Rates of upward economic mobility have fallen since the mid-20th century. More and more children are growing up to earn less than their parents, and the lack of opportunity is exacerbated by rising inequality, increased wage disparities, and limitations within our education system. This event will explore the future of work and the workforce. We will examine the issue from multiple viewpoints, including the private sector, public sector, and participants themselves to explore what the future looks like, and how we can promote equity and economic mobility as the nature of work changes.
TODAY’S AGENDA

4:00-5:00 PM

**WELCOME:** H. LUKE SHAEFER, Faculty Director, Poverty Solutions

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** GREG FORAN, President and CEO, Walmart U.S.

**DISCUSSION:**
GREG FORAN, President and CEO, Walmart U.S.
JULIE GEHRKI, Vice President of Philanthropy, Walmart

**MODERATED BY:**
BRODERICK JOHNSON, Senior of Counsel, Covington and Burling LLP, former Obama Administration Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force

5:00–6:00 PM – DINNER BUFFET

5:20–6:00 PM – PANEL DISCUSSION

**HOW WORKFORCE WORKS: PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES ON THE MICHIGAN EXPERIENCE**

**MODERATOR:**
SHAMAR HERRON, Deputy Director, Michigan Works! Southeast

**PANELISTS:**
JONATHAN GONZALEZ, Student
WANDA HESS, Fierce Empowerment and Fierce Staffing Participant
ARIELLE JOHNSON, Founder and CEO, Fierce Empowerment & Fierce Staffing
COY MOSLEY, Director of Human Resources, The Empowerment Plan
BEULAH WALKER, Registered Apprentice

6:00–6:30 PM – DISCUSSION AND DESSERT
Prompted discussions related to event topics over a light dessert

6:30–7:30 PM – PANEL DISCUSSION

**RISING TO THE OCCASION: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR ROLES IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**MODERATOR:**
JEFF DONOFRIO, Executive Director of Workforce Development, City of Detroit

**PANELISTS:**
JIM JACOBS, President Emeritus, Macomb Community College
JEANNINE LAPRAD, Senior Fellow, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
SHARON MILLER, Michigan Talent Architect, Consumers Energy HR/Learning and Development

CLOSING REMARKS: JERRY DAVIS, Associate Dean Business + Impact, Michigan Ross

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BIOGRAPHIES

**Keynote and Discussion**

Greg Foran, President and CEO of Walmart U.S.

Greg Foran is president and chief executive officer of Walmart U.S. Since assuming the role in 2014, Foran’s team has led a transformation of the U.S. business. The cornerstone of their approach has been developing and executing a strategy around Walmart’s business principles of Every Day Low Costs and Every Day Low Price. As a result, Walmart U.S. has achieved multiple, consecutive quarters of comp sales growth over the past several years.

Foran joined Walmart International in 2011 where he served in a number of capacities including as president and chief executive officer of Walmart China up until he assumed his current role. Before joining Walmart, he held a number of positions with Woolworths, the leading retailer in Australia and New Zealand.

Foran has attended advanced management programs at Harvard University and the University of Virginia. He also holds a diploma in management from the New Zealand Institute of Management in Auckland, New Zealand.

Julie Gehrki, Vice President, Philanthropy at Walmart

Julie Gehrki serves as Vice President of Philanthropy for the Walmart Foundation. This team leads philanthropic investments for Walmart and the Walmart Foundation. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on sustainability for people and planet throughout the supply chain, including work on agriculture, hunger, and nutrition; opportunity, including work on women’s economic opportunity, career opportunity, veterans’ support, small business support, and domestic manufacturing; and community, which engages Walmart associates and facilities to make positive change in communities where they live and work. She joined the Walmart Foundation in 2008. Prior to Walmart, Gehrki worked in the nonprofit community on issues of anti-racism, homelessness, and community revitalization. Internationally, she has done program evaluation in Kenya and Tanzania and taught English in Eastern Europe. Gehrki has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion from Rhodes College and a Master of Arts in Public Service from The Clinton School of Public Service. She was a Jane Addams-Andrew Carnegie Fellow at Indiana University’s School of Philanthropy. She serves on the boards of the Association of Corporate Contributions Professionals and Saving Grace, a transitional living program that helps young women aging out of foster care or facing homelessness.
Broderick Johnson, Senior of Counsel, Covington and Burling LLP, former Obama Administration Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force

Broderick Johnson is a public policy and political strategist with more than three decades of leadership at the highest levels of government and the legal profession. He provides strategic leadership advice and counsel to clients on legislative, regulatory, legal, and political issues. His experience includes telecommunications and technology, workforce development, tax policy, education, sports and entertainment, and financial services matters.

