Early Sessions

**STEM Summit Early Risers Session**

A survey of Massachusetts’ Statewide STEM Initiatives and an orientation to the STEM Summit.

**Host:** David Cedrone, Executive Director, Governor’s STEM Advisory Council

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**Southeast MA STEM Network Pre-Summit Meeting**

Join the Southeast MA STEM Network at 8:00 AM in the Red Level Super Suite for a “SE MA STEM Network Pre-Summit Meeting.” Learn about the resources our Network has to offer and our plans for the coming year.

**Host:** Kathleen Kirby, Executive Director, CONNECT and Southeast STEM Network

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**Morning Break-out Sessions**

**Preschool Science Standards: Connecting Theory and Practice to Early Childhood Education**

The goal of this session is to have a robust dialogue with participants about the new preschool science, engineering and technology framework - its connection to assessment, curriculum development and modification, and evidence based practice. We continue to recognize that all learning is integrated, and building strong foundations in both English Language Arts and Mathematics is critical to furthering a child’s curiosity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Participants will have the opportunity to pose questions, offer comments and provide feedback on the new pre-school science, engineering and technology standards as they relate to individual educators, programs, and the state. The morning session will serve as a platform on which to build in the afternoon session.

Questions for participants to consider: What do “we” want children to know? What do “we” want educators to know? How do we build/encourage curiosity in children of all ages and stages of development? What curriculum changes can occur? What resources are needed? What resources exist?

**Panelists:**
- Dr. Sherri Killins, Commissioner, Department of Early Education and Care
- Karen Worth, Professor and Chair of Elementary Education, Wheelock College
- Jeff Winokur, Instructor of Elementary Education, Wheelock College

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**Preparing K-12 Students for Success after High School**

This session will present the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (ESE) core strategies for preparing K-12 students for success after high school:

- Strengthening curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- Improving educator effectiveness;
- Turning around the lowest performing districts and schools; and,
- Using data and technology to support student performance.

Commissioner Chester will discuss our state’s achievements and challenges, and ESE’s key initiatives for 2012-13 that address the state’s achievement and performance gaps and support improved STEM teaching and learning.

**Host:** Mitchell D. Chester, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Closing the Inspiration Gap: Out-of-School-Time Programming**

The National Governor's Association recently affirmed what the MA Governor's STEM Plan proposed: that afterschool should be strategically included as a complement to in-school instruction to increase student interest and career awareness in STEM. In this panel, we will discuss research and strategies that help close the inspiration gap and increase STEM retention, especially for girls and those from underrepresented groups, in the K-16, in- and out-of-school arenas. In particular, we will discuss how meaningful relationships with STEM students and professionals inspire confidence and knowledge that science & engineering are accessible and desirable pursuits.

**Moderator:** Connie Chow, Executive Director, Science Club for Girls

**Panelists:**
- Violet Apple, Chief Membership Services Officer, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
- Jane Burke, Founder & Director, Flying Cloud Institute
- Gretchen Fougere, Assistant Dean of Outreach and Diversity, College of Engineering, Boston University
- TBD, Massachusetts Council of STEM Professional Societies

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**In-School Partnerships in the MCAS Era**

Private sector and non-profit STEM partners can be a great asset to educators, especially for students who excel in, but haven't "connected" with, STEM subject matter. Navigating the logistics of meaningful program integration can be burdensome and often competes with the critical curriculum requirements of Massachusetts' STEM educators in the Common Core MCAS era. Due to Common Core, the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School Counseling and other changes, teachers, school counselors and administrators must increasingly collaborate cross-functionally in order for in-school STEM and experiential programming to be successful.

In this session, an expert panel of program innovators and thought leaders will share insights on how STEM educators, school counselors, and administrators can partner internally and externally to implement programming that boosts student learning and enhances STEM connectivity.

