

Creating More Equitable Pathways Into the Workforce

This week, the U.S. Chamber Foundation hosted the kickoff event for a new virtual [Talent Forward](#) series to discuss real solutions and pathways to the workforce for underrepresented groups — particularly women and people of color.

Apollo 11 computer network engineer Marion Lee Johnson highlighted the two main barriers into the workforce for women and people of color: childcare and transportation. “We need a cross-sector approach to creating pathways to opportunity [in the workforce],” Johnson said.

Why it matters: The pandemic has rattled the U.S. economy, writes Chamber Foundation Senior Vice President Cheryl Oldham in a recent [blog](#). “Today, while the unemployment rate has fallen to six percent, some 9.7 million Americans remain unemployed – roughly half of them women.”

Key takeaways:

- “Bringing someone into your company isn’t inclusion. Inclusion is ensuring someone can build positive relationships and advance within the organizations,” said Johnson.
- “Supporting women, and helping them get access to money, not only helps women but also men as it spurs the economy for all,” said CEO of Ellevest Sallie Krawcheck.
- President and CEO of DeVry University Tom Monahan shared his institution’s strategy: “It starts with a great technology curriculum, and we added resources so people could get an affordable education. We also assembled a network of mentors to help students thrive.”

What’s next: Looking for more workforce solutions? On Wednesday, May 26, the U.S. Chamber Foundation, in partnership with SHRM, will host a virtual event to release eye-opening data about how employers are approaching their investment in the workforce. [Register here.](#)

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