

Compete Connect

May 2023 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

As we wrap up May and kick-off summer in earnest, and in the spirit of reflection that embodied our Memorial Day respite, I am grateful to share here some of the work of the Council on Competitiveness this past month, as well as highlight interesting news from our membership community.

Leadership meetings have punctuated the month with our Board meeting on May 18th and the newly constituted governance of our “Advanced Computing Roundtable” gathering in the Council’s offices to re-shape and rebrand the effort. More exciting news to come on this front.

As we turn to June and the summer months, we’ll be charging hard on a range of critical efforts.

The first 2023 dialogue of our CTO-led “Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative” (TLSI) will take place in Palo Alto, CA, at the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center. Our July 12th Summer Board + Executive Committee + National Commissioners meeting will kick-off the second phase of the Commission’s policy-generating working groups, with a goal to develop and deploy its second major innovation agenda at this December 15th’s National Competitiveness Forum (contact Council EVP Chad Evans for more information on both).

And I close this month’s note, I hope we all took time with our family, friends, and colleagues this past weekend to reflect on and honor the many sacrifices the members of America’s military services and their families have made while defending our great nation, allowing us to exercise our democracy and freedom in the pursuit of happiness.

On the Eve of Disruption, a Discontinuity at Dawn?

In her latest Forbes.com article, Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith

addresses the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and how its rapid democratization through technologies like ChatGPT has ushered in a transformative period for society and higher education.

The article highlights how these new AI systems, unlike previous waves of automation, are capable of non-routine, creative tasks and have the potential to permeate every aspect of the economy and society. As AI becomes more prevalent, institutions and individuals must grapple with its implications and adapt to the changing landscape. The productivity gains offered by AI are evident, with significant reductions in task completion time observed across various industries. However, the disruptive potential of AI extends far beyond productivity gains. It has the power to reshape employment structures, legal and social theories, government management, and social stability. As countries like China invest heavily in AI development, the race to become the leader in this sphere intensifies. It is crucial for the United States to ask the right questions and proactively navigate this uncharted territory.

Read more [here](#).

News

Council Leadership Joins The Delphi Economic Forum to Discuss Opportunities in Education for Greece and The Future Of Technology

Council leadership provided key contributions to the innovation discourse at the 2023 Delphi Economic Forum:

- Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith, along with the Greek Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, prominent education leaders, and university presidents, engaged in a conversation focused on establishing Greece as an education hub, highlighting the importance of teaching in English to attract global talent, and advancing industry-university relationships (watch it [here](#)).



Left to right: **Apostolos Lakasas**, Journalist, Kathimerini, Greece; **Christina Koulouri**, Rector, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences; **Meletios Athanasios Dimopoulos**, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Clinical Therapeutics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; **Endy Zemenides**, Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council, United States; **Deborah Wince-Smith**, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness, and CEO, GFCC; **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, President, College Year in Athens/DIKEMES, Greece; virtual participation from **Niki Kerameus**, Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Hellenic Republic.

- Ms. Wince-Smith moderated a discussion with Council Distinguished Fellow Ray Johnson (and CEO, Technology Innovation Institute), Council EVP Chad Evans, and other leaders to explore the immense potential of technology to address a range of global challenges.

Left to right: **George Papadimitriou** COO Renewables & New Business, Galp, Portugal; **Antigoni Papanikolaou** Corporate, External & Legal Affairs Lead, Microsoft Greece; **Hippolyte Fofack** Chief Economist & Director, Research and International Cooperation, Afreximbank, Egypt; **Deborah Wince-Smith** President & CEO, Council on



Competitiveness, and CEO, GFCC; **Ray O. Johnson** CEO, Technology Innovation Institute, UAE; **Chad Evans** Executive Vice President & Board Secretary and Treasurer, Council on Competitiveness, and Board Treasurer, GFCC.

- Mr. Evans continued this discussion in a panel organized by the Council's sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, centered around the rapid challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence is bringing to work and the workforce (watch it [here](#)).



Left to right: **Harry Margaritis**, Group COO, Piraeus Bank, Greece; **Isabel Gil**, Rector, Catholic University of Portugal; **Roberto Alvarez**, Executive Director, GFCC; **Chad Evans**, Executive Vice President & Board Secretary and Treasurer, Council on Competitiveness, and Board Treasurer, GFCC; **Venetia Koussia**, Executive Director, Council on Competitiveness of Greece

- And Ms. Wince-Smith joined a GFCC-organized fireside chat with the CEO of Piraeus Bank to discuss the future of clean technologies, the economic and political situation in Europe, and key global trends that will shape economies in the years to come (watch it [here](#)).



Left to right: **Christos Megalou** CEO, Piraeus Bank; **Deborah Wince-Smith** President & CEO, Council on Competitiveness, and CEO, GFCC; **Megan Greene**, Kroll.

The Future of the Council's Advanced Computing Agenda

This month, the leadership of the Council's Advanced Computing Roundtable met to discuss its future, including a potential rebrand/rename of the ACR to better reflect the transformative power of computing. The rebrand is central to defining the future mission for the initiative that has been a key part of the Council's policy work for over two decades.

