

C2C SCHEDULE

September 25, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM | Sonoco Pavilion, DMSB

Research Sessions AM

9:00 AM -
12:25 PM



- **Financing Child Care and Returns: What Works for Families, Providers, and the Workforce** - *Dr. Luke Rodgers* (Florida State University) takes an evidence-based look at how child care is financed, who gains access, and how policy choices affect families, providers, and labor-force participation.
- **Classrooms in the Digital Age: Cell Phones, AI, and the Evidence on Learning** - *Dr. Breyon Williams* (Groundwork Collaborative) discusses what research tells us about classroom technology - from student cell phones to artificial intelligence - and how schools can make better adoption decisions.
- **Every Day Counts: Understanding and Reducing Chronic Absenteeism** - *Dr. Sarah Komisarow* (Duke University) examines what causes students to miss school, how economists measure the consequences, and which policies show promise for improving attendance.
- **Paying for College - and Making College Pay Off: Evidence on Postsecondary Access and Success** - *Dr. Jeffrey Denning* (University of Texas at Austin) explores how college costs, financial aid, and education pathways shape enrollment, completion, earnings, and financial well-being - and how linked education data help researchers identify when and for whom college pays off.

Policy in Practice: Aligning Education, Talent, and Opportunity in South Carolina

- **Dr. Rebecca Gunnlaugsson** (South Carolina Department of Education) - A policymaker's perspective on using evidence, data, and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen education and prepare students for the future.
- **Dr. Rebecca Battle-Bryant** (Director, Office of Statewide Workforce Development, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce) - How South Carolina is aligning education, training, employers, and public agencies to create clearer pathways into rewarding careers.

12:30 PM -
1:30 PM



Research Sessions PM

1:45 PM -
3:20 PM



- **Immigration Policy at Work: Effects on Workers, Families, and Local Economies** - *Dr. Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes* (University of California, Merced) delves into how immigration policies affect employment, earnings, families, and communities - and how economists separate policy effects from broader labor-market change.
- **Rules, Skills, and Opportunity: Regulation in Education and Labor Markets** - *Dr. Alicia Plemmons* (West Virginia University) explores how licensing and other regulations shape education-to-career pathways, entry into occupations, worker mobility, and the ability of employers and communities to meet unmet workforce needs.

Roundtables and Breakout Sessions + Happy Hour

1. **Immigration, Regulation, and the Future of Work** - How should immigration and labor-market rules respond to changing workforce needs while expanding opportunity and supporting economic growth?
2. **Technology and AI in Schools: Adoption, Regulation, and Evidence** - How should schools decide when and how to use cell phones, digital tools, and AI - and what evidence and guardrails should guide adoption and implementation?
3. **Postsecondary Pathways for All** - How can financial aid, transfer routes, workforce credentials, and inclusive campus policies create more accessible pathways to college completion and careers?
4. **The Child Care Equation: Access, Affordability, and the Workforce** - What financing models can support families, stabilize providers, and help employers and communities meet workforce needs?

3:30 PM -
5:00 PM



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