Johnson has the distinction of having been appointed to senior posts under two U.S. presidents. He served as Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary under President Barack Obama. In that role, he was the president’s primary liaison to members of the Cabinet, directing a team that helped coordinate policy and communications strategy between the West Wing and federal agencies. President Obama also appointed Johnson the chairman of the White House’s My Brother’s Keeper Task Force, an interagency initiative designed to identify and address the disparities that hamper the success of boys and young men of color, and to improve the lives of all youth. In the Clinton White House, he was Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

Johnson also has served as a senior advisor for several presidential campaigns, including the Obama-Biden and Kerry-Edwards campaigns.

How Workforce Works: Participant Perspectives on the Michigan Experience

As policymakers and executives pay more attention to their workforce, we hope to keep people at the forefront of the conversation. This panel will explore what works — and what doesn’t — from the front lines of the workforce development experience.

Moderator:
Shamar Herron, Deputy Director, Michigan Works! Southeast

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Shamar Herron learned very quickly that he had options. He could let his unfavorable surroundings dictate his future, or he could forge his own path. Herron chose the latter and began working hard toward his success. After growing six inches in one summer, Herron knew his passion for basketball could help him achieve his goals. After a long process, he chose to attend The Ohio State University, where he helped lead his basketball team to the NCAA Final Four in 1999. While Herron saw minimal time on the court, he was a consummate and dependable teammate. That skill is one of his best traits in the business world. As the Deputy Director of Michigan Works! Southeast, Herron leads teams that focus on helping people craft and achieve their goals toward a career and connecting talent to business needs. Herron also serves as a liaison between executive thought and day-to-day outputs. His background in economic development, mentoring, and data analysis allows him to play in a variety of arenas. Herron also sits on multiple boards from youth development to prisoner reentry.

Jonathan Gonzalez, Student

Jonathan Gonzalez is a graduate of the SER Metro-Detroit YouthBuild program. He completed an asbestos training and certification and is currently a full-time student attending Henry Ford Community College. He has aspirations to complete a law degree and work in politics.

Wanda Hess, Fierce Empowerment and Fierce Staffing participant

Wanda Hess is the mother of four sons; the youngest is 11 years old. She is a Native American Indian and her family is from the Oneida Nation. She lives in Detroit and worked for the Detroit Public Schools, retiring after 30 years of service. Hess now volunteers for the North American Indian Association, serving hot lunches that get delivered during the week. Her passion for service and desire to earn extra income for her family motivated her to attend Fierce Empowerment Hospitality and customer service training at a Brilliant Detroit home in her neighborhood. She successfully completed the 10-week program and now works as a temporary staffing supervisor with Fierce Staffing Services. Hess loves making dreamcatchers and teaching senior citizens new arts and crafts on Thursday afternoons.
Arielle Johnson, Founder and CEO, Fierce Empowerment and Fierce Staffing

Arielle Johnson received her BA in the hospitality business from The School of Hospitality at Michigan State University. During her second year of college, Johnson became a mother and wanted to pay forward the support she received. She founded FIERCE (Female Icons Encouraging Real Concepts of Empowerment), a 501c3 nonprofit organization. In an effort to combine her love for the community with her passion for the hospitality industry, Johnson launched Fierce Staffing, a Hospitality Social Enterprise with a special commitment to workforce development. Fierce Staffing pays all staff a minimum of $14 an hour, which is what they believe to be a true livable wage.

Coy Mosley, Director of Human Resources, The Empowerment Plan

Coy Mosley is a mother, mentor/mentee, and advocate. She is fueled by her passion to make a difference and help others. Coy is active in her community and known for her generosity and servant leadership. Coy has 20 years of experience in Human Resources, earning several degrees and certifications in management, strategic management and nonprofit management. Her experience includes, 13 years in nonprofit and five years in local government. Coy believes she is now in a role that marries her passion and expertise. She currently serves as HR Director for a nonprofit organization with a unique employment model, Coy is heavily involved in the Career Advancement Department.

Beulah Walker, Registered Apprentice

Beulah Walker is a graduate of the SER Metro-Detroit Bridge to Career Opportunities Program and is currently working full-time for Local 1191. She is also a registered apprentice.

Rising to the Occasion: Public & Private Sector Roles in Workforce Development

This panel will focus on current workforce development strategies and future directions of work and the workforce in Michigan, with perspectives from across sectors and across the state.