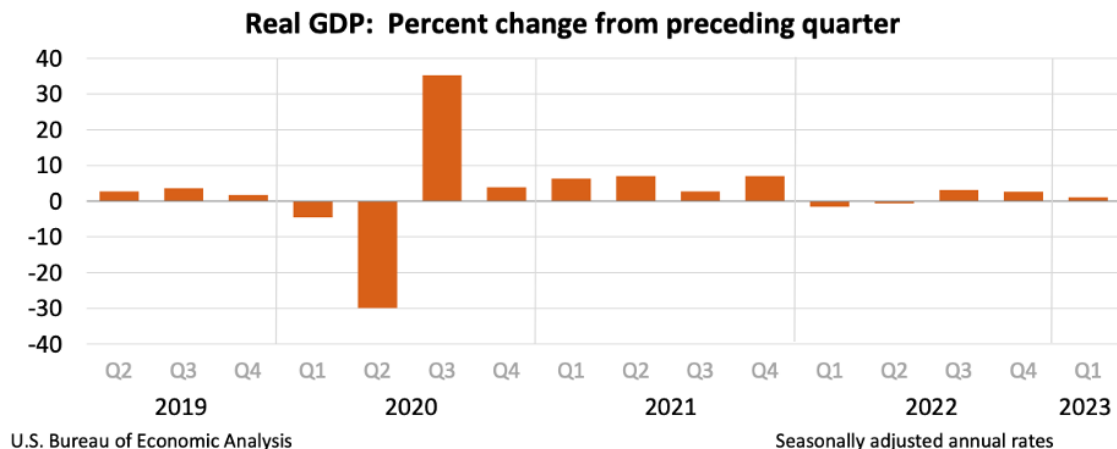
The specific policy priorities under consideration by the group look to leverage tremendous breadth and expertise of the ACR to address such issues as the democratization of advanced computing; advocating at the leading edge of computing; advanced computing as a national security imperative; advanced computing as enabler to AI, cyber, biotech, cosmology, quantum, and fusion; and the evolving tension between HPC and power.

Read more about the ACR [here](#).

Council Insights

A recent press release from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) notes that the first quarter GDP data showed a slower growth rate (annualized 1.1% vs. 2.6% in the previous quarter) for the US economy, leading to concerns about a potential recession. However, when excluding the decline in business inventories, real GDP grew at a healthy rate of 3.4%, indicating strong underlying demand. The decline in inventories meant that businesses sold off existing inventories rather than produce enough to satisfy rising demand. This bodes well for GDP growth in the current quarter if one assumes that businesses will have to replenish their inventories to meet demand. It assumes that demand will be sustained. The US data is particularly encouraging when looking at the economic data in global comparison: EU Real GDP was up only 0.1% in the first quarter.

Consumer spending, exports, and government purchases all showed positive growth, while business investment in equipment and residential property slightly declined. While there are headwinds such as expected tighter monetary policy and challenges in the banking system, the favorable purchasing managers' indices suggest a positive outlook for the current quarter.



Source: https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/gdp1q23_adv.pdf

Member News

U.S. Universities Establish 'UPWARDS Network' in Semiconductors at G7 Summit, Solidifying Global Partnerships

Coming out of the recent G7 meeting in Japan, several Council members have joined together, along with other partners in the United States and Japan, to foster research and development of strategic semiconductor technologies.

Purdue University President and National Commissioner Mung Chiang, Boise State University President and National Commissioner Marlene Tromp, Council member and Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands, Micron, Tokyo Electron, the National Science Foundation, a range of other U.S. universities, alongside Hiroshima University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Tohoku University and Tokyo Institute of Technology will invest in the five-year project, the "UPWARDS Network."

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japan's Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Keiko Nagaoka, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel.

Read more [here](#)

Council Business Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board of Deloitte Janet Foutty Urges Leaders to Take Action on Global Gender Equality

In a recent Forbes article, Council Business Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board of Deloitte Janet Foutty emphasizes the urgent need for global leaders to address the slow progress towards gender parity. The article highlights a recent report that predicts that it will take 132 years to close the gender gap. To achieve a more inclusive and equitable future, societal and cultural barriers must be dismantled, biases challenged, and new paths forged.

The report by Deloitte Global, titled "[Women at Work 2023: A Global Outlook](#)," reveals certain aspects of women's experiences in the workplace have not improved and, in some cases, have worsened. Lack of inclusivity, flexibility, and fear of adverse career impacts are cited. The report identifies "Gender Equality Leaders" who have created inclusive cultures that support women's careers, well-being, and inclusion. Such leaders set the stage for women to thrive, resulting in higher engagement and job satisfaction. The work suggests three tenets for gender equality leaders: embedding gender parity as a core value, turning plans into measurable action with accountability, and moving beyond mentorship to sponsorship and allyship.

Read more about Foutty's suggested three tenets for gender equality leaders [here](#).

Breakthrough Energy Ventures' Managing Director David Danielson has been elected to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) Board of Directors

The NVCA empowers the next generation of American companies that will fuel the economy of tomorrow. In his new role, Danielson will represent the issues and needs of the climate technology venture capital community.

