonstration of regional collaboration that is likely to transform the world. Join hosts Mung Chiang, President of Purdue University, Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation for the University of Illinois System, Paul Kearns, Director of Argonne National Laboratory, and Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness for a one-day-long deep dive focused on how the heartland of America is quickly becoming a global epicenter of three transformational technologies: microelectronics, quantum science and computing, and advanced biosciences.

[Register Today](#)



SAVE THE DATE
**2024 Dinner & National
Competitiveness Forum**

December 2–3, 2024
The Willard Washington, D.C.



Join the Council on Competitiveness and its members from industry, academia, national laboratories, and labor unions for the Council's annual Gala Dinner on December 2 and the 2024 National Competitiveness Forum (NCF) on December 3 at the Willard InterContinental in Washington, D.C..

Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

**Council on Competitiveness President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith Keynoted
Aston University's Annual Charter Dinner in Birmingham, England**



From Left to Right: Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the United Kingdom; the Honorable Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President & CEO, Council on Competitiveness; Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, the United Kingdom; Prof. Aleks Subic, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive, Aston University

The Charter Dinner celebrates Aston University's proud and distinct heritage dating back to its formation as the School of Metallurgy in 1875 and receiving their Royal Charter in 1966. Throughout its history, Aston University—one of the newest members of the Council's sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils—has worked to create a place-based innovation ecosystem through strategic partnership and serving as a catalyst for impactful research, high-value business creation and inclusive growth. Ms. Wince-Smith focused her remarks on parallels and lessons learned from Birmingham, Belfast, and Pittsburgh—and identified areas for strategic, cross-Atlantic collaboration.

Council Community News

University of Michigan and Detroit Regional Chamber to Develop Cross-state Innovation Corridor



From Left to Right: Sandy Baruah, CEO, Detroit Regional Chamber and Santa Ono, President, University of Michigan

Photo Credit: Melissa Nann Burke/TNS

Michigan has taken a bold step to develop its innovation capacity. The University of Michigan President and Council Executive Committee member Santa Ono, and CEO and President of Detroit Regional Chamber and Council member Sandy Baruah announced the new cross-state collaboration to develop an innovation corridor from Ann Arbor to Detroit. This corridor, known as Innovate Michigan, is designed to attract financing for start-ups and grow a highly skilled workforce. The Honorable Sandy Baruah said this program is intended to be “a collaborative initiative that will encompass multiple entities across higher ed, the private sector, the civic sector, and philanthropy to move this forward.” [Read more here.](#)

University of Vermont Hosted Second Research, Innovation, Sustainability, and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Summit, Elevating the Importance of Place-based Innovation



On June 24-25, the University of Vermont (UVM) hosted the second edition of its annual rural partnership event, RISE, which was sponsored by UVM's Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships. Council Executive Committee Member Suresh Garimella, President of the University of Vermont, kicked off the event, which brought together researchers, entrepreneurs, and other problem solvers to discuss how rural development problems can best be tackled. As a part of this conversation, speakers and panelists explored issues around sustainability, education, and innovation among others. The conference highlights the importance of place-based innovation investments and development. [Read more here.](#)

University of Oklahoma President Harroz Positions Oklahoma as Leader on Responsible AI



Council Member and University of Oklahoma's President, Joseph Harroz Jr., is urging the state to seize the opportunity to become a leader in the development of

responsible AI. Rather than relying solely on coastal hubs, President Harroz envisions Oklahoma as a pioneer in AI innovation, attracting the jobs of the future and driving economic growth. Oklahoma has a unique advantage in this field, thanks to its National Institute for Research on Trustworthy AI in Weather, based at University of Oklahoma, which is the only one of its kind in the nation. [Read more here.](#)

The Fast Company Recognizes Dr. Mehmood Khan, CEO of Hevolution Foundation, as One of The Most Creative People in Business in 2024