**Moderator:** Marie DeMego, Vice President of Enterprise Solutions, ConnectEDU

**Panelists:**
- Jim Stanton, Director, Lift²
- Dr. Erika Ebbel, CEO and Founder, Science from Scientists
- Manjula Karamcheti, Director of Guidance, Testing, and Academic Support at Malden Public Schools
- Bridgette H. Newfell, Textile Designer, Parent Advocate

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**ABLE 4 STEM**

PK-12, Higher Education and Business/Industry leaders are encouraged to attend this session to learn about an exciting new initiative: ABLE 4 STEM (Associate’s and Bachelor's Level Education in STEM at 4 UMass campuses). ABLE 4 STEM is a collaboration among UMass and the 15 MA Community Colleges to double the number of Underrepresented Minorities who earn Associate and Bachelor degrees in STEM fields. The initiative is part of a national effort of the Business Higher Education Forum, an organization of Fortune 500 companies and prominent university leaders, and a joint state effort of the MA Competitive Partnership and Governors' STEM Council. The community colleges and UMass campuses are working on several strategies to meet the goal, including: reverse transfer; enhanced advising; curriculum mapping of STEM programs; a summer bridge program; and internships. The session begins with a panel introducing the initiative, and concludes with an opportunity to meet in regional groups to discuss the strategies and offer feedback.

**Moderator:** Marcellette G. Williams, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations, University of Massachusetts President's Office

**Panelists:**
- Henry Thomas, Chair, University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, and President, Urban League of Springfield
- Carole Cowan, President, Middlesex Community College
- Dan O'Connell, President and Executive Director, Mass Competitive Partnership
- Kathleen Teehan, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, University of Massachusetts, Boston.
- Susan Bronstein (Amherst) and Marshall Milner (Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell) campus Directors of the National Science Foundation Alliance for Minority Participation
**Pathways to Achieving Technical Competencies**

With the current mismatch between job openings requiring various degrees of technical expertise and job seekers without the necessary skills, what is being done to better align the ways in which we prepare and retrain students and job seekers to know about these skill requirements, and develop them in ways consistent with their career aspirations and employers' needs? Examples of successful efforts and ideas for further progress will be described, solicited, and discussed.

**Moderator:** Dennis Berkey, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Panelists:** Ayora Berry, Schools Program Lead, North America, PTC
Deborah Boisvert, Executive Director, BATEC Center for IT, UMass Boston
Chris Root, Senior VP of Network Strategy, National Grid

**The Leaky STEM Pipeline**

If the education path to careers in STEM is a pipeline, then each stage has leaks for under-represented minorities (URM) and women—significantly growing components of our workforce in this century. In this strand, we will consider the "leaky STEM pipeline". Panelists at each stage of the education and career pathway will describe barriers in retaining URM and women at transition points. In the afternoon session, audience members will be challenged to generate creative pipeline "repairs." *This strand is made possible by the MA Council of STEM Professional Societies, mastem.org.*

**Presentation:** Travis Brown, PhD, Director, Center for STEM Diversity, Tufts University

**Moderator:** Patricia Hogan, PhD, Associate Professor, Suffolk University

**Panelists:**
- Middle School - Alexandra Montes McNeil, Principal, Umana Academy, East Boston
- High School - Ariel Martinez, Director of Green Programming, Boston Green Academy
- Pre-College - Shawna L. Young, Executive Director, MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs
- Community College - Greg Field, Professor, Science, Engineering & Health Programs, Bunker Hill CC
- University - Michael Siegel, Assoc. Prof., Director, Graduate Prog. in Admin. of Higher Ed., Suffolk Univ.
- Career - Antonio de la Serna, Senior Development Engineer, Draper Laboratory

**Aligning STEM and the Commonwealth’s Economic Development Strategy**

The purpose of this session is to explore how STEM Plan 2.0 and the state’s economic development plan, *Choosing to Compete in the 21st Century*, should align in order to move both agendas forward. The session’s outcome will be to define specific areas of alignment that will be recommended for inclusion in STEM Plan 2.0.

