

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS CONVENE AT WORKFORCE FORUM** *Workforce, education & economic development professionals address skills needs of U.S. industry sectors*

- Who:** Zoë Baird, CEO & President, Markle Foundation - Opening Keynote  
Tamara Christensen, Founder, Idea Farm  
Mindy Grossman, CEO, HSN, Inc., Chairman, National Retail Federation  
Ellie Bertani, Director, HR Strategy & Learning, Walmart US  
Gretchen Stroud, VP Global Talent & Learning, Hilton Worldwide  
Ellen Torbert, VP Diversity & Inclusion, Southwest Airlines  
Mark Wagner, VP of Learning, The Hartford  
Ron Painter, CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards  
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Chairman & CEO, McKeon Group LLC  
George Miller III, Senior Education Advisor, Cengage Learning
- What:** The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) hosts an annual workforce forum each year to convene stakeholders, businesses and political leaders in discussions to find solutions to workforce challenges. See full schedule at [www.NAWB.org/FORUM](http://www.NAWB.org/FORUM) and follow [@WorkforceInvest](https://twitter.com/WorkforceInvest), [#NAWBForum](https://twitter.com/NAWBForum) on Twitter.
- Where:** Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, District of Columbia - USA 20009
- When:** March 25, 2017 – Pre-conference Sessions  
March 26 – March 28, 2017 – Forum General Sessions, Plenary Panels and Keynote Speakers
- Why:** The U.S. continues to experience a mismatch between industry skills needs and workers' skills. There are 5.5 million U.S. job vacancies, but at the same time, 7.6 million Americans are unemployed, and an additional 5.8 million individuals are considered underemployed in part time work. Additionally, young people aged 18 to 24 continue to struggle with unemployment rates more than double that of the overall population, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These challenges demonstrate why business and industry need labor market information and workers need job training to ensure they have the skills needed for open positions. The Forum 2017, presented by the National Association of Workforce Boards, is a national conversation between the public and private sector to define key challenges and shape opportunities that drive the growth of their organizations, their regions, and our collective economic and community health. More than 1450 private sector business representatives and public sector employees from education, economic development, workforce development, and local government are expected to attend.
- Photo Opp:** Corporate keynoters and NAWB Board members. Members of the media should check-in at registration for a no-fee pass.

*The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) connects workforce development professionals, Workforce Development Board members, and policymakers with the knowledge, training, and tools to help make informed, smart decisions about how to invest in workforce strategies that advance the economic health of their communities through a skilled, competitive workforce. For more information on NAWB, visit [www.NAWB.org](http://www.NAWB.org).*