WELCOME TO RUTGERS!

On behalf of the “Mission: Possible” convening committee, we would like to welcome you to the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. For the next few days, we will be participating in an important national dialogue that will build on existing college access knowledge to create new strategies for the future. Together, we will explore the economic, social, and cultural benefits of innovative and effective outreach strategies to make college access and completion a reality for all youth.

We hope that you will take advantage of this occasion to meet and network with as many of the 200 registrants as possible. Representing 20+ post-secondary institutions, 40+ organizations, and 15 states across the nation, all of you are established and emerging leaders in diverse fields, including K-12 education, post-secondary education, the non-profit sector, the corporate sector, government, social work, immigration, law, research and evaluation, career and technical education, sociology, and public policy.

We are excited by the opportunity to host this convening and are grateful for the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Let’s work together to continue to make our missions possible!

Sincerely,

Courtney O. McAnuff
Aramis Gutierrez
Vice President for Enrollment Management
Director, Rutgers Future Scholars

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a leading national research university and the state’s preeminent, comprehensive public institution of higher education. Rutgers is dedicated to teaching that meets the highest standards of excellence; to conducting research that breaks new ground; and to providing services, solutions, and clinical care that help individuals and the local, national, and global communities where they live.

Founded in 1766, Rutgers teaches across the full educational spectrum: preschool to precollege; undergraduate to graduate; postdoctoral fellowships to residencies; and continuing education for professional and personal advancement.

Rutgers is the sole university in the United States that is a colonial college, a land-grant institution, and a public university. The university draws on a storied legacy of innovation and strong ties to a complex and diverse state to serve the public through education, research, health care, and community engagement.
GENERAL CONVENING INFORMATION

CONVENING LOCATIONS

Wednesday
Rutgers Visitor Center
Busch Campus
100 Sutphen Road, Piscataway
(732) 445-1000

Thursday
Livingston Student Center
Livingston Campus
84 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway
(848) 445-0405

Friday
Hyatt Regency
2 Albany Street, New Brunswick
(732) 873-1234

CHECK-IN SCHEDULE

Hyatt Regency
Wednesday, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm
Thursday, 7:30 am–8:15 am
Friday, 8:00 am–9:00 am

Rutgers Visitor Center
Wednesday, 4:00 pm–5:00 pm
Livingston Student Center
Thursday, 8:00 am–10:00 am

BUS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 4:30 pm
Buses depart from the Hyatt Regency to the Rutgers Visitor Center

Wednesday, 8:00 pm
Buses depart from the Visitor Center to Hyatt Regency

Thursday, 8:30 am
Buses depart from the Hyatt Regency to the Livingston Student Center

Thursday, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm
Buses depart from the the Livingston Student Center to the Hyatt Regency

PARKING

Wednesday
Complimentary parking is available for Rutgers and non-Rutgers registrants in Lot 48, across from the Rutgers Visitor Center. Visit rumaps.rutgers.edu

Thursday
Complimentary parking for non-Rutgers registrants is available on the Livingston Campus in Lots 105, 112, Green Lot, and Yellow Lot without permits. Rutgers faculty, staff, and students must park only in their authorized designated lots. Visit rumaps.rutgers.edu

Friday
Complimentary parking is available for Rutgers and non-Rutgers registrants in the Hyatt Regency garage. Validation tickets will be available at the convening information desk for registrants. Visit newbrunswick.hyatt.com

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Thursday
Livingston Student Center
Username: mottconf111413
Password: mottconf111413

Friday
AVT Technologies (Hyatt Regency)
Username: missionpossible
Password: missionpossible123

FEATURED SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

OPENING RECEPTION
Wednesday, 5:15 pm–6:15 pm, Rutgers Visitor Center

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 1
Collateral Damage: The Impact of Public Policies on Schools and Communities
Wednesday, 6:15 pm–7:30 pm, Rutgers Visitor Center

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 2
Knocking at the College Door: Demography and Educational Attainment
Thursday, 9:00 am–10:00 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Why Aren’t Students Ready? Barriers to College Access for America’s Youth
Thursday, 10:00 am–11:15 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 3
“Students First!” Performance
Thursday, 4:00 pm–4:15 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 4
Access, Diversity, and the Talent Pipeline
Thursday, 4:15 pm–5:15 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

MID-CONVENCING RECEPTION
Thursday, 5:15 pm–6:00 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 128 (Gathering Lounge)

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 5
Mission: Possible and Imperative
Friday, 9:00 am–10:15 am, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF

CLOSING LUNCH / THE FORUM FOR THE FUTURE
Friday, 11:45 am–1:00 pm, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF
The convening features two sets of four concurrent panels organized according to three “tracks.” We encourage registrants to follow one specific track or to mix and match their learning experience during the convening.

