



Agenda

Council on Competitiveness Bioeconomy Leadership Working Session

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Davis Global Center
4111 Emile Street
Omaha, NE 68105

April 29, 2026 (All Times Central)

11:30 AM – Optional Davis Global Center Tour (Meet in Lobby)

12:00 PM – Lunch and Working Session (Training, Simulation, and Quarantine Center)

1:30 PM – Adjourn to the Nebraska Competitiveness Conversation at The Durham Museum

Introduction

Thank you for joining this bioeconomy working session. We are grateful for your participation and leadership as we convene a cross-sector group of leaders to help shape a bold and actionable strategy for advancing the U.S. bioeconomy.

The purpose of this working session is to explore priority opportunities, test key strategic ideas, refine the proposed working group structure, and identify the people and actions needed to accelerate progress for strengthening U.S. leadership, innovation, and growth across the bioeconomy.

Throughout the agenda, you will see a series of thought-starter questions. We do not expect to address every question directly; rather, they are intended to help frame the discussion, prompt ideas, and surface issues for consideration. Throughout the meeting, we welcome your candid perspectives, recommendations, and ideas as we work together to shape the path forward.

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OPTIONAL DAVIS GLOBAL CENTER TOUR

11:30 AM Optional Davis Global Center Tour

Attendees who are available are invited to meet in the lobby for a brief tour of the Davis Global Center.

BIOECONOMY WORKING SESSION

12:00 PM Welcome and Introductions

- All attendees

12:10 PM Opening Remarks and Project Framing

- Dr. Jeffrey Gold, President, University of Nebraska System
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient
- The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

12:20 PM Open Discussion: Defining Success

- All attendees

Thought Starter Questions:

1. How should we best frame the long-term economic, scientific, workforce, and societal impacts this initiative could create?
2. What questions are most critical for this project to answer?
3. What does project success look like?
4. Are there external milestones that should guide the project timeline?
5. How do we differentiate this project from others in this space, and is that important?

12:45 PM Proposed Working Groups and Project Structure

- To kick off a broader discussion, Ms. Wince-Smith will present a proposed project plan, including working group and participant engagement model.

Proposed working groups:

Working Group 1. Build Fast, Scale Big: Investment, Commercialization, and Biomanufacturing Leadership

Key question: How does the United States convert discovery into domestic production, market leadership, and value creation across the entire bioeconomy value chain — 10x faster?

Focus areas will work to:

- Accelerate the pathway from discovery to deployment by reducing time to pilot, demonstration, and commercial scale
- Leverage advanced computing, AI, automation, and bio-digital systems—including digital twins, simulation, and predictive biomanufacturing—to increase productivity from discovery through production
- Finance the full commercialization lifecycle by closing capital gaps from startup formation through scale-up and large-scale deployment
- De-risk private investment and scale adoption through public-private partnership models and shared-risk schemes
- Expand domestic biomanufacturing capacity across critical sectors in the United States
- Build secure, integrated domestic supply chains that reduce dependence on vulnerable foreign sources, strengthen resilience against geopolitical and disruption risks, and maximize U.S. value capture

Working Group 2. Win the Market: Demand and Global Competitive Advantage

Key question: How does the United States create durable demand and outcompete global rivals in the markets of the future?

Focus areas will work to:

- Elevate federal, state, and commercial procurement strategies to create early and ongoing demand for bio-based products
- Accelerate the adoption of bio-based alternatives across major industries
- Deploy strategic trade policy and fair competition
- Drive supply chain resilience via trusted partnerships and sourcing
- Capture first-mover and outsized share in high-growth global sectors

- f. Shape international norms, standards, and regulatory frameworks to reinforce U.S. competitiveness and market access
- g. Build public trust and societal adoption of bio-based products

Working Group 3. Build National Capacity: Talent, Hard and Soft Infrastructure, and Ecosystem Leadership

Key question: How does the United States build the talent base, enabling infrastructure, and policy environment required to grow durable bioeconomy ecosystems at the state, regional, and national levels?

Focus areas will work to:

- a. Build world-class bioeconomy talent systems at every skill level through traditional and non-traditional training and education models (e.g., stackable credentials, apprenticeships, etc.)
- b. Expand regional innovation assets like research parks, bioindustrial hubs, and competitiveness zones
- c. Strengthen physical and digital infrastructure
- d. Modernize regulation, permitting, and governance systems at all levels of government
- e. Ensure trusted biosafety, biosecurity, and IP frameworks
- f. Build integrated bio-data infrastructure, including interoperability standards, shared datasets, and scale-up digital systems

12:50 PM Open Discussion: Working Group Design and Priorities

- Ms. Wince-Smith will facilitate a discussion to pressure-test the proposed working group structure, including the participant engagement model, primary focus areas for each working group, and expected outputs and deliverables.

Thought Starter Questions:

1. Are working groups the right method for driving actionable outcomes?
2. What is the right cadence of working group engagement?
3. Are these the right core domains to organize around, or are we missing a critical bottleneck?
4. Are there gaps in the proposed focus areas?
5. What deliverables and internal and external engagement is needed for success?

1:15 PM Open Discussion: Building the Coalition

- Ms. Wince-Smith will lead an all-attendee discussion to identify missing perspectives or expertise, expand the network of leaders engaged in the steering committee and working groups, and propose strategies to broaden the coalition to maximize its impact.

Thought Starter Questions:

1. Who are the most critical stakeholders who must be engaged for this effort to succeed at scale?
2. What is the most effective way to engage these stakeholders?
3. Who in this room or within our broader networks is best positioned to lead or open doors to key external partners?

1:25 PM Next Steps and Action Items

- Dr. Jeffrey Gold, President, University of Nebraska System
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient
- The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

1:30 PM Adjourn and Transition to Competitiveness Discussion