**Moderator:** JD Chesloff, Executive Director, MA Business Roundtable

**Panelists:**
- David Cedrone, Executive Director, Governor’s STEM Advisory Council (will discuss the STEM Plan and initiatives underway that align with the economic development strategy)
- Anne Struthers, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (will discuss the economic development plan, provide and ideas for incorporating STEM into the plan)
- Gary DiCamillo, Chairman, Berkshire Manufactured Products; Chair, MBR’s Education and Workforce Development Task Force (will provide industry’s perspective on the importance of aligning the agendas broadly and react to the ideas suggested by the first two panelists)
- Greg Bialecki, Secretary, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

At the end of the session, we should have 3 – 5 ideas about how to incorporate economic development activities that align with the Plan into STEM Plan 2.0.
Aligning STEM and the Commonwealth’s Workforce Development Initiatives

The purpose of this session is to explore how the state’s workforce development initiatives in the so-called "Jobs Bills" can align with the goals of the State STEM Plan, as well as with each other. Representative Joseph Wagner will provide an overview of the history and impetus for the Jobs Bill, and will highlight particular sections of the legislation that address workforce development initiatives. He will be followed by two panelists who are actively implementing these aspects of the legislation and coordinating with each other and others on the state's goals to align workforce, education and economic development. The session will end with Q&A and a discussion of what workforce development activities, goals, and/or strategies might be included in an updated version of the STEM Plan. At the end of the session, we should have 3 – 5 ideas about how to incorporate workforce development activities that align with the Plan into STEM Plan 2.0.

Moderator: Marybeth Campbell, Executive Offices of Education, Labor & Workforce, and Housing and Economic Development

Panelists: Joseph Wagner, State Representative, Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
Eric Nakajma, Assistant Secretary for Innovation Policy, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
Nancy Snyder, President and CEO, Commonwealth Corporation

Integrating High-Skilled Immigrants into STEM Solutions for Massachusetts

MA is home to a large population of immigrants with advanced education and professional skills obtained abroad in healthcare, engineering and other STEM fields. These immigrants offer MA substantial economic and other benefits, yet many remain unemployed or underemployed due to barriers that impede foreign trained professionals from practicing in their fields. The New Americans Integration Institute of the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, an initiative promoting immigrant integration in key areas, has convened diverse experts in a Committee on Professional Integration to examine these challenges. Panelists will discuss: the Institute's recommendations to help foreign-trained immigrants overcome professional integration challenges and strengthen our state's workforce; ways to incorporate some of these solutions into a Statewide STEM Plan 2.0; and insights, strategies and essential resources that can be utilized to strengthen services and improve outcomes for highly-skilled immigrants in our state.

Panelists: Paul Feltman, Director, Global Talent Bridge, World Education Services
Shannon Erwin, State Policy Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Alysia Ordway, Director of Workforce Initiatives, Boston Private Industry Council
Jerry Rubin, CEO, Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Boston

Legislative Actions in Support of STEM

This panel of Senators and Representatives will discuss bills sponsored by the Senate and House that are associated with STEM and their effects on PK-higher education, jobs, workforce development, and economic development.

Moderator: Senator Karen Spilka, Assistant Majority Whip; Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Rules Vice Chair; Member, Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules; Member, Joint Committee on Ways and Means; Member, Special Joint Committee on Redistricting

Panelists: Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Chair, Joint Committee on Education; Vice Chair, Special Joint Committee on Redistricting; Member, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Member, Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government; Member, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, (Invited) Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development; Member, Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses; Member, Joint Committee on Higher Education; Member, Joint Committee on Revenue
Representative Tom Conroy, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing; Member, Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses; Member, Joint Committee on Higher Education; Member, Governors Stem Advisory Council
Representative Stephen DiNatale, (Invited) Vice Chair, House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change; Member, Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies; Member, Joint Committee on Higher Education; Member, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
**Early Education: Bringing Curiosity to Evidence-based Practice**

Taking into consideration the morning Early Education session, the afternoon will focus on turning theory into evidence-based practice.

Representatives from MA College of Liberal Arts will provide an interactive learning workshop tailored to the needs and abilities of: 1) infants & toddlers; 2) pre-school to Kindergarten; and 3) school age-up to 2nd grade, in STEM learning. They will demonstrate specific STEM concepts and activities that illustrate how STEM can be integrated into early education. MCLA has developed 6 Early Childhood STEM modules. The course content they have presented to early educators in Western MA is in the following areas: Hands-On Counting; Exploring Dimensions; Playing with Symbols; Cultivating The Spirit of Scientific Inquiry Among Pre-Schoolers; Sounds Like Fun - Exploring the field of acoustical sound; and What is Engineering? Who Are Engineers?

