



National Talent Collaborative Minneapolis-St. Paul Convening | April 29-30, 2026



Members of the National Talent Collaborative (NTC) gathered from across the U.S. in Minneapolis-St. Paul, hosted by the **GREATER MSP PARTNERSHIP** team and welcomed to the offices of the **McKnight Foundation**. Leaders from 24 regional groups and a dozen national partners and funders participated in this ninth convening.

FEATURED SESSIONS

Peter Frosch, CEO of **GREATER MSP**, welcomed the group and shared plans for greater growth in Minneapolis-St. Paul, highlighting the region's highly engaged and connected culture and business community.

A centerpoint of the event was **Leading in Times of Challenge**, a panel featuring moving and inspiring reflections from MSP leaders **Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey**, **McKnight Foundation President Tonya Allen**, **Mortenson Chairman David Mortenson**, and **Peter Frosch**.

Former CEOs and NTC Board members **Richard Davis** and **Dick Gochbauer** followed that thought-provoking panel – sparking a conversation with the group on **The Importance of CEO Civic Voice**.

Joseph Parilla with **Brookings Institution** presented **How Regional Solutions Scale**, sharing a model of scaling levers required to align regional talent systems with market demand. He joined **Caroline Taich** and **Doug Wilson** of **NTC** to set up working sessions on scale – for work-based learning, sector strategies, place-based infrastructure, and state-region compacts.

A session on **Building Regional AI Readiness** was led by **Papia Debroy** and **Audrey Mickahail** of **Opportunity@Work** joined by **Mark Muro** and **Joseph Parilla** of **Brookings**.

Paula Kashtan of **ECMC Foundation**, **Chauncy Lennon** with **Lumina Foundation**, **Julia Kraeger** with the **Rockefeller Foundation**, and **Heather McKay** of **Strada Education Foundation** shared insights on **Philanthropy at Scale**. **Matthew Muench**, **NTC**, facilitated.





Exploring What Enables Regions to Scale Impact

Four scaling “levers” help build the team required to align regional systems with market demand



Heard in MSP

As policy reshapes market demand, markets are moving fast. NTC members are well-positioned to read industry demand signals.

The most effective intermediaries organize for action. We need scaling partners, funding, and shared infrastructure to scale effectively.

Scaling requires personal relationships and high levels of trust that can be sustained through leadership changes.

Storytelling is a tool to build trust, urgency, and momentum. It's hard to get people to think bigger.

The quality of growth matters. It needs to be strategic and inclusive plus innovative and bold.

We need to move beyond local competitiveness for national impact.

Let's continue the conversation...

- How are you talking to companies about investing resources at scale?
- Are we asking too many things? What's the saturation point?
- Who pays for talent and workforce at scale?
- How can we better apply technology to enable scale?
- What indicators tell us whether to pull or continue a program?
- Are we clear and precise in our definition of the problem we are trying to solve?

