

# Compete Connect

October 2023 Edition

## From the CEO's Desk



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

October was an intense but critical month for the Council, engaging members and our community in a range of activities, powering the next steps for our flagship National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers and other ongoing initiatives.

- We brought together hundreds of voices from our broad stakeholder community in support of the National Commission as we completed the 2023 series of eight Working Group meetings. The initial ideas and findings from these conversations will help shape our 2023 National Competitiveness Forum, and our agenda for 2024.
- We hosted a meeting of our University Leadership Forum on Capitol Hill – bringing together nearly two dozen of our members for an in-depth conversation and planning session on "The Value of Higher Education" hosted by Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI).
- And we launch on Halloween night the first of many "Competitiveness Conversations" to come with our National Commissioners, Steve Isakowitz of The Aerospace Corporation and Sally Morton of Arizona State University, to define the innovation, work and workforce development opportunities linked to the future of space exploration.

As we power forward into November, I also want to flag two important updates:

- Our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, has shifted its 2023 meeting from Doha, Qatar, to London – now taking place, in partnership with Gallup, on November 13-14.
- We continue to plan for a significant participation at COP28 in Dubai this December. The Council on Competitiveness has been awarded a prime spot to host on December 6<sup>th</sup> an "Innovation Arena" in the Impact Hub/DP World Pavilion within the

Dubai Expo.

- If you would like to learn more about the events in London and/or Dubai and how to participate, please contact Council EVP Chad Evans: [cevens@compete.org](mailto:cevens@compete.org)

Finally, as our National Commission focuses on the future of sustainability, and as we plan for COP28, I focus on the future of power in my [latest Forbes.com article](#) – making the case for nuclear as a clean energy option and long-term competitiveness driver. I thank our National Commissioner, Director John Wagner, Idaho National Laboratory, for his insights.

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**DECEMBER 14-15, 2023:**

**SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN THE 2023 NCF!**

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

E-invitations to come – but please check out our registration website [here](#), including sponsorship opportunities. To learn more, contact Council EVP Chad Evans: [cevens@compete.org](mailto:cevens@compete.org)



## News

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

In support of Phase 2 of the National Commission, the Council has completed eight Working Group meetings with the National Commission community. Thanks to participants' expert input, these meetings are helping us identify initial policy issues and insights that will be used to inform the Council's next major policy statement on how best to optimize our society for a future in which innovation capacity and capability continue to grow in importance. This statement will be released in December 2024 in support of the incoming presidential administration.

What type of challenges are the Working Groups working to address? Please check out each Working Group's new landing page, where you can learn more about each Group's mission, as well as review conversation summaries and other materials:

1. How can the United States develop and deploy disruptive tech at speed and scale? <https://compete.org/the-future-of-technology/>
2. How can the United States enhance the sustainability of its communities, and leverage pathbreaking investments in clean energy technologies? <https://compete.org/the-future-of-sustainability/>
3. How can the United States optimize the transformations washing over the 21<sup>st</sup> 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? <https://compete.org/the-future-of-work/>
4. How can the United States broaden and deepen innovation capacities and capabilities – engaging more communities and more Americans in the nation’s innovation ecosystem? <https://compete.org/the-future-of-place-based-innovation/>

## Working Groups + Discussion Points

In Phase 2 of the National Commission, the Working Groups will generate policy recommendations focused on advancing four pillars supporting U.S. innovation.



### 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

*To learn more about the National Commission on Innovation & Competitiveness Frontiers, please contact Council on Competitiveness Executive Vice President Chad Evans at [cevens@compete.org](mailto:cevens@compete.org).*

## 2023 National Commissioners Summer Meeting and Video Series

Featuring real-world innovations shared by meeting participants, this November the Council will be releasing a summary report of the National Commissioners’ summer meeting. Additionally, a video series featuring 11 of the meeting participants will be rolled out between now and the NCF. [Council EVP Chad Evans kicks off the series with an overview of the four National Commission Working Groups](#). Please look out for a new video on the Council’s [LinkedIn](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) most Tuesdays and Thursdays over the next month.





## The University Leadership Forum Took to the Hill to Make the Case for the Value of Higher Education

Meeting in person for the first time since the pandemic, over twenty members of the Council's University Leadership Forum gathered on Capitol Hill for an in-depth conversation and planning session on "The Value of Higher Education." Hosted by Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI) and the co-chairs of the Forum, Mike Lovell, President of Marquette University, and Jere Morehead, President of the University of Georgia, the discussion focused on how best for the Forum to engage on policy issues related to research security, open access, and funding. The meeting also featured a presentation by Cole Clark, Managing Director of Higher Education, Deloitte Services, on growing concerns in the United States with the return on investment of a college degree and steps that higher education can take to address these concerns.