Many of these opportunities align with the MA Curriculum Frameworks, Common Core and the MA Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences, from which educators can choose additional Science, Technology and Engineering, Literacy and Math curricula to incorporate into classroom teaching and hands-on learning activities that span all children’s developmental stages. The STEM course material also aligns with EEC’s QRIS standards under Category 1- Curriculum and Learning: 1A. Curriculum, Assessment, and Diversity at levels 2, 3 and 4.

**Level 2 Standards:** “Educators demonstrate completion of professional development in curriculum, screening tools, and formative assessment” and “Materials reflect the language & culture of the children in the classroom, their communities, & represent the diversity of society.”

**Level 3 Standards:** “Staff has received formal professional development in the curriculum; using the MA Guidelines for Preschool Learning Standards or Infant/Toddler Learning; documenting children’s progress; and working with children from diverse languages and cultures and second language acquisition. Staff demonstrate language and literacy skills either in English or the child’s language that provide a model for children.”

**Level 4 Standards:** “Program uses a curriculum that is aligned with MA guidelines for Preschool Learning Standards and the Infant/Toddler Learning Guidelines.” and “Program uses progress reports, appropriate screening tools, formative assessments, and information gathered through observation to inform curriculum planning, and use results to monitor each child’s progress across developmental domains, and inform program decision-making.”

**Moderator:** Douglas McNally, Coordinator, Berkshire Readiness Center, Berkshire Community College and MCLA

**Activities:** Dale Borman, Assistant Professor, Education Department, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Christopher Thomas, Mathematics Faculty, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Dale's demonstrations: A physical science station where you can test the “domino effect” at various levels, by setting up and knocking down dominoes, and a life science station with activities related to gaining knowledge about the human body. These modules/stations are not only to model how to involve young children in scientific investigation. We want early educators to gain firmer grounding in these topics by engaging in inquiry and experimentation themselves.

Chris will be doing a demonstration with a number line as well as another mathematics demonstration using pasta.

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**Defining and Aligning College and Career Readiness for STEM Pathways**

This session will provide an update and overview of state efforts to further define college and career readiness and the implications for STEM career pathway development. Participants will learn about the alignment of policies and practices across the educational system that support students in their pursuit of STEM careers. The presenters will share the most recent developments in the K-12 and higher education sectors, and their impact on STEM policies and programs.

**Presenters:** Patricia Gregson, Associate Commissioner, Center for Vocational, Workforce, & College Readiness Programs
Representative for Higher Education
**Innovative Student Engagement in STEM**

In this session, panelists will share how their programs are designed to increase student engagement and interest in STEM subjects. A range of student experiences will be discussed, including: examples of how resources, opportunities, or activities can be woven into a school’s curriculum to enhance student learning and deepen content understanding; as well as programs that are offered outside of the traditional school day or year. Join us as we discuss the positive impact these innovative approaches are having on students as they learn, consider future careers, and apply knowledge in STEM.

**Presenters:**
- **Jay Sweeney**, Principal, Advanced Math and Science Academy
- **Kelly Powers**, Computer Science Department Chair, Advanced Math and Science Academy
- **Aimee Donohue** and **Karyn Michela**, Students, Advanced Math and Science Academy
- **Cynthia Brossman**, Director, Boston University Summer Pathways Program
- **Dana Fowler**, Math Teacher and Coordinator, REEL Math Team, Melrose Middle School
- **Alva Ronn**, **Isabel Bates**, **Chloe Melville**, and **Emily DiPietro**, Students, Melrose Middle School
- **Leanne Martin Fay**, Director, Financial Education Division, MA State Treasury with co-panelists for Reality Fairs

**New Directions in Assessments**

This session involves 2 presentations: an exploration of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's transition plans for aligning the 2013 MCAS Mathematics Assessments to the new 2011 Mathematics Curriculum Framework and an overview of the design of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. The 2011 MA Framework for Mathematics incorporates the Common Core State Standards. The exciting changes in curriculum have lead the MCAS in new directions. This presentation details what is changing about MCAS math tests, and what will remain the same. PARCC is a consortium of 23 states, including MA. A session highlight will be participants engaging with several examples of innovative model PARCC prototype assessment tasks.

