



It is time for a new conversation about America's economic future. It is time for bold actions that create paths for participation by all Americans.

America is in the midst of the greatest economic transformation in a hundred years. Changes brought about by technology and the networked world are creating tremendous uncertainty and disrupting the dreams of millions. The defining challenge of our time is making sure that all Americans are included in the benefits of the connected age.

"We have so many tools at our disposal. We are more connected and more networked than ever before. But the only way we can translate that into real success tomorrow is by starting to rework America today so all Americans can have a meaningful place in the new economy."

- Zoë Baird, CEO and President of the Markle Foundation

To succeed, we need a new vision of a hopeful future and a new agenda for action. Rework America, a group of more than fifty leaders from across the nation, is championing innovative solutions and embracing new approaches to create paths for good and meaningful work. Led by the Markle Foundation, these leaders asked "what can we do today, to make opportunity available to everyone tomorrow?"

"We must reimagine the way we teach and use today's new tools to design educational platforms that foster the skills today's employers say they prize most."

- Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President of Purdue University and Former Governor of Indiana

Currently, there is a mismatch between workers and opportunities. It's unclear which diplomas or credentials will be most meaningful in the fast-changing economy. And businesses don't know which industries will be created, ended, or transformed. It's time to embrace ideas and strategies that will secure our economic future.

Our agenda for actions in communities around the country will prepare people to succeed by expanding jobs, opportunities, and new career paths; informing workers about the skills employers seek and ways to demonstrate their qualifications; and helping us transition to a no-collar workplace.

Together, we are committed to expanding new ways for Americans to prepare for the work of the future. We can **connect to opportunity** by matching qualified workers to available jobs. We can **recognize skills** by developing a credentialing system to assess and demonstrate a worker's capabilities and true potential, not just the degrees they've earned. And we can **support lifelong learning** by expanding ways for people to develop the talent and skills they will need throughout their lives.

"We're in the middle of an incredible transformation, driven by new social, mobile and connected cloud technologies. By embracing these new technologies, we can prepare our youth for the jobs of tomorrow, and encourage entrepreneurs to build new companies to propel our economy forward."

- Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO of salesforce.com

We also can expand new ways to spur business growth and create meaningful opportunities for work. We can **connect small businesses to a world of customers** and increase exports, especially of services, to meet the growing needs of a dynamic and global market of buyers. We can **rethink smart credit** and reduce barriers to business growth by expanding access to smarter capital and credit through new lending models. And we can **innovate the jobs** through the power of information sharing to generate new products and services that create more opportunities for middle-skill work.

"In order to restore the American dream, in order to bring back hope and promise for so many people in this nation, we need strong visionary leadership that is ready to take risks."

- Reverend Calvin Butts, III, Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City and President of the State University of New York College at Old Westbury

Amidst the uncertainty of today's networked world, one thing has never been clearer: innovations in work and in education and training are essential to helping Americans prepare for the life they want.

Join the Conversation: www.reworkamerica.org



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