According to projections, in order to stay economically viable, our country will need to dramatically increase the working-age population that earns a high-quality postsecondary credential (degree, certificate, etc.) to meet future workforce needs. A growing body of research shows promise that high-quality career and technical education (CTE) pathways prepare students to be successful beyond a high school diploma in both postsecondary education and the workforce. In order to meet the growing demands of our workforce needs, our country must provide students with more exposure and opportunities to pursue sequenced CTE coursework in technical and career fields that provide students with an industry-recognized credential or credits towards a postsecondary degree.

As Congress looks to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, this forum will present leading research on CTE and analysis of the evolving workforce needs which have influenced the development of innovative CTE strategies. Presenters will share both an overview of the research and innovative strategies in CTE at both the secondary and postsecondary levels that have strong employer partners and are informed by research. Following the presentations, there will be a facilitated discussion on policy opportunities to support innovative CTE opportunities for all students.

12:00 noon Welcome and Opening Remarks
Jennifer Brown Lerner, American Youth Policy Forum

12:05 p.m. Panelist Presentations
Mary Visher, Senior Associate, MDRC
Stanley S. Litow, President Emeritus, IBM International Foundation; Vice President Emeritus, IBM Corporate Citizenship
Cate Swinburn, President, YouthForce NOLA
Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor, Workforce & Digital Futures, California Community Colleges

12:50 Moderated Panel Discussion
Moderator – Jennifer Brown Lerner, American Youth Policy Forum

1:10 p.m. Audience Q&A

1:30 p.m. Adjourn