**Presenters:**
- **Jennifer Hawkins**, Administrator of Math Test Development, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **Sharon DeCicco**, Math Teacher and MA PARCC Math Educator Leader Fellow, Oakmont Regional HS

**Promising STEM Career Pathways Models**

Many state and district initiatives over the past several years have resulted in new school career pathway models that focus on STEM. This session highlights 2 public school models representing career/technical education and a comprehensive/ academic high school where participants will have an opportunity to learn how STEM career pathways have been integrated to create new opportunities for students to master knowledge and skills in the academic, workplace readiness and personal/social domains. Information will be provided on how programming like this can help inform a statewide initiative to integrate college and career readiness.

**Moderators:** **Keith Westrich**, Director, Office of College and Career Readiness
- **Nyal Fuentes**, Educational Specialist, Office of College and Career Readiness

**Panelists:**
- **Peter Dewar**, Director of Professional Development, MA Association of Vocational Administrators
- **Loretta Dansereau**, Partnership Director, River East School-to-Career, Inc.
- **Paula Talmadge**, School-to-Career Coordinator, Minnechaug Regional High School

**Undergraduate STEM Teacher Preparation: Innovations and Challenges**

The intent of this session is to highlight innovations in teacher preparation, with a focus on UTEACH UMass Lowell and WPI's Teacher Preparation Program. Presenters will describe the implementation of their models and discuss with the audience how challenges are addressed.

**Presenters:**
- **Martha Cyr**, Executive Director, STEM Education Center, WPI
- **Anita Greenwood**, Dean, Education, UMass Lowell, and PI, UTEACH

Additional presenters TBD
STEM Standards and Curriculum Resources Showcase

This session will highlight resources that address student achievement, achievement gaps, and implementation of new math and upcoming science standards and frameworks for PK-12 students. Resources include: model curriculum maps and units with curriculum-embedded performance assessments; the Tri-State Rubric, a tool to help educators determine the quality, rigor and alignment of classroom lessons and units to STEM standards; EDWIN, a statewide online teaching and learning system in development; the Revised Mathematics Resource Guide for the 2011 Mathematics Framework for Students with Disabilities (PK-8); ESE's Diving Deeper into the Mathematics Framework series; new professional development courses; PARCC Educator Leader Fellows; the PARCC Mathematics Content Framework; and more.

Presenters: Barbara Libby, STEM Director, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jacob Foster, Science and Technology/Engineering Director, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
Ronit Carter, Educational Consultant, Model Curriculum Unit Project- Math Facilitator
Mark Healy, Math Coordinator PK-12, Cambridge Public Schools, PARCC Educator Leader Fellow
Connie Varoudakis, SE District and School Accountability Center Mathematics Specialist, DESE

Vision Project

If MA is to compete effectively for jobs, investment and talent, and sustain our rich civic landscape, we need to have the best-educated citizenry/workforce in the nation and to be a national leader in research that drives economic development. Excellence at the Commonwealth’s 29 public higher education institutions is essential to meeting these needs. Through the Vision Project, MA community colleges, state universities and the UMass System have united with the MA Dept. of Higher Education in an ambitious strategic plan to strengthen our performance in educational achievement and research, while holding ourselves accountable to the public for results. Join us for information about this initiative, including Time to Lead: The Need for Excellence in Public Higher Education, the first Vision Project report released September 2012 (available at www.mass.edu/visionproject).

Presenters: DHE Staff

Designing Courses Based on the Evidence of How People Learn

The goal of this workshop is to provide insights into the ways that people learn and how understanding of cognitive neuroscience can be used to enhance our classroom instruction. Through a series of small group exercises, participants will explore current learning theory and the implications for teaching and curriculum development. Specifically discussed will be student preconceptions, knowledge organization, and the benefits of metacognition.

