

2024 Summit Workforce Action Alliance

*Moving forward to address the needs of tomorrow's
laboratories*

May 7, 2024



Workforce Action Alliance 2024 Summit

Planning Committee Members

Christine Bean, Ph.D., MBA, MLS (ASCP), Chief Learning Officer, Association of Public Health Laboratories

Michelle Bell, HT (ASCP), QIHC-cm, Clinical Pathology Support Manager, Clinical Pathology Associates, National Society for Histotechnology

Mark Birenbaum, Ph.D., Administrator, American Association of Bioanalysts and the National Independent Laboratory Association

Jim Flanigan, CAE, EVP, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Edna Garcia, MPH, Senior Director, Scientific Engagement & Research, American Society for Clinical Pathology

Amy L. Leber, PhD., D (ABMM), Director, Clinical Microbiology and Immunoserology Nationwide Children's Hospital, American Society for Microbiology

Kathy Nucifora, MPH, MLS (ASCP), Chair, COO for COLA Inc.

Melanie Sloan, MS, MLS (ASCP), SBB, Senior Director of Accreditation and Quality, Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies

Kelly Winter, PhD., Chief of Training & Workforce Development Branch, Centers for Disease Control

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Purpose of the Day

To inspire an alliance and community of practice to accelerate and replicate existing initiatives and to explore new initiatives to address the laboratory workforce shortage.

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Agenda

- Review of Accomplishments
- Future Panel
- Table Discussions
 - Defining our actions for the coming 12 months
- Table Discussion Reports
- Closing and Next Steps

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Afternoon Table Discussions

1. Strengthen the Data
2. Communicate Career Pathways
3. Virtual Toolkit
4. HRSA/other grants
5. Innovations in Retention
6. Future Trends – Impact on Laboratory Staffing & Skills
7. Outreach to science teachers

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- Three priorities for 2024-25:
 - Strengthening the data to better understand the laboratory workforce shortage
 - Communicating career pathways for new and transitioning professionals – including communication and collaboration with school counselors and science teachers
 - Identify the skills and rewards needed for the laboratory workforce of the future

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2025 Workgroups

1. Strengthen the Data to Better Understand the Workforce Shortage
2. Communicate Career Pathways for New and Transitioning Professionals
 - 2.a. Outreach to the next generation
 2. b. Career Pathways & Retention
 2. c. Virtual Toolkit
 - 2.d. Grant readiness

3. Laboratory Skills & Rewards of the Future

If you would like to join a workgroup, email us at waa@cola.org and we will add you to the roster.

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Next Steps

- Develop proceedings document
- Organize workgroups
- Convene Planning Committee
 - Begin to plan for the 2025 WAA Summit
 - Discuss value of a LinkedIn group for WAA
- 2025 Summit – May 6, 2025
 - *Gila River and Resorts Casino, Chandler Arizona*