In an exciting update, Fast Company has recognized Council Chair Emeritus and National Commissioner Dr. Mehmood Khan in their 2024 list of the most creative people in business. As Hevolution CEO, Dr. Khan has spearheaded the non-profit's efforts to provide "grants and investments in the field of healthspan science." Dr. Khan's remarkable work and leadership highlights the importance of continued innovation to solve society's greatest problems, and shows how effective leadership can drive powerful change. [Read more here.](#)

Other News and Updates

June 4 Now Recognized as National DRAM Day to Mark the New Trajectory of U.S. Semiconductor Leadership

Micron has taken a leading role in marking June 4 as National DRAM (National Dynamic Random-Access Memory) Day—a day to celebrate the tremendous progress America has taken in revitalizing its semiconductor industry, largely made possible through funding from the CHIPS and Science Act. Governors of Idaho, New York, and Virginia have made National DRAM Day a part of their official calendars. The day serves as a remembrance for the inventor of DRAM, Dr. Robert Dennard, who first obtained a patent with IBM for DRAM technology on June 4, 1968. [Read more here.](#)

Artificial Intelligence Will Drive Up Electricity Demand for Data Centers

Projections for New Energy Demand in North America Doubles

9-year growth forecast for demand for new electricity (1,000 GW hours)



Source: North American Electric Reliability Corporation Long Term Reliability Assessment, 2017-2023.



There is an increasingly urgent need to adapt more efficient forms of power generation for the country. According to the Electric Power Research Institute, “data centers could consume 9 percent of the United States’ electricity generation by 2030—double the amount consumed today.” This increase in demand will primarily be driven by the increased computational power needed for artificial intelligence systems, as AI queries demand approximately ten times the amount of electricity compared to traditional internet searches. [Read more here.](#)

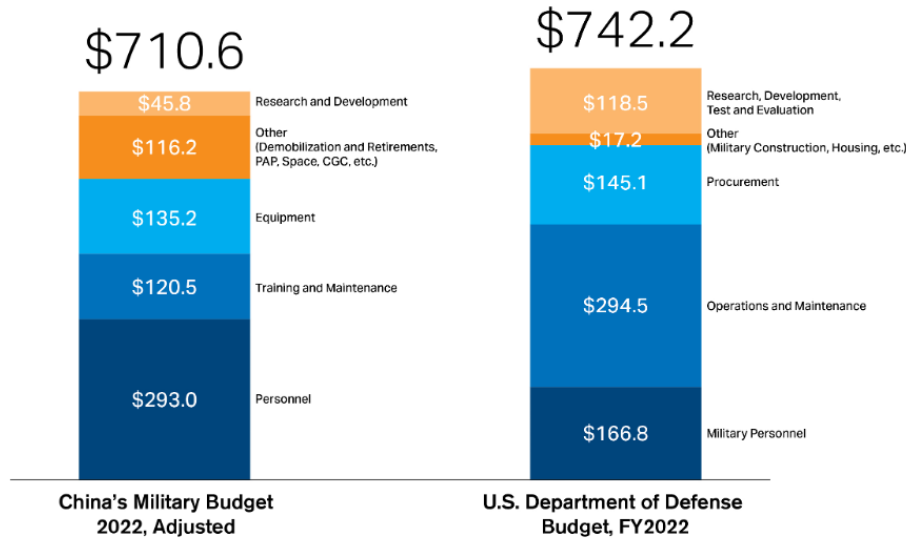
HBCUs Provide More Access to Higher Education for Lower-Income Students and Foster Greater Upward Mobility Than Most American Colleges

Despite both comprising a smaller proportion of US colleges and receiving less funding relative to their peers, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs) have been able to produce extremely positive results across the country. A study from the Institute of Labor Economics found that HCBUs both provide more education to lower-income students and promote greater upward mobility compared to their peer institutions. In fact, “about 30 percent of HBCU students will move up at least two income quintiles from their parents by age 30. This is nearly double that of non-HCBUs, where only 18 percent will do so.” [Read more here.](#)