## Senior Council Delegation Leads the 10<sup>th</sup> Industry Innovation Summit in Sao Paulo

Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith led a significant delegation of leaders from the Council's innovation community to keynote and lead several panels at the latest Industry Innovation Summit hosted by long-time partner CNI (Brazil's National Confederation of Industry) in addition to leaders from the GFCC:

- Walt Copan, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Colorado School of Mines
- Joe Elabd, Vice Chancellor for Research, Texas A&M University System
- Tommy Gardner, Chief Technology Officer, HP Federal, HP Inc.
- Harris Pastides, President Emeritus, University of South Carolina
- Padma Raghavan, Vice Provost for Research and Innovation, Vanderbilt University
- Sylvia Thomas, Interim Vice President of Research & Innovation, University of South Florida



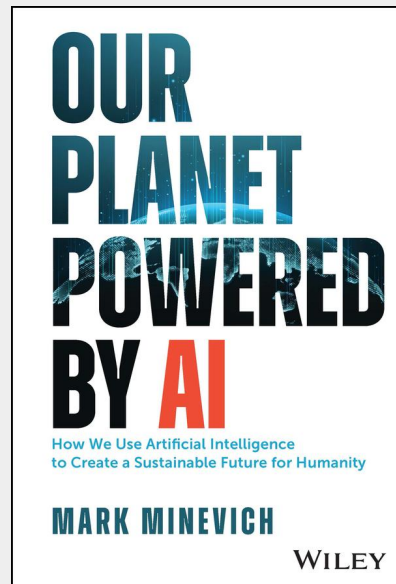


## Paving the Path for U.S. Leadership in A.I.

Michael Kratsios, Council Distinguished Fellow and Managing Director at Scale AI, spoke this month to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology – focusing remarks on how best to manage risk around AI, and how to leverage this tech for U.S. competitive advantage. Watch the hearing [here](#).



## Council Senior Fellow Publishes Our Planet Powered by A.I.



In [Our Planet Powered by AI: How We Use Artificial Intelligence to Create a Sustainable Future for Humanity](#) (Wiley, October 24, 2023), Mark Minevich helps leaders discover how to use AI to distinguish their organizations in an age of rapid technological advancement and fierce competition. The book is an exciting and practical discussion – featuring insightful case studies – that’s intended to help you implement groundbreaking artificial intelligence technologies at every level of your organization. [Order a copy here.](#)

## Making the Case for Disruptive Green Technologies



Council EVP Chad Evans represented the Council and its Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative and National Commission at the 2023 Science and Technology for Society (STS) Forum in Kyoto, Japan. Moderated by TLSI co-founder and GFCC board member Ray Johnson, CEO, Technology Innovation Institute/Abu Dhabi, Evans focused comments on the technology, regulatory and societal challenges in transitioning both mature and more emergent clean tech to national deployment.

## Building Bridges and Connecting Competitiveness Best Practices between the United States and Zimbabwe

Council Senior Advisor Bill Bates recently traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, as part of the U.S. State Department's U.S. Speakers Program to give remarks on the [building blocks of competitiveness](#) to various groups of Zimbabwean business leaders – including our GFCC partners in the country. In a summary, Bill highlights the [Zimbabwe's potential as a hub of innovation](#) as a trading partner, a pool of highly-educated talent, and as an investment opportunity that remains out of reach due to a myriad of ongoing challenges.



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

While this summer brought cautious optimism that inflation was returning to a more acceptable level, recent price data and a confluence of domestic and global factors have renewed inflation concerns.

In September, headline CPI held steady at 3.7% year-over-year but ticked up 0.4% month-over-month. Prices for several important categories, including housing, are no longer climbing but remain elevated, while strong wages persist. Internationally, continued conflict in the Middle East could disrupt supply chains and exacerbate energy price volatility. In light of these factors, near-term U.S. inflation expectations rose in September to their highest level in four months.

However, there are also clear positive signs for the U.S. economy, including a robust labor market and steady consumer spending. With such a complex and uncertain inflation outlook it remains unclear whether the Fed will raise rates again this year, though most signs point to a longer journey back to its 2% inflation target.

### Change in Consumer Prices by Category

Year-over-year rates, monthly



### Consumer Inflation Expectations

University of Michigan, monthly



**KEYBRIDGE**  
Public Policy Economics

## National Science Board Released a New Report the State of Academic Research and Development

The new report, which is part of the 2024 Congressionally mandated *Science & Engineering Indicators*, provides trends on academic R&D funding sources and spending patterns, international comparisons, and other interesting data. The report found that since 2003, more U.S. trained women joined the science and engineering doctoral academic workforce than men. It also found the federal government provided nearly 55% of all funds for academic R&D, down from 61% in 2012. The press release with a link to the full report can be [viewed here](#).

## New to the Community





**Cynthia M. Czajkowski**  
Interim Vice Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
(TLSI)

(Photo Cred: Jeff Miller, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

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## Council Welcomes New Vice President



Mike Nelson has joined the Council as its new vice president. He comes from the Council's marketing and communications partner, Subject Matter+Kivvit, where he focused much of his work on advancing science, technology and competitiveness for clients such as the National Science Board and the Semiconductor Industry Association. We are excited for his unique expertise to further the Council's agenda.

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## International

### **MAJOR UPDATE!!! NOVEMBER 13-14, 2023: JOIN THE GFCC GLOBAL INNOVATION SUMMIT IN LONDON**

Our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), will now host its annual meeting in London, UK, November 13-14 this year – in a shift, taking account of recent and ongoing developments across the Middle East.

Hosted with Gallup at its London HQ, GFCC meeting participants will engage in a range of insightful conversations exploring topics like the vital connections between innovation, sustainability and resiliency.

For more information, contact Council EVP, Chad Evans: [cevens@compete.org](mailto:cevens@compete.org).



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