**Bridging Research and Practice:** These panels address how research informs programmatic decisions and how programs shape research agendas.

**Program Sustainability and Funding:** These panels present innovative and sustainable strategies to support the expansion of college access across the country.

**Leadership and Educational Policy:** These panels discuss strategies for institutionalizing system-wide change and securing leadership support.

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**PANEL 1A • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice**
Utilizing Student Voices as the Driving Force for Change

**PANEL 1B • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy**
Developing Cross-Sector Leadership for College Access Using Collective Impact

**PANEL 1C • TRACK: Program Sustainability and Funding**
The Rutgers Future Scholars Story

**PANEL 1D • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy**
Shine the Light! Keeping Your Schools Accountable for the Success of Underserved Students

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**Thursday, 11:30 am–12:45 pm, Livingston Student Center**

**PANEL 2A • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice**
Access and Black Male Achievement

**PANEL 2B • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice**
Successful Strategies for Serving Diverse Students in Today’s Access Landscape

**PANEL 2C • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy**
Breaking Down the Buzz Words: Community Approaches for Postsecondary Completion

**PANEL 2D • TRACK: Program Sustainability and Funding**
The Promise of Community Partnerships: Creative Investments in People and Places

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**Friday, 10:30 am–11:45 am, Hyatt Regency**

**PANEL 2A • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice**
Access and Black Male Achievement

**PANEL 2B • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice**
Successful Strategies for Serving Diverse Students in Today’s Access Landscape

**PANEL 2C • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy**
Breaking Down the Buzz Words: Community Approaches for Postsecondary Completion

**PANEL 2D • TRACK: Program Sustainability and Funding**
The Promise of Community Partnerships: Creative Investments in People and Places

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**IGNITE AND SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS**

**Ignite Sessions:** To spark conversations and provide networking opportunities among participants, these sessions will focus on a set of “big issues” that impact higher education. Facilitators and audience members will work together to engage with innovative ideas and to discuss transformative solutions for college access in the twenty-first century.

**Spotlight Sessions:** The program committee has identified several innovative and successful programs to feature during these sessions. Speakers will share the history, goals, and best practices of their respective programs with an aim to encourage the potential replication, with necessary modification and tailoring to context, of similar programs at other schools.

“Open” Ignite sessions will be available; topics TBD by convening participants.

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**Thursday, 2:00 pm–2:45 pm and 3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center**

**SPOTLIGHT SESSION 1A**
Bridging the Information Gap through Virtual Spaces: A Look into MyRutgersFuture Portal

**IGNITE SESSION 2A**
Creating a Pre-College Pipeline: Intentionality, Intrusiveness, and Expectations

**IGNITE SESSION 1B AND 2B**
The Next Generation of Youth Leadership: Advocacy, Educational Reform, Immigration

**SPOTLIGHT SESSION 1C**
Providing Early College Credit through REaCH

**IGNITE SESSION 2C**
Improving Applications to Improve Access: Turning Research into Action and Success

**SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS 1D AND 2D**
Developing Grit and Resilience among Low-Income, High Achieving Students

**IGNITE SESSION 1E**
Counseling and Advising Undocumented Students: Understanding the Policy and Legal Context

**IGNITE SESSION 2E**
Reimagining the Role of Communities in Youth Development

**IGNITE SESSION 1F AND 2F**
Building Community through Near-Peer Mentoring
CHECK-IN
2:00 pm–3:30 pm, Hyatt Regency
4:00 pm–5:00 pm, Rutgers Visitor Center

BUS TRANSPORTATION
4:30 pm, Buses depart from the Hyatt Regency to the Rutgers Visitor Center

