

Compete Connect

May 3, 2023 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

This April provided several seminal moments for the Council on Competitiveness and its members – moments to reflect on accomplishments and outcomes over the past quarter century, and others looking forward at the role of the United States in the global economy.

First, I was honored to lead a senior delegation of Council members to Belfast to reflect on and honor the efforts of those who brought about the Good Friday Agreement 25 years ago and to help reimagine the future of an increasingly global Northern Ireland; one deeply and strategically connected to the United States. The Council was a sponsoring organization and partner to Queen's University Belfast, building on the many efforts of the Council over the past two decades to foster a more inclusive, all-island innovation and competitiveness movement.

And last week, Council stakeholders – along with our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils – took part in the 8th Delphi Economic Forum. In this global gathering, Council EVP Chad Evans and I were able to share findings from our National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers, helping to shape a more aligned and strategic innovation conversation between the United States and the EU.

And as we turn to early Summer, I can highlight several key meetings on the horizon:

- our virtual spring Board meeting on **May 18th**, during which we will welcome our new Labor Vice Chair Kenny Cooper;
- a **May 23rd** gathering of our [Advanced Computing Roundtable](#) co-chairs, who will be scoping an agenda for the coming 1-2 years;
- the **June 6th-7th** meeting of our [University Leadership Forum](#) at Marquette University (for more info, please reach out to [Bill Bates](#));
- and the Spring/Summer [Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative](#) (TLSI) Dialogue, hosted by TLSI Co-Chair and Lockheed Martin Vice President and CTO

Dr. Steven Walker on **June 29th** at the LM Space Advanced Technology Center in Palo Alto, CA (for more info, reach out to [Chad Evans](#)).

And the [National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers](#) will be commencing soon a new phase of Working Group discussions following the successful National Commission Phase 2 Launch Summit at UC Davis. Read more about my key takeaways from that Summit in my latest [Forbes.com article](#) in which I highlight the importance of place-based innovation. And check out [Chancellor May's conclusions from the Summit](#) and how our collaboration for the event supported his mission for building and expanding the innovation ecosystem in Davis.

We hope that you will join us in one of the many opportunities to engage in the coming months – and **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 2023 NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS FORUM IN WASHINGTON, DC. DECEMBER 14th and 15th**. More to come, but reach out to [Chad Evans](#) if you have questions or would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

“Pay Attention To Place” – Deborah Wince-Smith Highlights The Importance of Place-Based Innovation for U.S. Competitiveness

In her latest Forbes.com article, Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith emphasizes the importance of "place" in driving economic development and innovation.

The article shines a light on key points made during the National Commission Phase 2 Launch Summit at the University of California Davis and features insights from Chancellor Gary May, Colby College President David Greene, University of Vermont President Suresh Garimella, University of Wyoming President Ed Seidel, University of Minnesota Vice President of Research Shashank Priya, and U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary Jed Kolko.

Read more [here](#).

Council Hosts Senator Mark Warner in Virtual University Leadership Forum Meeting

On April 24, Senator Mark Warner, Democrat from Virginia, joined the Council's University Leadership Forum meeting making remarks and fielding questions from the Forum's members. Senator Warner is the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a longtime champion of science and technology and the critical role that higher education plays in driving America's competitiveness. He shared some initial thoughts with the group before taking questions, including noting that negotiations were currently underway in Congress to raise the debt ceiling and that that discussion had great implications for federal funding of science and technology, including implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act.



Mark Warner
Virginia
Senator

(NOTE: Debt limit legislation was subsequently passed by the House that would roll back discretionary spending to FY22 levels. While only the first step in what is likely to be a

lengthy negotiation, if enacted into law, that rollback would have significant negative consequences to the funding authorized by CHIPS and Science.)

Nonetheless, he remains optimistic regarding the federal government's support of research and development, and urged the members of the Forum to remain engaged and be strong advocates for the federal role in science. Senator Warner also spoke about the ongoing economic and security challenges vis-a-vis China and, in particular, the protection of intellectual property and impact of Chinese students studying at American universities. Finally, he asked the Forum to consider the challenge of balancing the need to make federally supported research findings available to the general public with ongoing economic and national security concerns.

News

The Council Welcomes The New Labor Vice Chair of The Board & International President of IBEW Kenneth Cooper

IBEW International President Kenneth Cooper has joined the Council Board, succeeding Lonnie Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson, a long-standing Board member, played a pivotal role in shaping the direction of the Council's flagship endeavor, the [National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers](#). Mr. Cooper will continue this important role on the Board and the National Commission.

Council President and CEO, Deborah Wince-Smith, expressed her gratitude and excitement, stating, "We are delighted to have Kenneth join the Council Board and look forward to working with him, our distinguished Board members, and our dedicated members to tackle the pressing challenges surrounding workforce and talent through our dynamic initiatives."