Presenters: Karen Kashmanian Oates, PhD, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Robert J. Milner, PhD, Associate Vice Provost for Professional Development, Professor of Neurology, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Tara Mann, PhD, Director of Operations, Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

STEM and Online Education

This session will focus on the ways in which online education can help further the state's "STEM Agenda" - including: (1) How can online learning help increase student interest in STEM? (2) How can online learning expand STEM achievement among all types of students, as well as higher levels of STEM college/career readiness? (3) How can online learning help in STEM college degree attainment? and (4) How can online learning contribute to the development and maintenance of effective educators? Experts representing a variety of online learning platforms that encompass elementary learning through educator professional development, will discuss these and other issues, as well as engage in audience Q&A.

Moderator: John Cunningham, PhD, Interim CEO, UMass Online

Presenters: Carolyn W. Jacobs, Senior Manager, Training and Professional Development, WGBH Educational Productions
Joseph P. Pickett, Ph.D., Publication Director, OpenCourseWare, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Justina Nixon-Saintil, Director, Education, Verizon Foundation
Kim Spangenberg, Senior Science Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, The VHS Collaborative
Diversity Workshop: Increasing Throughput in the STEM Pipeline

Given the examination of problems in the education-to-career pipeline in the morning session, attendees will address strategies to reduce loss and enable reentry in the STEM Pipeline. A prioritized strategic plan will be developed that is achievable by stakeholders for impact this academic year.

Moderator: Antonio de la Serna, Senior Development Engineer, Draper Laboratory

It Takes a Village: Building Sustainable Partnerships among STEM Professionals, Community Organizations, Schools and Higher Education

The Southern New England Girls Collaborative Project is one of 28 regional chapters in 38 states of the National Girls Collaborative Project, a National Science Foundation funded initiative that has existed for 10 years. Goals of the project are to encourage collaboration and resource-sharing between private and public sector organizations, and to strengthen the capacity of existing and evolving projects that increase girls’ participation in STEM programs. In this session, we will provide the opportunity to network and share successes and challenges of collaborative efforts, effective program models, and best practices in gender-specific programming. SNEGCP will also give an overview of its mini-grant process to encourage new collaborations.

Facilitator: Connie Chow, Executive Director, Science Club for Girls

Panelists: JoAnn Johnson, Manager of Youth and Education Programs, Tech Collective, Providence, RI
Phyllis Russell, President and Executive Director, Jr. Tech, Osterville, RI
Additional Panelist TBD

Aligning Systems: Economic Development, Workforce Development, and STEM

This session will combine the recommendations of the morning economic development and workforce development sessions to develop a shared set of recommendations on how to align all three systems: economic development; workforce development; and STEM. Mary Beth Campbell and JD Chesloff, the moderators from the morning sessions, will report their findings to a larger, mixed group to get feedback from the audience, and finalize a series of recommendations that would be presented for consideration for inclusion in STEM Plan 2.0. Two “respondents” from Economic Development and Workforce Development will provide context and feedback from government’s perspective.

Moderator: Marybeth Campbell, Executive Offices of Education, Labor and Workforce, and Housing and Economic Development

Respondents: Jennifer James, Undersecretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
Matthew Morrissey, Executive Director, New Bedford Economic Development Council

Beyond Vision

The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) provides a wide range of social, rehabilitative and other services to legally blind residents of Massachusetts. MCB services are highly individualized and include Vocational Rehabilitation services for those seeking to attain or retain employment.

Join us in this highly interactive workshop as we explore a variety of assistive technology utilized by individuals who are blind in academic settings and in the workplace. Experience how assistive technology enables an individual who is blind to perform scientific experiments as a team member. Listen as the MCB team thinks beyond vision and shares how technology prepares individuals who are blind for employment and economic self-sufficiency in the 21st Century.

Panelists: Janet LaBreck, Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
John Oliveira, Assistant Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Russell LaBreck, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Antonio Harris, Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Lindsay Yazzolino, Research Assistant, Mass Eye and Ear