



INNOVATING GEORGIA'S
WORKFORCE PIPELINE
CONFERENCE 2023



Empowerment Through Collaboration: Navigating a Path to Lasting Employment



Empowerment Through Collaboration: Navigating a Path to Lasting Employment

Innovating Georgia's Workforce Pipeline Conference
November 14, 2023

Facilitated & Moderated by:
Michelle D. Stanley, Director
Mary Elliott, Operations Manager
Division of Reentry Services

Panel Participants



**Joseph
Obermeyer**

Georgia
Department
of
Community
Supervision
(DCS)



Kevin Skidmore

FourFourty
Trucking, LLC



Danny Rivera

Georgia
Coalition for
Higher
Education in
Prison
(GACHEP)



Antonio Johnson

Georgia
Department
of Corrections
(GDC)

A group of diverse business professionals in the background, and a close-up of two hands shaking in the foreground, symbolizing collaboration and partnership.

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE

Solutions & Impact

Educate

Stigma, Barriers,
and Impact

Collaborate

Opportunities
and Efforts

Strategize

Empowerment,
Community
Engagement,
and Stronger
Workforce

Employment Success

Panel

The Power of Collaboration

**Panel
Question:**

Can you talk about a moment in your career where you witnessed the impact that collaboration and collective action can have on an individual's journey toward sustainable employment?

Question:

What skillbuilding programs does your agency deploy that effectively address the diverse needs and backgrounds of justice-involved individuals, helping them to gain necessary skills for today's workforce?

Antonio Johnson, Director
GDC Reentry, Cognitive Programming, and RSAT

Question:

Can you share an example of a community collaboration that combines resources to provide a holistic approach to second chance employment support?

Mary Elliott, Operations Manager
DCS, Division of Reentry Services

Question:

Describe a mentorship moment that took a turn in an unexpected direction. How did that moment challenge your own perspective and shift how you guide individuals in their professional development?

A group of people, including a woman in the foreground with a red scarf and headphones, are sitting around a table. They appear to be in a meeting or collaborative work environment. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and office equipment.

Question:

In your opinion, what's the most underestimated aspect of building a strong support network for individuals seeking employment, and how do you address it in your approach?

Joseph Obermeyer, Assistant Chief
DCS Reentry, M.O.R.E. Program

Question:

Imagine that your mentorship journey is a road trip. What surprising detour or unexpected turn ended up significantly enhancing your career development?

Danny Rivera, Reentry Coordinator
Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prison

A background image showing a group of business professionals in a meeting. They are gathered around a wooden table, holding large, colorful puzzle pieces (red, yellow, green, blue) that form a larger shape. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Question:

In your opinion, what's the most underestimated aspect of building a strong support network for individuals seeking employment, and how do you address it in your approach?

Antonio Johnson, Director
GDC Reentry, Cognitive Programming, and RSAT

Question:

In your view, what's an underutilized resource that could significantly enhance employment opportunities for justice involved individuals? How have you tapped into this resource more effectively?

Kevin Skidmore, CEO
Four Fourty Trucking Co., LLC

A group of four business professionals are seated around a table in a meeting. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair is seen from behind, wearing a light-colored top. Behind her, three other people (two men and one woman) are looking towards her. They are all dressed in business attire. A laptop is open on the table in front of the woman in the background. The overall scene is dimly lit with a blue tint.

Question:

Imagine you had the opportunity to rewrite the hiring process to better support justice-involved individuals. What would you change and how would it benefit those seeking employment after returning home?

Danny Rivera, Reentry Coordinator
Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prison

A photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop screen displays a grid of colorful icons, likely representing a software interface or a dashboard. The background is slightly blurred, showing a desk with a keyboard and other office equipment. The overall tone is professional and focused on technology use in a work environment.

Question:

How has your agency and or organization leveraged technology to connect individuals to employment?

Mary Elliott, Operations Manager
DCS, Division of Reentry Services

Question:

In your experience, what are some unexpected skills and talents individuals have developed in their justice involvement journey? How did these skills play a role in their successful integration in the workforce?

Joseph Obermeyer, Assistant Chief
DCS Reentry, M.O.R.E. Program

A blurred background image showing a business meeting. Several people in business attire are gathered around a table, with their hands visible as they interact with a laptop and documents. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an office environment.

What's The Win-Win Solution?

How can an employer hire skilled workers without risks and skilled workers land a job in spite of background?



Any Questions?

Empowerment Through Collaboration



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Contact Us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Michelle D. Stanley

Director, Division of Reentry Service



Department of Community Supervision

www.dcs.ga.gov

Email Address

reentryservicesinfo@dcs.ga.gov

housing@dcs.ga.gov

Where Public Safety and Progress Meet