

Compete Connect

September 2023 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

Hard to believe we are in the homestretch of 2023, with our National Competitiveness Forum around the corner to end out a very productive year for the Council.

But before we reach December 14th and 15th in Washington, D.C., there remain many opportunities to engage with the Council in 2023, as well as influencing our 2024 & 2025 agenda.

We have just wrapped on two incredibly powerful weeks of Council efforts across the country and in the Western Hemisphere, starting with four major virtual meetings for our National Commission's Phase 2 Working Groups, our Fall "Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative" Dialogue at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and our partnership with Brazil's National Confederation of Industry to activate one of the largest innovation summits in the Americas in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Looking ahead to October and November, we have a full slate of activities planned. They include a critical second round of virtual Working Group meetings for the National Commission with a goal of developing a "call to action" for the 2024 presidential campaigns, a meeting of our University Leadership Forum on Capitol Hill, a pathbreaking "Competitiveness Conversation" with our National Commissioners Steve Isakowitz of The Aerospace Corporation and Sally Morton of Arizona State University defining the innovation, work and workforce development opportunities with space exploration, as well as our Global Federation of Competitiveness Council's 2023 Global Innovation Summit in Doha, Qatar. More to come on all of these opportunities.

One final note – I hope you enjoyed last month's launch of our re-vamped "Insights" section. I encourage you to check out this month's second feature, and I look forward to your thoughts.

DECEMBER 14-15, 2023:

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN THE 2023 NCF!

Participate in the Council's 2023 National Competitiveness Forum (NCF). The Council will host both the Gala Dinner on December 14 and the NCF on December 15 at the Salamander Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Stay tuned for a formal invitation and more details on this premier event, including sponsorship opportunities. To learn more, contact Council EVP Chad

Evans: cevans@compete.org



A Competitiveness Conversation:

The Workforce for the Future – on Earth and in Space

October 31, 2023

The United States' record of sustained innovation has distinguished it from the world for the past-half century. Today, our nation faces new realities and imperatives as rapid and accelerating technological change transforms the landscape for innovation leadership.

Among the most critical frontiers we must explore, shape and develop is space, which offers untold possibilities to benefit our nation's security and economic prosperity. To do so, we must build a vibrant, diverse workforce that can leverage different experiences and perspectives to drive innovation and deliver the cutting-edge technical capabilities we will need.

The Council, under the auspices of its "National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers," will host a first-of-its-kind initiative advancing diversity and representation across the space industry, bringing together leaders to discuss ways to shape diverse workforces to power a competitive innovation economy.

This executive partnership dinner, hosted by Council on Competitiveness President and CEO Deborah L. Wince-Smith, The Aerospace Corporation President and CEO Steve Isakowitz and Arizona State University Executive Vice President Sally Morton, will be an opportunity to come together with leaders from the space industry for an evening of thought-provoking conversation. It will take place on October 31, 2023 at ASU's Washington D.C. HQ. To learn more, contact Council EVP Chad Evans at cevans@compete.org.



News

Phase 2 of the National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers Launches

We're underway: the four Working Groups supporting policy generation efforts of the National Commission's Phase 2 kicked off virtual discussions in September, and are scheduled for a second round of conversations in mid-October.

To learn more about each Group's key goals, resources and discussion guides, please visit [the National Commission on Innovation Frontiers webpage](#). Over time, the pages will evolve and reflect the Groups' progressive discussions.

- How can the United States develop and deploy disruptive tech at speed and scale? [Working Group 1](#) will tackle questions like this.
- How can the United States enhance the sustainability of its communities, and leverage pathbreaking investments in clean energy technologies? [Working Group 2](#) will tackle questions like these.
- How can the United States optimize the transformations washing over the 21st century workforce – and ensure we have the systems and institutions in place to foster life-long learning and develop the high-skilled workforce for the future? [Working Group 3](#) will tackle questions like these.
- How can the United States broaden and deepen innovation capacities and capabilities – engaging more communities and more Americans in the nation's innovation ecosystem? [Working Group 4](#) will tackle questions like these.



THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

[Developing and Deploying
Disruptive Tech at Speed
and Scale](#)



THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

[Accelerating Innovation in
Clean Energy Technology](#)



THE FUTURE OF WORK

[Developing, Supporting,
and Expanding the
Modern Innovation
Workforce](#)



THE FUTURE OF PLACE-BASED INNOVATION

[Broadening and
Deepening the Innovation
Ecosystem](#)

TLSI Wraps 2023 Dialogue Series at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

TLSI Co-Chair Dr. Patricia Falcone, Deputy Director for Science and Technology of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, joined by her Co-Chair Dr. Sally Morton, Executive Vice President of Knowledge Enterprise at Arizona State University, hosted the 28th TLSI