OPENING RECEPTION
5:15 pm–6:15 pm, Rutgers Visitor Center

Welcome Remarks
Wendell E. Pritchett Chancellor, Rutgers University-Camden

Opening Remarks
Courtney O. McAnuff Vice President for Enrollment Management, Rutgers University

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 1
Collateral Damage: The Impact of Public Policies on Schools and Communities
6:15 pm–7:30 pm, Rutgers Visitor Center

Moderator
Aramis Gutierrez Director, Rutgers Future Scholars

Speakers
Roslyn M. Brock Chairman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Greg Kaufmann Poverty Correspondent, The Nation

Kevin Powell President and Co-Founder, BK Nation

This panel brings together thought leaders in education, activism, and social justice to explore the punitive repercussions and successful outcomes of a range of public policies—the war on drugs, immigration, desegregation, voting rights, parent-trigger laws, stop and frisk, and school funding—that have impacted our families and our children’s future, especially in historically less-advantaged communities. Challenging our thinking about these interrelated issues, this panel will provide new insights about the challenges and opportunities for improving educational outcomes for children living in poverty and transforming underperforming schools to places of community pride.

BUS TRANSPORTATION
8:00 pm, Buses depart from the Rutgers Visitor Center to the Hyatt Regency

CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST
7:30 am–8:15 am, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF (only for overnight guests staying at the Hyatt)
8:00 am–10:00 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

BUS TRANSPORTATION
8:30 am, Buses depart from the Hyatt Regency to the Livingston Student Center

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 2
Knocking at the College Door: Demography and Educational Attainment
9:00 am–10:00 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

Welcome Remarks
Yazeed A. Moore Program Officer, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Speaker
Brian T. Prescott Director of Policy Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Good demographic data is an essential building block to effective policymaking and practice in educational institutions. Major changes currently ongoing in the population of recent high school graduates present important challenges and opportunities, and anyone interested in helping to reach the nation’s growing demand for educated talent needs a clear understanding of how enrollment demand is changing due to demographic shifts and related implications. For more than 30 years, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has produced “Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates,” having released its 8th edition of those projections earlier this year. This presentation describes findings from that report and discusses what they mean for a higher education industry being buffeted by heightened pressures for increased productivity coupled with deep fiscal constraints.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Why Aren’t Students Ready? Barriers to College Access for America’s Youth
Thursday, 10:00 am–11:15 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

Speaker
Dr. Steve Perry CNN Education Contributor; Principal, Capital Preparatory Magnet School

BREAK
11:15 am–11:30 am, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall
PANEL 1A • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice
Utilizing Student Voices as the Driving Force for Change
11:30 am–12:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 201AB

Speakers
Sabrina Brown  Assistant Director, Purdue Promise, Purdue University
Stephanie A. Hawkes  Assistant Director, Purdue Promise, Purdue University

Often, when we think about program redesign, we employ best practices in an attempt to achieve program goals; however, relying on these practices alone does not always result in success. This session focuses on how practitioners looking to enhance program retention and graduation efforts can harness student feedback and assessment as a driving force for programmatic change. Drawing from experience within their current program, student development theory, and assessment tools, the presenters will explore the boundaries of organizational policies, support gaps, culture, and resources.

PANEL 1B • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy
Developing Cross-Sector Leadership for College Access Using Collective Impact
11:30 am–12:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202ABC

Speakers
Ryan Fewins-Bliss  Assistant Director for Network Development, Michigan College Access Network
Brandy Johnson  Executive Director, Michigan College Access Network

Charting the Course is a comprehensive manual to building cross-sector partnerships throughout a community to create collaborative action. Collective Impact encompasses five conditions (Common Agenda, Shared Measurement Systems, Mutually Reinforcing Activities, Continuous Communication, and Backbone Support Infrastructure), and each condition is critical to the formation of successful college access coalitions. Presenters will use this tool as an instructional aid while focusing on the framework implementation into local communities. This framework helps unify and galvanize community-wide support for post-secondary education, and reduce duplication of service and competition for scarce resources as it moves to align existing organizations within the community.