China Responds to CHIPS Act With \$47.5 Billion in Semiconductor Investments in “Big Fund III”

When Accounting for Economic Differences and Hidden Expenditures, China's Military Spending is Nearly Equal to the United States' (Billions)

Source: AEI



As competition between the United States and China for chipmaking capacity heats up, China has unveiled its latest attempt to increase its share of global semiconductor manufacturing. Incorporated May 24 and known officially as the National Integrated Circuit Industry Investment Fund, the majority state-owned investment fund seeks to counteract U.S. attempts to reduce China's prevalence in the global semiconductor manufacturing industry. Through both trade sanctions, including against Chinese electronics giant Huawei, and investments in its own domestic semiconductor production, the U.S. has sought to remove China from the global chipmaking ecosystem for national security reasons. Chinese officials hope that the Big Fund III will help bridge that gap between the Chinese and American Chip capabilities. [Read more here.](#)

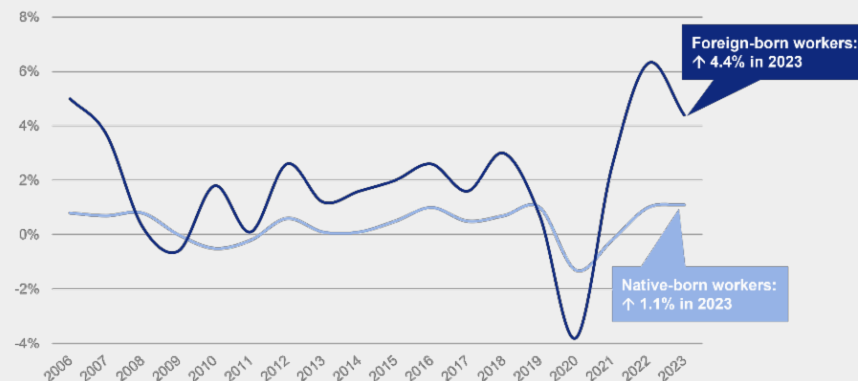
Council Insights

Immigration Emerges as a Major Contributor to Healthy Economy

Presented in Partnership with Keybridge Research

Foreign-born Workers Help Fill Post-Pandemic Labor Shortages

Annual percent change of workers in the U.S. labor force, 2006-2023



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



As the United States continues to toe the line between inflationary and recessionary

pressures, economists have been keeping a close eye on U.S. labor markets. To the surprise of many experts, even as the labor market has stayed relatively hot and displayed sustained growth, inflation has mostly stayed in check. A new Brookings report explains some of this puzzle, finding that recent immigration flows have allowed for sustainable labor market growth without adding pressure on inflation. Recent immigration flows are notably higher than previous projections, with an estimated 3.3 million net immigrants arriving in 2023 compared to the 1 million immigrants projected pre-pandemic. This inflow of workers has bolstered American population growth, added jobs to the economy, and help to explain the surprisingly strong consumer spending and growth experienced since 2022. Moving forward, encouraging a healthy level of immigration will be critical to solving the labor market challenge, especially in critical industries that are experiencing talent shortages across a variety of positions. High-skill immigration remains pivotal to filling gaps in research roles, but positions must be filled across a range of skills, and immigrants can play a large part in addressing these challenges.

Joining the Council Community



Mr. Walter "Ted" Carter
President
The Ohio State University,
Executive Committee Member

International

Save the Date
Global Innovation
Summit 2024

November 11-15
Belfast

GIS
2024

CO-HOSTS

GFCC
Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Centre For Competitiveness

The poster features a photograph of Queen's University Belfast at dusk, with the building's Gothic architecture illuminated by warm lights. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image. On the right side, there are logos for the event, including the GIS 2024 logo, and logos for the co-hosts: GFCC, Queen's University Belfast, and the Centre For Competitiveness.

To learn more, contact Council EVP, [Chad Evans](#)

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