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National Commission on Innovation & Competitiveness Frontiers  
**Mountain West Innovation Summit**

June 21-22, 2022  
University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

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**Day 2, Breakout Group #3: The Future of Work and the Workforce**

Date: June 21, 2022

Time: 9:45am – 11:15am

Venue: Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Room: Gateway Salon E

Registration: On-the-ground registration and photo release signing for the Summit will take place in the Gateway Center Foyer.

**CO-CHAIRS**

**Ms. Robin Cooley**

Director

Wyoming Workforce Services

**Ms. Hope Morrow**

Economist & Lead for Workforce Development

Idaho National Laboratory

**MODERATORS**

**Mr. Wesley Brown**

Analyst, Keybridge

**Ms. Yasmin Hilpert**

Senior Policy Director, Council on Competitiveness

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Press may be in the room – **THOUGH UNLIKELY**. Nevertheless, please keep in mind your comments as they may be quoted.
- The breakout sessions will **NOT** be audio recorded (though Moderators and Support Team will be taking notes) – but they are likely to be photographed – as such, we will ask all participants to sign a simple release to use images upon registration.
- Images will be used in the production of a post-Summit summary report.
- Dress code for the Summit – including the reception and dinner on the 21st – is business casual.

## **PROGRAM FORMAT AND DYNAMICS**

The purpose of the breakout sessions is for Summit participants to leave plenary and gather in smaller groups to focus on one of four critical issue sets that will form the 2022/2023 “policy recommendation generation engine” of the Council on Competitiveness “National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers.” The focus will include a consideration – **BEFORE THE SUMMIT** – of a short breakout group “charter” which sets out the innovation and competitiveness challenge under consideration – as well as shares a series of questions to consider addressing/answering at the Mountain West Innovation summit.

- Breakout Group #3, “The Future of Work and the Workforce” will report at the appointed time to Gateway Salon E on both June 21st and June 22nd.
- Breakout Groups will be led on both days by a different set of “Co-Chairs”, supported substantively and administratively by a group of “Moderators.”
- Moderators will bring the Breakout Groups to order – introducing the “Co-Chairs” and initiating an around-the-room introduction of Breakout Group participants.
- Breakout Group Co-Chairs will set the stage for the 1-hour 30-minute conversation – reviewing the “charter” for the conversation, as well as outlining a series of questions to address across the two days of the Summit.
- The goal is not to cover every question on Day 1 – but to go deep on a set of questions on both days of the Summit, ensuring ample consideration.
- The Co-Chairs and/or Moderators should also note from the outset that upon completion of each day’s Breakout Group conversation, all Breakout Groups will return to plenary – and each Breakout Group will need to nominate a representative to join the emcee on stage and

provide a 3-5 minutes summary of key issues discussed in Breakout. This will be repeated on Day 2 – but with, ideally, a different representative standing up for each group.

- The Co-Chairs should help instigate and drive the Breakout Group conversation – but Moderators need to be prepared to jump in and support the Co-Chairs, either with suggested questions or time check to proceed to a different issue/question outlined in the Breakout Group charter.
- The Co-Chairs and Moderators should use the final 15 minutes of the session to try – with the participation of the full Breakout Group – to nominate a representative and work together to arm that representative with a prioritized summary to report back in plenary.
- Moderators need to track the questions/issues covered during Day One – and at the beginning of Day 2’s Breakout, quickly remind respective groups on Day 1’s findings – and help set up Day 2 Co-Chairs for reflections/opening remarks.

**(IF YOU ARE A DAY 2, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> CO-CHAIR FOR A BREAKOUT GROUP, BE PREPARED TO COME TO DAY 2 WITH YOUR OWN REFLECTIONS OF DAY 1 CONVERSATION – AND BE PREPARED TO RESTART THE CONVERSATION WHERE IT LEFT OFF ON DAY 1.**

**MODERATORS – BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT DAY 2 CO-CHAIRS IN THE PREVIOUSLY BULLETED TASK.)**

## **MODERATOR ROLE**

- The moderator will introduce the session and Co-Chairs each day – and be prepared to frame the discussion with his or her insights regarding the Breakout Group topic (2-3 minutes).
- The moderator will support the Co-Chairs each day in guiding conversation, using the general questions in this guide allowing time for response and commentary from panelists.
- The moderator will work both days with their Co-Chairs to stop conversation, engage the entire Breakout Group in summarizing chat, find/nominate a Breakout Group rep and help prepare him/her with 3-5 minutes worth of summary bullets to deliver back in plenary.