PANEL 1C • TRACK: Program Sustainability and Funding
The Rutgers Future Scholars Story
11:30 am–12:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 128 (Gathering Lounge)

Moderator
Aramis Gutierrez  Director, Rutgers Future Scholars

Speakers
Steve Colson  Friend and Supporter of Rutgers Future Scholars
Carolyn Keck  Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Piscataway Township Schools
Michael J. Marion  Associate Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Relations, Rutgers University Foundation
Richard L. McCormick  President Emeritus and University Professor, Rutgers University
Elena Ragusa  Research Project Manager, Office of Enrollment Management, Rutgers University

What does it take to collaborate with local districts, organizations, and business partners to design, implement, and execute a pre-college program for over 1,000 low-income, first-generation students? Why would a University be interested in managing this effort? How do you garner local, regional, and national support for your effort? How are data used to inform programmatic decision making and enhance fundraising? The Rutgers Future Scholars team explores lessons learned over the past six years.

PANEL 1D • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy
Shine the Light! Keeping Your Schools Accountable for the Success of Underserved Students
11:30 am–12:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 129 (Coffeehouse)

Speakers
Don Long  Policy Analyst, Campaign for High School Equity
Quyen Dinh  Director of Education Policy, Southeast Asia Resource Center

This workshop will provide the understanding and tools to monitor new ESEA (i.e., NCLB 2002) rules. Federal law provides protections for underserved students that include triggers for intervention when academic achievement lags. Speakers will examine the experiences of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese American students whose needs are often masked. Participants will gain insight into how data systems create institutional barriers to understanding and serving these students, and learn what some school districts are doing through disaggregated data systems and strategic interventions to improve college access and completion for Asian American students.
LUNCH
12:45 pm–2:00 pm, Livingston Dining Commons, The Livingston Club Room and The Atrium

SPOTLIGHT SESSION 1A
Bridging the Information Gap through Virtual Spaces: A Look into MyRutgersFuture Portal
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 201A

Presenters
Paul M. Johnson Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Rutgers University
Elena Ragusa Research Project Manager, Office of Enrollment Management, Rutgers University

The use of student-driven technology is critical in today’s digital age. Presenting the interactive online student portal developed by the Rutgers Office of Enrollment Management, facilitators will explore technology-based strategies for sharing information with pre-college students, providing prospects with “real-time” academic feedback and resources, and how this type of technology can be used for program tracking and student evaluation by a range of pre-college programs.

IGNITE SESSION 1B
The Next Generation of Youth Leadership: Advocacy, Educational Reform, Immigration
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 201B

Facilitators
Marisol Conde-Hernandez Co-Founder, New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition
Ana Nye Graduate Intern Asian American Cultural Center, Rutgers University
Stephanie Rivera Blogger, Teacher Under Construction

Every social movement is powered by youth voices and activism. Are we succeeding in cultivating future leaders by providing them with the forum and the mentorship support to lead us to better days? Bringing together three young adults with a national reputation for advancing the conversation on education and immigration reform, this session will explore the youth perspective on these issues and encourage participants to reflect on their own contributions for advancing our common purpose as members of an inclusive society.

SPOTLIGHT SESSION 1C
Providing Early College Credit through REaCH
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202A

Presenters
Michael Beals Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University
Deborah Bowles President, Raymond A. Brown Center for Education and Public Policy
Martin Kempner Director, Rutgers Early College Humanities Program

The Rutgers Early College Humanities Program (REaCH) is an early college/dual enrollment program created to address access to and success at college for high-need high school students from low-income communities. A primary outcome of the program is college readiness. REaCH has partnered with the Raymond A. Brown Center for Education and Public Policy to empower students and their families to make informed college choices.

SPOTLIGHT SESSION 1D
Developing Grit and Resilience among Low-Income, High Achieving Students
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202B

Presenters
Jacqueline Hernandez Alumni Fellow, Princeton University Preparatory Program
Jason R. Klugman Director, Princeton University Preparatory Program
Kim Ransom Director, Collegiate Scholars Program, The University of Chicago

Featuring representatives from the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP) and the University of Chicago’s Collegiate Scholars Program, this session will explore the deeply nuanced work of college access programs that provide wrap-around support to talented low-income students as they journey from high school to college. Presenters will highlight the range and variation of strategies employed to provide guidance and support through high school, the college admissions process, and during students’ early college years.
IGNITE SESSION 1E
Counseling and Advising Undocumented Students: Understanding the Policy and Legal Context
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202C

Facilitators
Albania Almanzar-Morrison, Esq.

