

Compete Connect

November 2024 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

Dear Council on Competitiveness
Community:

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful
Thanksgiving holiday.

For many of us, the joyous holiday season
continues as we prepare to gather in just a
few days in Washington, D.C., for the 2024
Gala Dinner and National Competitiveness
Forum (NCF). This year's NCF promises to
be exceptional: we will release publicly on
12/3 the next, major call to action from our
flagship National Commission on Innovation
and Competitiveness Frontiers, *Competing in
the Next Economy – Innovating in an Age of
Disruption and Discontinuity*. Be sure to visit
our [website](#) and social channels for access
first thing on December 3rd!

The NCF will feature engaging sessions with
national leaders and a dynamic agenda
reflecting the key pillars and
recommendations from our call to action. For
a sneak preview of the NCF, you can view
the full agenda on the [event's landing page](#).

More than 40 distinguished leaders will speak at the NCF – exploring a range of
critically important topics, including how we: accelerate technology development and
deployment in the country; amplify the essential and growing roles universities and
national laboratories play in driving the innovation economy; and build a robust
platform from which to launch frontier industries like the advanced bioeconomy and
transformative computing. And special guests – NSF Director Sethuraman “Panch”

Panchanathan, ARPA-E Director Evelyn Wang, and IARPA Director Rick Muller – will provide insights on the competitiveness opportunities for the United States.

I want to thank our 2024 NCF sponsors, whose support makes this event possible and supports the Council's work throughout the coming year: Bank of America, University of Pittsburgh, Ancora L&G, Deloitte, Lockheed Martin, Snap-on, University of Notre Dame, Arizona State University, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, Vanderbilt University, Idaho National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, HNTB, Hofstra University, University of Georgia, Carnegie Mellon University, Gallup, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory

As an exciting addition to this year's NCF agenda, the Council's University Leadership Forum (ULF) will convene just prior to the Gala Dinner reception on December 2. I am excited to share here the ULF will welcome three new co-chairs to work with founding chair, UGA President Jere Morehead: Dr. Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin; Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University; and Dr. Gabrielle Starr, President, Pomona College.

In addition to preparing for the NCF, the Council has been actively engaged across multiple initiatives. At the beginning of the month, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Technology Leadership and Strategy Initiative (TLSI) Dialogue at Lockheed Martin's Global Vision Center. This milestone dialogue also provided an opportunity to review and enhance TLSI's "Compact for America" report, which will launch in the first half of 2025 with recommendations for rethinking the U.S. defense industrial base and promoting greater partnership to enhance the U.S. innovation ecosystem. We were also honored to welcome Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy, The White House.

We also actively supported our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), across multiple engagements. I co-hosted a special study tour of Birmingham, UK, and Aston University — where I was honored to sign an MOU with several GFCC member universities to establish "The Global Centre for Innovation Leadership." You can find more details about this exciting initiative below. And in the days following Birmingham, the GFCC hosted its Annual Meeting and Global Innovation Summit at Queen's University Belfast, where hundreds of leaders from six continents gathered under the theme of "Accelerating Global Sustainability and Economic Inclusion" to share global best and next practices – and where we launched our annual [GFCC Call to Action](#).

Wishing you and your loved ones all the best this Thanksgiving season. I look forward to celebrating with many of you at the Gala Dinner and collaborating on the important work ahead during the 2024 National Competitiveness Forum.

Warm regards,

Deborah Wince-Smith
President & CEO
Council on Competitiveness

Council News



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2024 Dinner & National Competitiveness Forum

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



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Council News

TLSI Marks 15th Anniversary and 30th Dialogue – Making it Longest-running Council Initiative





The Council marked a significant milestone at the beginning of the month: the 30th consecutive TLSI Dialogue, held at Lockheed Martin's Global Vision Center (GVC) in Arlington, Virginia. We thank Lockheed Martin and its CTO, Steve Walker, for hosting the 15th anniversary of our longest-running initiative. With a mission to advocate for investments in talent, technology, and infrastructure necessary for innovation, the TLSI remains as relevant today as it was at its inception in 2009.

