

Pathways to College and Career

Participate in a robust discussion on the pressing issues facing students and opportunity youth, emerging innovations in post-secondary systems, and future directions for higher education and labor policy. How do we promote diverse pathways that prepare young people and communities for postsecondary attainment that lead to prosperity?

Alicia Bolton

**Director, Adult Career Pathway Design Challenge
Institute for Educational Leadership**



With over 15 years of diversified experience, Alicia is passionate about connecting the dots between data and trends to develop and implement strategies and programming. Spanning K-12 education, real estate, and banking institutions, she brings a unique blend of skills and experiences that all map to her passion for building solutions that drive impact for youth and adult learners. Alicia currently serves as the director of IEL's Adult Career Pathway Design Challenge, which is part of the organization's Minds that Move Us initiative. Through this challenge, ten cross-sector teams of educators, employers, community organizations, and adult learners from around the country were selected to design innovative career pathway

programs for adults 26 and over who do not have any formal postsecondary training or education and lack the skills necessary to put them on a career path. Over the course of the project, teams will partake in a Design Camp, ongoing coaching, and a Career Pathways Festival to pitch their proposed solutions with a chance to win prize money for their creativity. Alicia is a thoughtful leader with a track record of strengthening policies and educational programs on both the national (U.S. Department of Education) and district (D.C. Public Schools) levels. In addition, she has a variety of experiences successfully managing complex projects, designing older youth and adult career programming, overseeing intricate budgets and grants, leading and developing teams, and partnering with a variety of stakeholders to build buy in and diversify funding sources.

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Nathaniel Cole
Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
America's Promise Alliance



Nathaniel is a native Washingtonian committed to connecting individuals to meaningful opportunities. Nathaniel joined America's Promise Alliance in July 2018 to support its commitment to youth across the nation. As the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, he leads the organization's workforce campaign and supports its membership of over 400 national partners. Previously, Nathaniel served as the Executive Director of Urban Alliance D.C., a nonprofit focused on empowering youth to aspire, work and succeed through paid internships and mentoring. During his eight-year tenure, Nathaniel oversaw the program's expansion to southern Maryland, as well as new

partnerships with The Economic Club of Washington, D.C., the Citi Foundation, Venture Philanthropy Partners and businesses across the region. Nathaniel's level of intentionality, commitment to community and ability to quickly build authentic relationships has been recognized by the New York Times – "*Giving Back to Teenagers*," Capital One as a Community Champion, WHUT as an American Graduate Champion and Bank of America as a Rising Leader through their Neighborhood Builders Award. Nathaniel currently serves on the Board of Leadership Greater Washington as well as the D.C. Alliance of Youth Advocates. Nathaniel earned his B.A. in Sociology and Communication from the University of Maryland, College Park. He later earned his M.P.A. from the University of the District of Columbia. Nathaniel is a graduate of D.C. Public Schools and proudly shares this with the youth he serves to inspire the greatness within each of them.

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Dennis Hammond
Student, Lansing Community College
Right Turn



Dennis Hammond is a twenty-year-old aspiring medical professional from Lansing, MI. He successfully completed Peckham Inc.'s Right Turn program through the Institute for Educational Leadership and is planning to graduate from Lansing Community College in 2019.

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Don Yu
Chief Operating Officer, Reach Higher
The Common Application



As Director of Better Make Room, Don supports former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university. Better Make Room seeks to celebrate education, change the national conversation, and reach students directly where they are and give them a space to create content while also navigating the college-going process. With partners in the business, philanthropic, media, and education realm, this campaign will stretch across the country to inspire students and give them the tools they need to reach higher for college. Prior to joining Civic Nation, Don served as the chief of school transformation at the U.S. Department of the Interior and as special advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. He is a former teacher and school district attorney. Don received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Northwestern University.

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