## **BREAKOUT GROUP CONCEPT AND KEY QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS ON DAYS 1 & 2**

Refer to the provided National Commission concept paper, plus the “FUTURE OF WORK AND WORKFORCE” CHARTER in that report, for a summary of key issues and specific questions to consider in this breakout group.

## **CO-CHAIR AND MODERATOR BIOS**



**Ms. Robin Cooley**

Director  
Wyoming Workforce Services

Robin Sessions Cooley is the Wyoming Director of Workforce Services. She was appointed to the position in February 2019 by Governor Mark Gordon (R), replacing John Cox.<sup>[1]</sup>

Cooley is a former member of the Wyoming Public Service Commission. She was appointed to the commission by Governor Matt Mead (R) effective March 16, 2017. On February 14, 2019, it was announced that she has been appointed as director of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.

Prior to joining the Wyoming Public Service Commission, Sessions Cooley worked as an attorney in private practice, as a deputy attorney general, and as a special counsel to Governor Matt Mead (R).



**Ms. Hope Morrow**

Economist & Lead for Workforce Development  
Idaho National Laboratory

Hope Morrow is Idaho National Laboratory's resident Labor Economist leading regional and community workforce development strategies for the lab. Hope comes to INL with vast experience, following her years of service with the Department of Labor in both Idaho and Utah. Hope has been appointed to Idaho's Workforce Development Council by Idaho Governor Brad Little and serves as the Council's Policy Committee Chair. Hope co-chairs Idaho's Nuclear Contractor Consortium, where she leads the industry, education partners, and leadership to make data-driven decisions, especially regarding workforce and economic needs. In addition, she connects partners across the state and nation on workforce development topics, labor market analysis, and community college development strategies.

Hope is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of Eastern Washington University. Hope and her partner live in Boise, Idaho, where they coach local girls' sports programs and raise their three dogs.



**Mr. Wesley Brown**  
Analyst, Keybridge

Wes is an Analyst at Keybridge, where he specializes in technology and innovation policy, data analytics, and program evaluation. He is experienced in conducting detailed research and applying sophisticated analytical approaches to a wide range of policy issues including artificial intelligence, broadband buildout, infrastructure investment, and natural disaster risk assessment.

While at Keybridge, Wes has supported the work of the Innovation & Technology and Infrastructure policy committees at an association of CEOs from the nation's leading companies. His contributions include research and drafting support for reports and policy recommendations, administration of numerous membership-wide surveys, and a modeling study estimating the macroeconomic returns on investment in U.S.

infrastructure. Wes has also provided analytic support for program evaluations and strategic decision-making efforts undertaken by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program and Health & Human Services' Administration for Community Living.

Wes holds a Bachelor's degree from Princeton University, with Honors, from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.



**Ms. Yasmin Hilpert**

Senior Policy Director, Council on Competitiveness

Yasmin Hilpert joined the Council on Competitiveness from its sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), where she has served as the Senior Director of Policy and Engagement since 2017. Yasmin comes from an extensive labor background, with experience in strategic development, labor issues and workforce development. She brings close to ten years of experience as a trainer and educator with a vocational training institute in Germany. With an interdisciplinary background in political science and metropolitan industrial policy with a focus on Industry 4.0, she worked as a strategic advisor to human rights and labor organizations to develop strategies for Industry 4.0 and work-force automation in light of technology innovation. As an advisor to labor leaders, she engaged in high-level negotiations on a national and European level with employers and multi-national corporations, and is regularly invited as a contributor to meetings of labor, business and government leaders in Germany, the UK and the EU as a whole. She is an expert on metropolitan and regional development, innovation infrastructure and sustainable industrial policy.