TLSI participants focused the Dialogue around a debate and critique of a draft of its next significant report, A New Compact for America – which will focus on creating a more agile, resilient, sustainable, and innovative U.S. defense industrial base, while also recommending steps to enhance the deep public-private partnerships increasingly needed across the entire U.S. innovation ecosystem.

The Council and TLSI leadership were pleased to welcome Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy, The White House, to provide insights.

The Council's University Leadership Forum Announces Expanded Leadership





This month, we are excited to announce the addition of three distinguished Co-Chairs to the Council's University Leadership Forum (ULF). Joining Founding ULF Chair Mr. Jere Morehead, President of the University of Georgia (see upper left), are Dr. Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (upper right), Dr. G. Gabrielle Starr, President of Pomona College (lower left), and Dr. David Wilson, President of Morgan State University (lower right). Under the ULF's expanded leadership, this collaborative platform of over 70 college and university Council Members, will engage with policymakers, address critical competitiveness issues facing higher education and the nation, and exchange valuable insights on the future of American higher education and its role in accelerating and expanding innovation.

Council on Competitiveness Leaders Take Part in 2024 Global Innovation Summit



Led by Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith and Council Chair Emeritus Chad Holliday, a delegation comprised of leaders from across the Council's community participated in the 2024 Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils' annual meeting and Global Innovation Summit—held this year at Queen's University Belfast. A group including Council Academic Vice Chair Joan Gabel (Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh), Steven Ashby (Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), Padma Raghavan (Vice Provost for Research, Vanderbilt University), Jay Walsh (Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation, University of

Illinois System), Peter Dorhout (Vice President for Research, Iowa State University), Paul Roben (Associate Vice Chancellor, Innovation & Technology Commercialization, University of California, San Diego), and Walt Copan (Vice President Research and Technology Transfer, Colorado School of Mines) took part in a multi-day summit focused around "Achieving a Sustainable Future for All."

GFCC leadership launched the organization's [2024 Call to Action](#), a landmark report providing a dynamic framework with actionable recommendations for stakeholders aiming to integrate sustainability and economic inclusiveness at local and global levels. Drawing from the insights of a global network spanning over 35 countries—including leaders from government, industry, and academia—this report emphasizes the interconnected nature of sustainable development.



The Summit attracted tremendous attention, including the engagement of world-famous astrophysicist, Brian Cox, and the Chancellor of Queen's University of Belfast - former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, who, along with Deborah Wince-Smith witnessed Joan Gabel's announcement that the 2025 Global Innovation Summit will take place at the University of Pittsburgh.

Read more about the Global Innovation Summit [here](#).

Memorandum of Understanding Signed for New Global Centre for Innovation Leadership



On November 8, 2024, at Aston University, the GFCC hosted its inaugural *Leadership Dialogue on Universities 4.0 and Their Role in Driving Place-Based Innovation and Socio-Economic Transformation*. During this significant event, the GFCC, along with four of its member institutions—Aston University, the University of California San Diego, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, and Queen's University Belfast—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the Global Centre for Innovation Leadership. This new Centre aims to spearhead collaborative efforts that drive place-based innovation and will serve as a vital hub for thought leadership in innovation and place-making. Additionally, it will offer specialized courses focused on innovation leadership, policy, and relevant technologies. The Centre is also committed to organizing study tours and thematic workshops, as well as producing case studies and publishing insightful materials that highlight its key areas of focus.

Council Community News

[Dona Crawford and Thomas Zacharia Named in HPCwire's Inaugural "35 Legends"](#)



In honor of its 35 Anniversary, HPCwire, best known for its biannual TOP500 ranking of the world's most powerful supercomputers, has released its inaugural list of "35 Legends" who have been pivotal in the history of high-powered computing. Featured in the list of 35 names are Council on Competitiveness Senior Fellow Dona Crawford, former Associate Director of Computation at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the founder of the Livermore Lab Foundation, as well as former Director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and recipient of the Council's National Competitiveness Award Thomas Zacharia. This recognition underscores the incredible contributions these two have made, and continue to make, to the field of supercomputing. [Read more here.](#)