Terri Taylor Policy and Legal Advisor, EducationCounsel

This session will explore the latest state and federal policy and legal updates on the treatment of undocumented students in the educational context, with a focus on the DHS Deferred Action policy, the prospect of comprehensive federal immigration reform, the landscape of state law developments, and the implications for higher education.

IGNITE SESSION 1F
Building Community through Near-Peer Mentoring
2:00 pm–2:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 129 (Coffeehouse)

Facilitators
Jesenia Cadena Developmental Specialist, TRiO Student Support Services, Rutgers University
John Celestand Mentoring Coordinator, Rutgers Future Scholars

Facilitators discuss an innovative approach to near-peer mentoring, inspired by the University of Washington’s Dream Project, which utilizes university undergraduates and pairs them with local high school students to help guide them through strategies for improving problem solving, organization, communication, college preparedness, and the application process.

BREAK
2:45 pm–3:00 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

RUTGERS FUTURE SCHOLARS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Rutgers University is now beginning the sixth year of a unique and progressive initiative—Rutgers Future Scholars (RFS)—that responds to the national crisis of low high school graduation rates among minority and economically disadvantaged students, and the dearth of these students who go on to attend and complete secondary education.

In collaboration with 110 junior high and high schools in four public school districts of Rutgers’ host communities of Newark, Camden, New Brunswick, and Piscataway, the RFS program each year invites 200 first-generation, at-risk, low-income rising 8th grade students to become a part of a unique pre-college preparatory pipeline. This includes a breadth of academic and experiential components, such as rigorous University-taught academic preparation, campus and cultural events, in-school and after-school tutoring, and mentoring by positive role models that will continue throughout students’ high school years. Following this preparation, should they qualify and elect to attend Rutgers, the University will reward students (“Scholars”) with a four-year, tuition-free education.

The tri-fold mission of the Rutgers Future Scholars program is to:

1. Increase the number of promising, low-income students who complete high school and attend post-secondary educational institutions including Rutgers University.

2. Develop an adaptable model which encourages other institutions of higher education to partner with school districts, other post-secondary institutions, community based organizations, state and local government, and the business community to build educational opportunities for youth from under-served, low-income communities and impact the systems that surround them.

3. Invest in Rutgers University’s home communities of Newark, Camden, Piscataway, and New Brunswick, New Jersey.

"Rather than simply offering a successful but isolated intervention for participants, RFS has undertaken to catalyze change within the networks and systems in which Rutgers as an institution operates … RFS helps develop and sustain strategies that will improve access for underrepresented groups and allow students from these groups to fully participate in the university environment."

Center for Institutional and Social Change, Columbia University
June 2013 Report Executive Summary
IGNITE SESSION 2A
Creating a Pre-College Pipeline: Intentionality, Intrusiveness, and Expectations
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 201A

Facilitator
Deborah Walker McCall Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Academic Foundations Center/EOF, Rutgers University

College access programs for underrepresented students are constantly searching for best practices to inform their programming. While there are common themes embraced by effective programs—including intentionality, intrusiveness, planning and staffing, and high expectations—the actual strategies and practices that programs employ can be as varied as the students they serve. This session encourages participants to discuss the research around creating effective pre-college pipelines, in addition to sharing some of their program’s best practices.

IGNITE SESSION 2B
The Next Generation of Youth Leadership: Advocacy, Educational Reform, Immigration
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 201B

Facilitators
Marisol Conde-Hernandez Co-Founder, New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition
Ana Nye Graduate Intern, Asian American Cultural Center, Rutgers University
Stephanie Rivera Blogger, Teacher Under Construction

Every social movement is powered by youth voices and activism. Are we succeeding in cultivating future leaders by providing them with the forum and the mentorship support to lead us to better days? Bringing together three young adults with a national reputation for advancing the conversation on education and immigration reform, this session will explore the youth perspective on these issues and encourage participants to reflect on their own contributions for advancing our common purpose as members of an inclusive society.