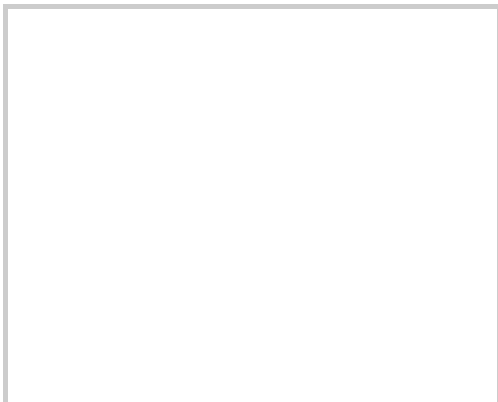
Dialogue at the Lab's Livermore Valley Open Campus. Building on the findings and reflections from the previous Dialogue, hosted in June by Co-Chair Dr. Steve Walker, the Vice President and CTO of Lockheed Martin at the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center, TLSI leaders refined a potential set of policy recommendations for a new, innovation-driven industrial policy for national security, economic security and energy independence.



The Livermore dialogue also explored a range of cultural changes need in both the U.S. public and private sectors to amplify innovation potential. The participants toured the pathbreaking National Ignition Facility, home of last year's fusion breakthrough, and the Lab's high performance computing center. Learn more about the June Dialogue at Lockheed Martin [here](#). More is to come on outcomes from the Livermore Dialogue. Read the report [here](#).



Hevolution - Council Chair Emeritus Working to Re-Define the Future of Health



The Wall Street Journal recently interviewed Dr. Mehmood Khan, Council Chair Emeritus and CEO of Riyadh-based Hevolution Foundation, for a feature about the first-of-its-kind, visionary, global non-profit that provides grants and early-stage investments to incentivize independent research and entrepreneurship in the emerging field of health span science. Beyond its funding,



Dr. Mehmood Khan
CEO of Hevolution Foundation
Council Chair Emeritus

Hevolution will dramatically catalyze the field by bringing together thought leaders with diverse backgrounds of academia, scientists, business, entrepreneurs, policymakers, etc. at its inaugural November 2023 Global Healthspan Summit.

Council Members Lead in the Establishment of 8 U.S. Department of Defense Microelectronics Commons Regional Innovation Hubs

Many Council members and stakeholders will now participate in the U.S. Department of Defense's new Microelectronics Commons: 8 regional hubs bringing together over 360 organizations from over 30 states with a total of \$2 billion in funding for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027. The Commons aim to accelerate domestic hardware prototyping and "lab-to-fab" transitions of semiconductor technologies. The Arizona Board of Regents, on behalf of Arizona State University, will lead the "Southwest Advanced Prototyping (SWAP) Hub" while North Carolina State University will lead the "Commercial Leap Ahead for Wide Bandgap Semiconductors (CLAWS) Hub."

Council Insights: Decline in U.S. Housing Affordability *Presented in Partnership with Keybridge Research*

For roughly the past decade, housing affordability in the United States has been at historic highs. At times, the median-earning family had more than double the required income for a mortgage on a median-priced home. But as of July of this year, the median-earning family had only 88% of the income needed to qualify for a conventional mortgage on a median-priced home, the lowest affordability ratio since 1985.

Reduced affordability is being driven by two factors. First, mortgage rates have climbed to an average of 7%, pushed up by 11 consecutive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. Second, the inventory of existing homes for sale is near historic lows, as the significantly lower mortgage rates that were locked in by homeowners who purchased before interest rates took off are now incentivizing those homeowners to stay put.

Average Rate on 30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage

Percent, weekly



Source: Freddie Mac

Stock of Existing Homes for Sale is Near Historical Lows

Months supply of existing homes



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

KEYBRIDGE
Public Policy Economics

New to the Community



Dr. Susan Hubbard
Deputy Laboratory Director for Science &
Technology
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
(TLSI)



Dr. Sunil Kumar
President
Tufts University
(Member)



Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy
President
Wayne State University
(Member)



Dr. Elizabeth R. Cantwell
President
Utah State University
(Member)

International

November 12-14, 2023: Join the GFCC Global Innovation Summit in Doha, Qatar

Our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), will host its annual Global Innovation Summit in Doha, Qatar, from November 12 to 14 this year. Under the theme *Shape Tomorrow: Innovate the Sustainable Future*, the summit will discuss how businesses, governments and universities can tap into the sustainability opportunity to boost economic prosperity while safeguarding the planet and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

For three days, global leaders will participate in insightful panels and fireside chats exploring the vital connections between innovation and sustainability. The Summit will also offer unique site visits to innovation hotspots, start-up incubators, higher education institutions, policy organizations, heritage sites and cultural institutions in Doha. For more information, contact Council EVP, Chad Evans cevans@compete.org and check out gis2023.thegfcc.org



Global Innovation Summit 2023

Shape Tomorrow: Innovate the Sustainable Future

Doha, Qatar
November 12-14, 2023

CONTACT US

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