Council Member and Quantinuum CEO Rajeeb Hazra Raises Quantum Computing as a Solution for AI Sustainability



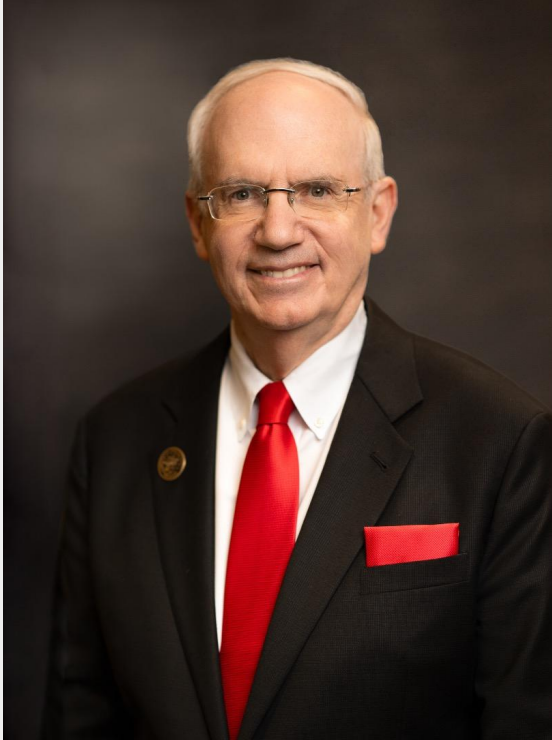
As AI grows more powerful and widespread, the infrastructure — especially electric infrastructure — needed to sustain its growth is becoming overburdened. In a recent interview with CNBC, Quantinuum CEO and Council Member Rajeeb Hazra raised concerns about the future of AI, saying "As wonderful as AI is, there are two challenges to it. One is, is it sustainable from a resource standpoint? The other is, is it responsible?" Hazra suggested that quantum computing can tackle both questions, helping make AI more efficient and sustainable, and thereby, reducing the potential burden on power grids and the environment. [Read more here.](#)



The University of Maine recently broke ground on its Green Engineering and Materials, or GEM, Building, paving the way for greater hands-on learning opportunities for UMaine students. University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy was joined by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), as well as representatives from across the university and the federal science enterprise, at the groundbreaking for the \$82 million, 50,000 square foot facility. According to Ferrini-Mundy, “Once completed, GEM will create even greater opportunities for our students, faculty, staff, and partners to address a multitude of economic and societal needs for Maine and beyond.” GEM is scheduled for completion in 2026. [Read more here](#), and learn more about the GEM at the Council’s June 2025 [Competitiveness Conversation](#) outside of Boston, MA, as we gather leaders from across New England to explore the Blue and Green Economies.

[New University of Nebraska System President Jefferey Gold Describes His Vision for the System’s Role in the State](#)

In November, the Council welcomed University of Nebraska System President Dr. Jefferey Gold, M.D. as a Member and National Commissioner. President Gold also participated in a November interview with *Market Journal*, a University of Nebraska web series, to give his view of the system’s importance to the state and its economy. He described the critical role that the University of Nebraska plays in the state’s public health and Nebraska’s large agricultural sector, the latter of which is far more reliant on the school’s research arm than many expect. He also put special emphasis on the system’s role in developing the local talent pool,



saying that the top three areas where it could help local communities are “workforce, workforce, and workforce.” Hear from Dr. Gold at the 2024 NCF, and [listen to the full Market Journal interview here.](#)

Georgetown University President John DeGioia Steps Down After 23 Years of Service



Longtime Georgetown University President and Council on Competitiveness Executive Committee Member John DeGioia has announced his intention to step down after twenty-three years in the position. President DeGioia said that his time leading Georgetown has been “the privilege of my lifetime” and will continue working to advance the university's mission. [Read more here.](#)