IGNITE SESSION 2C
Improving Applications to Improve Access: Turning Research into Action and Success
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202A

Facilitator
Ángela María García Executive Director of College Planning, College Board

The application process is a critical step and lever in the college-going process. This session will provide highlights from key research findings and innovative programs that demonstrate how even simple improvements advancing how students apply to college translate directly into improved enrollment and completion. Participants are encouraged to come prepared to share their own successful approaches to improving the application behaviors of students.

SPOTLIGHT SESSION 2D
Developing Grit and Resilience among Low-Income, High Achieving Students
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202B

Presenters
Jacqueline Hernandez Alumni Fellow, Princeton University Preparatory Program
Jason R. Klugman Director, Princeton University Preparatory Program
Kim Ransom Director, Collegiate Scholars Program, The University of Chicago

Representatives from the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP) and the University of Chicago’s Collegiate Scholars Program will discuss the deeply nuanced work of college access programs that provide wrap-around support to talented low-income students as they journey from high school to college.

IGNITE SESSION 2E
Reimagining the Role of Communities in Youth Development
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 202C

Facilitators
Noah S. Bernstein Program Officer and Coordinator of Special Projects, The New World Foundation
Andrew J. Seligsohn Associate Chancellor for Civic Engagement and Strategic Planning, Rutgers University-Camden

This session will explore approaches to integrating the development of academic capacity and civic identity in programs providing educational opportunity for youth from underserved and low-income communities. Participants will learn about the Civic Opportunities Initiative Network (COIN) developed by the New World Foundation and its customized application to the Rutgers Future Scholars program on the Rutgers-Camden campus.

IGNITE SESSION 2F
Building Community through Near-Peer Mentoring
3:00 pm–3:45 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 129 (Coffeehouse)

Facilitators
Jesenia Cadena Developmental Specialist, TRiO Student Support Services, Rutgers University
John Celestand Mentoring Coordinator, Rutgers Future Scholars

Facilitators discuss an innovative approach to near-peer mentoring, inspired by the University of Washington’s Dream Project, which utilizes university undergraduates and pairs them with local high school students to help guide them through strategies for improving problem solving, organization, communication, college preparedness, and the application process.
BREAK  
3:45 pm–4:00 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 3  
“Students First!” Performance  
Thursday, 4:00 pm–4:15 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

Director  
Alistair Williams Assistant Director of the Extension Division, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University

A well-choreographed performance can leave a lasting impression. Imagine gathering all of your potential investors at one time, in one place. What would you present to them? Who would best articulate your organization’s mission?

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 4  
Access, Diversity, and the Talent Pipeline  
Thursday, 4:15 pm–5:15 pm, Livingston Student Center, Livingston Hall

Moderator  
Luke Visconti Chief Executive Officer, DiversityInc

Speakers  
Patti Lee Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Diversity Officer, Wyndham Worldwide  
Gioia Pisano Inclusiveness Recruiting Leader, EY

Corporations have woken up to face the changing demographics of an aging workforce, and the need to identify, attract, and train the next generation of workers—a generation which bears little resemblance to that which exists in today’s corporate landscape. In response to this reality, and to the impact of an increasingly technology-driven infrastructure and the rapidly expanding global economy, future success—even survival—of the contemporary corporation will require a much greater emphasis on new skill development, new pathways into the corporate structure, and a much greater appreciation of a diverse workforce. Luke Visconti, CEO of DiversityInc, will lead a discussion exploring these challenges and the changing face of corporate America.

MID-CONVENING RECEPTION  
Thursday, 5:15 pm–6:00 pm, Livingston Student Center, Room 128 (Gathering Lounge)

BUS TRANSPORTATION  
5:30–6:30 pm, Buses depart from the Livingston Student Center to the Hyatt Regency

CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST  
8:00 am–9:00 am, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF

SIGNATURE PROGRAM 5  
Mission: Possible and Imperative  
Friday, 9:00 am–10:15 am, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF

Moderator  
Kavitha Cardoza Special Correspondent and Host, Breaking Ground, WAMU 88.5 News

Speakers  
Jonathan R. Alger President, James Madison University  
Greg Darnieder Senior Advisor for the Initiative on College Access, U.S. Department of Education  
Douglas Wood Program Officer, Higher Education for Social Justice Initiative, Ford Foundation

The goal of ensuring college access is never more urgent than at our present historical moment, as we observe the 30th anniversary of A Nation at Risk, the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, and the recent Supreme Court decision of Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin. This discussion will be an occasion for a dialogue among thought leaders with expertise in the fields of higher education law, philanthropy, government, and economic development.