Read more [here](#).



The Honorable David Danielson
Managing Director
Breakthrough Energy Ventures

Idaho National Laboratories and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories Team with Idaho Power to Evaluate Hydrogen Generation Integrated with Hydropower

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) are collaborating with Idaho Power to assess the feasibility and advantages of producing hydrogen at existing hydropower plants. The integration of hydrogen production with hydropower has several benefits including enhancing grid stability, reoxygenating water for environmental improvements, and supporting the transition to clean energy in Idaho. The partnership aims to determine the viability of this integration, not only in Idaho but also for facilities across the United States.

Read more [here](#).

Argonne National Laboratory with Minority-Serving Institutions to Prepare Students for the New Energy Workforce

Argonne National Laboratory has entered a partnership with the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras (UPRRP) and Brookhaven National Laboratory to enhance the Environmental Sciences Program at UPRRP. The collaboration aims to study atmospheric dust and its impact on various systems, while also engaging minority students who are underrepresented in the field. The project is part of the DOE's Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW) Initiative which supports historically underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Through workshops, course development, internships, and access to DOE facilities, the partnership aims to attract more students to the Environmental Sciences Program and promote aerosol and atmospheric science research. The collaboration is intended to create new career opportunities for young scientists, engineers, and technicians while diversifying leadership in energy and climate fields.

Read more [here](#).

Deloitte Releases New Higher Education Trends

The higher education sector is entering a transformative period, marked by significant shifts and challenges. As we navigate a world grappling with a pandemic and undergoing social, political, and economic upheaval, it's clear that higher education must adapt to meet evolving needs. Deloitte's Higher Education Trends includes a collection of articles that explore key developments impacting the sector, including declining college enrollment, questioning the value of degrees, transforming business models, talent management strategies, and the need for a new response paradigm to address risks.

Read more [here](#).

Council Chair Emeritus, National Commissioner, and Hevolution Foundation CEO Dr. Mehmood Khan Joins Board of the Saudi Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA)

Dr. Khan will serve as a private sector representative to RDIA – a key driver in the transformation of the Saudi economy into one based on innovation, in line with [Vision 2030](#). Being a part of the RDIA will allow Dr. Khan to support and encourage scientific research and development in Saudi Arabia as part of this ongoing, country-wide evolution.



Dr. Mehmood Khan
CEO
Hevolution Foundation
Council Chair Emeritus

Council CEO Deborah Wince-Smith – along with leaders from across Washington, DC and the country – participated in the 2023 National Science Foundation Awards Gala, led by NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan, to bestow the National Science Board Science and Society Award (which the Council won in 2018).



Left to right: **Dr. Mark Becker**, President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; and **The Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith**, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

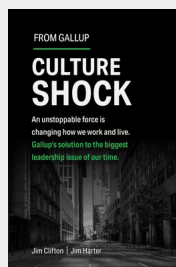
THE COUNCIL'S SUMMER READING LIST

Summer is around the corner and we have selected 5 professional development and leadership books and 5 leisurely reading recommendations that you might want to explore this summer.

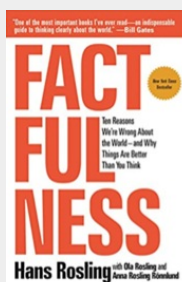
Professional Development & Leadership



"[Arrive and Thrive](#)" by Deloitte's Chair Janet Foutty (and the Council's Business Vice-Chair) offers actionable practices for women leaders to overcome career obstacles and succeed. The book provides firsthand insights and contributions from successful leaders, offering guidance on investing in oneself, embracing authenticity, cultivating courage, and fostering resilience, among other practices, to thrive in leadership roles and create positive impact.

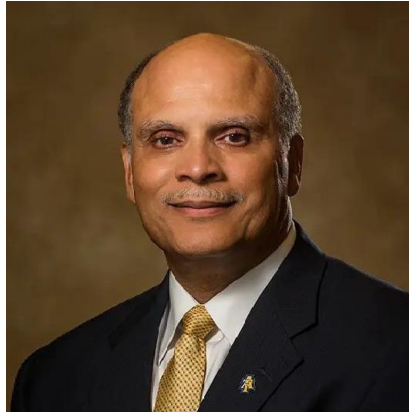


"[Culture Shock](#)" co-authored by Council Executive Committee member Jim Clifton is a new, must-read for Summer 2023. Offering management insights on how to deal with the tremendous turbulence and transformation to how and where people work and live coming out of the COVID-19 challenge.



"[Factfulness](#)" by Hans Rosling et al. challenges our misconceptions about the world by presenting ten reasons why we often have an inaccurate perception of global progress. With a focus on facts and statistics, Rosling provides foundational knowledge for leaders and responsible citizens, encouraging them to reevaluate their understanding of the world and how to think about it. The book's importance was recognized by Bill Gates, who offered free copies to all U.S. college and university graduates in 2018.

New to the community



Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr.
General Member and National Commissioner
Chancellor
North Carolina A&T

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The Council On Competitiveness | 900 17th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington , DC 20006

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