

HIGH ROAD

SUMMIT 2021

Friday, April 30, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SUMMIT AGENDA OVERVIEW

- 9:00 – 9:25 a.m. | Welcome and a brief overview of the High Road
- 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | Break-out sessions
- 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Break and networking
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Worker Roundtable
- 11:00 – 11:40 a.m. | Plenary
- 11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Closing remarks

PROGRAM DETAILS

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | **Break-out sessions**

1. High Road Construction Careers (HRCC): Paving the High Road to a Greener and More Just Economy

This session features panelists who build and maintain meet this demand head on by building and maintaining pre-apprenticeship pipelines throughout the state that, connecting underserved communities to middle class careers in the building and construction trades. Panelists will discuss the role that each of their respective organizations provide, from supportive services to rigorous pre-apprenticeship training, along with efforts to increase the representation of women in the trades and the once in a generation opportunity to advance economic equity on the back of the multi-trillion-dollar federal infrastructure proposal.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Blake Konczal, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

Chuck Riojas, Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Building Trades Council

Veronica Soto, HireLAX

Juanita Douglas, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Jason Kenney, Department of General Services

2. The High Roads Way Is The Only Way: Addressing Workforce Equity Gaps and Future Initiatives in the Inland Empire (IE)

No longer can we take the traditional skills-focused approach to build economic resilience in the IE. This invigorating session will feature organizations, labor and government leaders, businesses, and industry experts leading the region's workforce efforts by developing industry-led and worker-focused training partnerships that address equity, job quality, and environmental sustainability.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Elizabeth Toups, Jewish Vocational Services

Michael Kushner, BAYWORK - Jewish Vocational Services

Mariann Johnson, San Bernardino Workforce Development Board

Channing Hawkins, West Valley Water District Board

Sheheryar Kaoosji, Warehouse Worker Resource Center

Mike Chavez, Inland Empire Labor Council

3. Frontline Service Workers: Reclaiming Value

Service and public sector workers are often on the frontlines of crisis, including climate disasters and COVID-19, but many face low-wages, lack of professional development opportunities, and systemic barriers. This panel will discuss how worker-centered partnerships can uplift workers while also recognizing their key role in climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, with panelists drawing on their experience in hospitality, property services, allied health care, long-term care, and the public sector.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Adine Forman, Hospitality Training Academy

Luis Sandoval, Building Skills Partnership

Wylie Evans, Dignity Health

Corinne Eldridge, Center for Caregiver Advancement

Janel Bailey, Los Angeles Black Worker Center

4. It's Electric: Job Quality and Equity in Energy and Transportation

Transitioning from fossil fuel combustion to zero-emission fully electric technologies is crucial to achieving California's ambitious climate goals and will have wide-ranging and deep impacts for the workers who build, install, and operate these new technologies. This panel will explore how H RTP projects in electric bus manufacturing, public transit, energy storage and microgrids, and public utilities are developing partnerships that promote high-quality jobs and community benefits.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Melanie Prasad, Jobs to Move America

Kameron Hurt, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Bernie Kotler, IBEW-NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee

5. High Road to Food and Forests

This break out will feature leaders in agriculture, food processing, tree trimming and forest stewardship. They all work on the frontlines of California's changing climate. Learn how policy affects workers in these industries and how they shape the natural and working landscapes of our State.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Don Jamison, IBEW 1245

Lilian Autler, Equitable Food Initiative

Sara Miles, United Food and Commercial Workers

10:30-11:00 a.m. | **Worker Roundtable**

Moderator: California Labor Secretary Julie Su

11:00-11:40 a.m. | **Plenary**

Partnership as a Priority: The Key to Resilience in a Changing Economy

This session will feature a diverse array of organizations whose collective action makes training partnerships a successful model of equitable workforce development. Panelists will discuss why training partnerships are a worthwhile investment, how they each benefit and add value, and the power of partnerships to adapt to new economic opportunities as well as upheaval.

Confirmed Session Panelists:

Tim Rainey, CWDB (Moderator)

Ana Luz Gonzalez-Vasquez, UCLA Labor Center

Don Howard, Irvine Foundation

Louise Auerhahn, Working Partnerships USA

11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | **Closing remarks and call to action**