Moderator:
Jeff Donofrio, Executive Director of Workforce Development, City of Detroit

A veteran of policy and politics, Jeff Donofrio has fought to protect the interests of Metro Detroiters throughout his career. As Executive Director of Workforce Development for Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Donofrio works with the region’s employers, foundations, educational institutions, and community organizations to develop programs that bridge industry skills gaps and provide opportunities for Detroiters to build family sustaining careers.

As Executive Director of the Mayor’s Workforce Development Board, Donorio leads the development of workforce policy in Detroit and sets the priorities for federal, state, and local funding. Before joining Mayor Duggan’s staff, Donofrio served as an executive at Ford Motor Company. He also served as District Director for Congressman Sander Levin and Congressman John D. Dingell and Transportation Policy Advisor to Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Donofrio earned his MBA from Georgetown University and BA in Public Policy and Secondary Education from Michigan State University.

James Jacobs, President Emeritus, Macomb Community College

James Jacobs assumed the presidency of Macomb Community College on July 1, 2008. Prior to his appointment, he concurrently served as director for the Center for Workforce Development and Policy at the college, and as associate director, Community College Research Center (CCRC), Teachers College, Columbia University.

Jacobs earned his PhD from Princeton University and has been with Macomb for more than 40 years. He has taught social science, political science, and economics. He specializes in the areas of workforce skills and technology, economic development, worker retraining, and community college workforce development, and is widely published in these areas of expertise. In addition, Jacobs has conducted research, developed programs, and consulted on workforce development and community college issues at the national, state, and local levels.

Jacobs serves on several local boards, including the Center for Automotive Research, Detroit Institute of Arts, and United Way for Southeastern Michigan. Currently Jacobs is a research affiliate of the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University and a lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Education.
Jeannine LaPrad, Senior Fellow, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

Jeannine LaPrad is a Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) Senior Policy Fellow, following 12 years as CSW President and CEO. LaPrad has spent the last 20 years researching and promoting innovative economic, education, and social policies and practices that help people successfully engage in meaningful work and lifelong learning. She currently leads a range of projects focused on reshaping workforce development systems and reinventing employment policies and practices that create more equitable outcomes for low-income workers and communities. LaPrad’s experience also includes developing industry sector partnerships with business and education leaders across a range of sectors, including manufacturing, healthcare, and retail. Prior to joining CSW, LaPrad did consulting work with departments and programs at the University of Michigan, and developed work-based learning programs for the chemical, petrochemical, and automotive industries. She has a bachelor’s degree in organizational psychology and communications and a master’s degree in higher education policy from the University of Michigan.

Sharon Miller, CCMP, Michigan Talent Architect, Consumers Energy HR/Learning and Development

Sharon Miller is the Michigan Talent Architect for Consumers Energy. In this role she leads a statewide effort to engage business and industry in talent development through the use of supply chain management principles and the Talent Pipeline Management™ system developed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She is also currently leading the development of a competency model for the future skills needed across the company to support the 2030 vision.

Miller is the former Vice Chancellor of External Affairs at Oakland Community College, the state’s largest community college. During her 30 year career at the college, she also served as Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, Director of Corporate Training, and Manager of the Center for Dislocated Workers.

Miller was appointed to the Governor’s Talent Investment Board in 2017. She led the development the Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) of Southeast Michigan; and was co-chair of its board from 2011-2015. She also sits on the Business Roundtable for Oakland County, the Michigan Works! Southeast Workforce Development Board and the Cradle to Career Coordinating Council of Jackson County, and was recently appointed to the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission. She is president of St. Vincent DePaul at St. Hugo’s in Bloomfield Hills.

Miller has an MS degree in Industrial Education from Penn State University, a BS in Business Administration/Human Resource Management from Oakland University, and is a Certified Change Management Professional (CCMP). She lives in Sylvan Lake.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION STATEMENT

Thank you for attending this program. The University of Michigan strives to create a truly open forum, one in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard.

It is the right of members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests to express their views and opinions at the University. We will protect the right of individuals to speak or perform, and the rights of those members of the University community who wish to hear and communicate with an invited speaker or artist.

Protesters also have a right to express their opposition to a speaker in appropriate ways, both within the confines of this building and outside the facility. However, protesters must not interfere unduly with communication between a speaker or artist and members of the audience.

If the hosts of this event or University representatives believe that protesters are interfering unduly with a speaker or performer’s freedom of expression, those protesters will be warned. If the warnings are not heeded and the interference continues, then the individuals responsible may be removed from the building.

We reaffirm these policies in order to most fully protect the rights of free expression for speakers, performers, and protesters alike, as set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook, and in accordance with the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents’ Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.