Other News and Updates

Bank of America Institute Investigates the Future of Nuclear Power

With electricity production accounting for 40 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and demand for electricity surging due to data center construction and transportation electrification, the need for clean, abundant power is greater than ever. Nuclear energy is getting renewed attention as a solution to this problem, though it faces headwinds. A recent analysis by the Bank of America Institute showed that, while nuclear power has enormous potential, permitting uncertainty, a lack of a skilled workforce, and costs associated with financing stood in the way of its full-scale rollout. However, recent legislation, like the Inflation Reduction Act “have increased existing incentives for certain nuclear power plants, while enabling new nuclear projects to break ground.” [Read more here.](#)

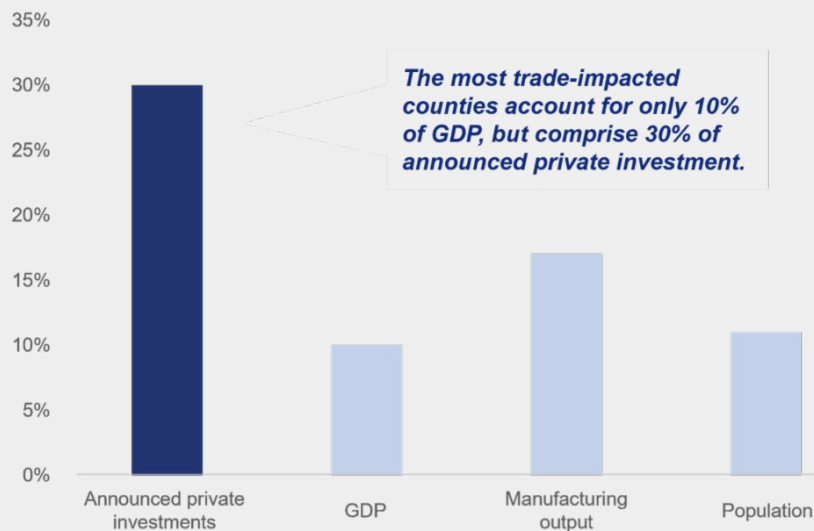
The incoming Trump administration is reportedly seeking to consolidate federal governance of new technologies under a series of new “czar” positions within the White House, including AI, cryptocurrency, and energy policy. [Read more here.](#)

Council Insights

Place-Based Policies Are Responding to Economic Shocks, New Report Finds
Presented in Partnership with Keybridge Research

Private investment flows disproportionately to the most trade-impacted U.S. counties.

Share of private sector investments, output, and population for top import penetration quintile



Source: Brookings Metro analysis of Clean Investment Monitor, WH Investing in America Database, U.S. Census Bureau, and Lightcast.



Sudden shifts in industry, trade dynamics, and supply chains have disproportionately affected certain communities most exposed to disruption. As Chinese imports surged in the early 2000s, American factories shuttered and manufacturing communities lost millions of jobs. And as the energy transition continues accelerating, communities reliant on traditional energy sources like coal and oil face similar risks. These disruptions have spurred a resurgence in place-based policies, which have directed billions of dollars in federal funding to communities around the country. But are these funds reaching the communities experiencing the most intense disruptions?

According to a recent report, place-based policies are indeed helping affected communities adjust to a new economic reality. Counties undergoing past and future disruptions, including heavily trade-impacted counties and fossil fuel communities, have received a disproportionate share of funding from new place-based industrial policies. The report finds that private sector investment, spurred by place-based policies, has flowed to legacy manufacturing communities at a rate far exceeding their economic output and population share. Similarly, the most carbon-dependent counties make up only 5 percent of the nation’s GDP but have received 1 percent of private investment since 2021. As the disruptions of a rapidly evolving economy continue to concentrate on a small number of counties, place-based investments play an important role in revitalizing industries and transitioning communities to a

Joining the Council Community



Dr. Melissa Gilliam
President
Boston University

President Gilliam joins the Council as a Member and a National Commissioner.



Dr. Jeffrey Gold
President
University of Nebraska System

President Gold joins the Council as a Member and a National Commissioner.



Dr. Thomas Bifano
Vice President and Associate Provost for Research
Boston University

Vice President Bifano joins the Council's Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative (TLSI).

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