



National Talent Collaborative Cleveland Spring Gathering | April 3 & 4, 2025



The National Talent Collaborative (NTC) held its seventh convening in Cleveland, Ohio, with 29 regional groups participating, along with several national partners. These leaders share pride in their communities and a commitment to building thriving economies and cultures in their regions.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS

Host **Baiju Shah**, President & CEO, **Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP)**, shared how the team is catalyzing leaders in the region to go “All In” to drive business, income, and jobs growth. He discussed the history of how the partnership was formed and how GCP sustains momentum. He showed how the team is creating and communicating a clear vision for revitalization of the downtown, including the role of Playhouse Square LLC, a creative model driving Cleveland’s theatre district. Baiju also described some of Greater Cleveland’s “Big Bets,” including waterfront development and a talent initiative aimed at attracting and retaining college students.

Strada Education Foundation shared an update on the State Opportunity Index 2.0, coming this fall. By collecting and synthesizing data at the state level, our regions can gain a better understanding of regional talent profiles, see

where education pathways are best preparing talent for the workplace, and get insights on talent migration. A compelling data-driven factbase will help make the case for change to policymakers and other partners and also unlock the capacity and potential for deeper, richer insights that go beyond the ‘first ten questions.’ It will also aid us as we build strong strategic talent plans in our regions and states.

The NTC Accelerator Group for Pathway to Mid-wage Jobs convened in Cleveland to discuss P33’s Xchange Chicago initiative. Nuwan Samaraweera, Aleena Agrawal, and Alexandra DeLuca shared an update on the model, the vision, future plans, and key challenges to advance their thinking around the strategy and plans. Separately, the potential for a new Accelerator Group focused on pathways to mid-wage jobs in the Healthcare industry was discussed, with several NTC members showing significant interest.





CASE STUDY DISCUSSIONS

Leaders shared case studies in progress from their regions with small groups to gain insights and best practices from other regions to help advance their work.

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Downtown Revitalization Vision,
Stefani Pashman

Atlanta Metro Chamber

ATL Talent Collab & Three-Legged Stool,
Katie Kirkpatrick & Tim Cairl

Central Indiana Corporate Partnership

State Strategy for Apprenticeships,
Melina Kennedy

Charlotte Executive Leadership Council

K-12 with the Business Perspective, Executives in
Residence, Blair Stanford

Columbus Partnership

Opportunities and Challenges, Jason Hall

Greater MSP

Activating and Aligning Business Leaders for
Transformation, Peter Frosch

Ohio Excels

Business-led Education Coalition, Lisa Gray

Strada Education Foundation

Cradle to Career Workforce Development,
Heather McKay & Kyle Baltuch

Save the Date

- **September 25 & 26, 2025** - San Francisco, CA, hosted by Bay Area Council and Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- **April 29 & 30, 2026** - Minneapolis, MN, hosted by GREATER MSP
- **Fall 2026** - Location TBD