Kenneth Cooper
IBEW International
President
Council on Competitiveness Board
Labor Vice-Chair

Council on Competitiveness Joins Distinguished Partners to Support the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement's 25th Anniversary at Queen's University Belfast

This month, the Council on Competitiveness and Queen's University Belfast co-hosted the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The event reflected on the achievements, legacies, and implications of the 1998 agreement. The 3-day event featured the most important leaders involved in bringing the Agreement to fruition, including: Queen's Chancellor and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; former President William J. Clinton; former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair; and former Senator and Special Envoy George Mitchell. And, rounding out the ceremonies, significant speeches focused on the future of Northern Ireland were delivered by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith chaired a major plenary panel on Day 3 of the conference focused on reimagining the future of a more global Northern Ireland,

building on the Council's multi-decade efforts to bolster all-island competitiveness. Her panel consisted of: Council Academic Vice-Chair and National Commissioner Joan Gabel (President, University of Minnesota); National Commissioner Dr. Steven Ashby (Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); Council Member and National Commissioner Joshua Parker (CEO, Ancora L&G); Sarah Friar (CEO, Nextdoor); and Catalyst CEO Steve Orr.

Read the Council's recap and lessons learned [here](#). Find out more [here](#) and watch the event [here](#).



Panel speakers from left to right: Council Academic Vice-Chair and National Commissioner Joan Gabel (President, University of Minnesota); National Commissioner Dr. Steven Ashby (Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); Council President and CEO The Honorable Deborah Wince-Smith; Council Member and National Commissioner Joshua Parker (CEO, Ancora L&G); Sarah Friar (CEO, Nextdoor); and Steve Orr (CEO, Catalyst)

Council Co-Signed Letter Urges Lawmakers to Increase Funding of Energy Innovations

The Council has joined 66 other advocacy groups, utilities and energy technology companies in a coalition to [urge lawmakers in a letter](#) to up baseline funding for the Energy Department's innovation activities in the 2024 fiscal year. The funding increase is crucial to continue the momentum from recent climate laws and by continuing to prioritize the innovation and deployment of new clean energy technologies, the United States not only ensures its continued competitiveness, but also its position as a global leader.

Member News

National Commissioner and University of Davis Chancellor Gary May Reflects on the Recent Council Summit on Campus – and the Role Universities Can Play in Regional and National Innovation

In a recent article, Chancellor May reflects on the legacy of innovation at UC Davis and links to key findings from his conversation with Council CEO Deborah Wince-Smith and U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary Jed Kolko.

Chancellor May highlights the university's commitment to foster innovation in education, research, and community engagement and shared his long-term vision for UC Davis.

Connecting the dots, he goes on to explain how the Council's recent innovation summit on campus is a part of this mission and shares key take-aways from his "[Face to Face](#)" [podcast with Wince-Smith and Kolko](#). Read more [here](#).



Janet Foutty, Council on Competitiveness Business Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board of Deloitte, Discusses How Diversity Can Boost Board Effectiveness

In a recent co-authored article in *MIT Sloan Management Review*, Foutty discusses the powerful impact of diversity on board effectiveness, highlighting how diverse boards bring a wealth of perspectives, experiences, and skills that lead to better decision-making and improved performance.

The article raises the specific benefits of gender, ethnic, and cognitive diversity, revealing how these dimensions contribute to innovation, risk management, and governance. Foutty recommends a new governance model - CARE (Composition, Activation, Review & Report, Ecosystem) – to lead to success.

Read more [here](#).

Arizona State University Launches New “Principled Innovation” Governance Guidelines for Positive Change and Inclusion

ASU President Dr. Michael Crow launched the new guidelines in a video highlighting the importance of inclusive innovation to imagine new concepts, catalyze ideas, and form new solutions guided by principles that create positive change for humanity.

The question, “We can innovate, but should we?” places values and ethical understandings at the core of the practice. Through Principled Innovation, the university holds itself accountable to designing and delivering excellent learning opportunities for all learners, preparing them to be collaborative and ethical contributors to their communities and a thriving civil society.

Watch his video introducing the principles [here](#).

Council Distinguished Fellow Ray Johnson Explains How The Technology Innovation Institute (TII) Is Contributing to the Transformation of Abu Dhabi

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, Council Distinguished Fellow Ray Johnson (co-founder of the Council’s Technology Leadership and Strategy Initiative; Board Member of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils; and CEO of the Technology Innovation Institute) highlights how Technology Innovation Institute (TII) is driving the transformation of the United Arab Emirates into an “Island of Innovation” with a highly-competitive research ecosystem attracting top scientific talent.

Founded less than three years ago, the TII already hosts more than 800 researchers from 74 nationalities working on cutting-edge projects in areas including quantum computing, autonomous robotics, cryptography, advanced materials, secure systems, renewable energy, and biotech.

Read more [here](#).

Lawrence Livermore National Lab Scientist behind the Drive to Fusion Energy Wins The 2023 James Coronas Award

Dr. Tammy Ma, lead for the Inertial Fusion Energy (IFE) Initiative and program element leader for High-Intensity Laser High Energy Density (HED) Science – Advanced Photon Technologies at LLNL, received the James Coronas Award for her leadership in driving the fusion energy breakthrough at the end of 2022. This unprecedented effort — in which more energy was produced from an ensuing fusion reaction than from the energy used to create it — will underpin future advancements both for the generation of clean power as well as for national defense, and energy security and independence.

Read more [here](#).

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