BREAK  
10:15 am–10:30 am, Hyatt Regency, Brunswick Ballroom Prefunction Area

Congratulations, RFS!  
NASPA’s 2013 Grand Excellence Winner: The Rutgers Future Scholars program received the National Student Association Personnel Administrators’ 2013 Grand Excellence Award for transforming higher education through outstanding programs, innovative services, and effective administration. Nominated by the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good at the University of Michigan, Rutgers Future Scholars was one of three recipients chosen among 180 nominees across the country.

NJBIC’s 2013 Community Change Award Winner: Rutgers Future Scholars earned the New Jersey Black Issues Convention’s Community Award in Education for outstanding contributions made through programming, support, and mentoring.
PANEL 2A • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice
Access and Black Male Achievement
10:30 am–11:45 am, Hyatt Regency, Brunswick Ballroom A

Moderator
Rodney Morrison Associate Chancellor for Enrollment Management, Rutgers University-Camden

Speakers
Thomas Butler Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Thom Educates
Khary K. Golden Director of the Center for College Access, LEAP Academy
University Charter High School
Kevin C. Hudson Manager of College Readiness Initiative, District of Columbia Public Schools
Bryan G. Nance Senior Program Manager, Center for Talented Youth, The Johns Hopkins University

The data on Black male educational achievement is alarming. This panel will discuss developing realistic models and concrete recommendations for high schools, colleges, and community organizations to partner in the education and empowerment of students and families of color.

PANEL 2B • TRACK: Bridging Research and Practice
Successful Strategies for Serving Diverse Students in Today’s Access Landscape
10:30 am–11:45 am, Hyatt Regency, Brunswick Ballroom B

Moderator
Gina Lucas Deputy Director, The TEAK Fellowship

Speakers
David Allyn Director of Education and Guidance, New Jersey SEEDS
Marvin García Admissions Officer, The Church Farm School
Chelsea M. Jones Student Support Associate, Center for Student Opportunity – I’m First
Angela LaGrotteria College Access Coordinator, Ninde Scholars Program, Oberlin College

This panel brings together representatives from National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) member schools and programs for a discussion of the latest research and best practices for working with Latino, African-American, and first-generation students.

PANEL 2C • TRACK: Leadership and Educational Policy
Breaking Down the Buzz Words: Community Approaches for Postsecondary Completion
10:30 am–11:45 am, Hyatt Regency, Brunswick Ballroom C

Speaker
Sarah Singer Quast Project Manager, OMG Center for Collaborative Learning

Policy change, systems change, multi-sector partnerships, collective impact—these ideas receive traction in the field of postsecondary success—but how can communities truly operationalize this change? Participants will engage in a conversation about the implications of these guiding principles on their own work, within their organizations, and in their communities, and leave with action steps to advance a postsecondary success agenda in their communities.

PANEL 2D • TRACK: Program Sustainability and Funding
The Promise of Community Partnerships: Creative Investments in People and Places
10:30 am–11:45 am, Hyatt Regency, Brunswick Ballroom D

Moderator
Nyeema C. Watson Director of Public School Partnerships, Rutgers University-Camden

Speakers
Christopher J. Agans Director, Rutgers Mountainview Program/NJ-STEP (Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prison)
Jeffrey A. Robinson Assistant Professor, Rutgers Business School; Founding Assistant Director, Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

Economic uncertainty, mass incarceration, K-16 disconnects—these are issues destined to be part of the past if universities are willing to serve as agents of social change. Presenters will address how higher education institutions can be actively engaged in solving real-world and localized problems through innovative approaches.

CLOSING LUNCH / THE FORUM FOR THE FUTURE
Friday, 11:45 am–1:00 pm, Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom DEF

Moderator
John Celestand Mentoring Coordinator, Rutgers Future Scholars

The Forum for the Future will offer our youth a platform to talk about the issues that matter most to them—from education and jobs to school culture and self-esteem, and anything else that comes to mind. Let’s hear directly from the leaders of tomorrow about how to fix the problems of today.