

Global Lessons in Apprenticeships: An International Seminar with International Skills Standards Organisation & American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeships

Speaker Biographies

Secretary Thomas Perez was nominated by President Barack Obama and sworn in on July 23, 2013. He is the nation's 26th secretary of labor. Before his current position, Perez was assistant attorney general for civil rights at the US Department of Justice, leading the same division where he worked for a decade as a career federal employee beginning in the late 1980s. From 2002 until 2006, he was a member of the Montgomery County Council. Perez was later appointed secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. He was a law professor for six years at the University of Maryland School of Law and was a part-time professor at the George Washington School of Public Health. Perez received a bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1983; in 1987, he received both a master's of public policy and a law degree from Harvard University.

The **Rt Hon John Healey MP** is a non-executive director of INSSO. He is Member of Parliament for Wentworth and Dearne, South Yorkshire, and served as a government minister from 2001 to 2010. During his time as Adult Skills Minister from 2001-2, he developed the new trade union learning fund and legislated for workplace union learning representatives. He also developed and launched the UK's first large-scale adult basic skills programme, as well as being responsible for the introduction of sector skills councils. As Treasury Minister, he was responsible for the first major UK review of skills and workforce development, published by Lord Sandy Leitch in 2006, as well as the introduction of sector skills councils. He also secured the government's first national capital build programme for further education colleges.

Tom Bewick is the cofounder, executive director, and chief economist at INSSO. He has spent most of his career working in skills, employment, and entrepreneurship education, advising governments and corporations on successful workforce development strategies. As the founder CEO, he set up from scratch the industry training council for the creative and cultural industries (2004-10), with the inaugural chair, Lord Hall of Birkenhead (Tony Hall), director-general of the BBC. This included securing funding and planning approval for a state-of-the-art national skills academy in Thurrock and the introduction of creative apprenticeships. These days Bewick is an expert on globalization, migration, labor-market policies, economics, education management, and apprenticeships. He can be found working in many parts of the world—China, America, India, North Africa, and the Middle East—advising on various education and labor-market reforms. An active trustee, Bewick serves on the board of Future Brilliance/Afghanistan Organisation. Bewick was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1999 and holds both a BSc (Hons) and MSc from the University of Bath and Ljubljana University, Slovenia.

Scott Christman is manager of student services at The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding, a position he has held for the past 11 years. He began his career as a pipefitter apprentice at Newport News Shipbuilding, after which he served in various manufacturing positions for 10 years. With an interest in education and helping people develop, he spent the next 10 years as an academic professor teaching technology- and engineering-related courses at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Christman has represented Newport News Shipbuilding for the past two years at the American Apprenticeship Round Table. A doctoral candidate, his thesis topic is Enhancing Apprentice Training through Supervision of Work Experience.

Yvonne Croskery is the director of youth policy and strategy within the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning, leading the reform of apprenticeships, youth training, and a central Northern Ireland executive strategy for "United Youth." Before this position, Croskery headed further education policy, implementing Learner Access and Engagement and the Employer Support Programme, two key strands of Northern Ireland's further education strategy. She holds a BA (Hons) from Queens University Belfast.

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Dr. Blake Flanders serves as vice president for Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents and provides executive leadership for the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. In this role, he is the State leader for issues involving the postsecondary education and training system in the development of an educated workforce that aligns with the needs of the Kansas economy. His scope of responsibility includes developing a policy agenda for postsecondary workforce education, curriculum and program evaluation, system funding, benchmarks and accountability, and the management of federal workforce initiatives.

Tamar Jacoby is president and CEO of Opportunity America, a center-right think tank and policy shop promoting social mobility and equal opportunity. She is a nationally known journalist and author. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Weekly Standard* and *Foreign Affairs*, among other publications, and she is a regular guest on national television and radio. She is author of *Someone Else's House: America's Unfinished Struggle for Integration*, and editor of *Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What It Means To Be American*. From 1989 to 2007, she was a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Before that, she was a senior writer and justice editor for *Newsweek*. From 1981 to 1987, she was the deputy editor of *The New York Times* op-ed page. Since 2008, she has been president and CEO of ImmigrationWorks USA.

Robert I. Lerman is an Institute fellow at Urban Institute, a professor of economics at American University, and a research fellow at IZA in Bonn, Germany. A leading expert on apprenticeship, Lerman recently established the American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeship. His published research covers employment issues, inequality, family structure, income support, and youth development. Lerman was one of the first US scholars to examine unwed fatherhood and to propose a youth apprenticeship strategy. He earned his bachelor's degree at Brandeis University and his PhD in economics at MIT.

Brad Neese is director of Apprenticeship Carolina™, a division of the South Carolina Technical College System. Apprenticeship Carolina is the fastest growing apprenticeship program in the country with more than 650 participating South Carolina employers. Neese holds a master's of public administration from the University of South Carolina, where he is now a political science doctoral candidate.

Nicholas Wyman is a workforce development and apprenticeship expert and the CEO of the Institute for Workplace Skills and Innovation (IWSI). The IWSI group of companies first commenced operations in 1982 through WPC Group. Today the companies within the group are recognized as a leading Australian provider of apprenticeships, skills, and education to community, business, and government. Wyman is a leader in developing skills-building and mentorship programs that close the gap between education and careers. He is a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellow and has completed research on the school-to-work transition and the social status of skilled careers encompassing Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and the UK, while comparing with factors in the United States and Australia.