



PRESS RELEASE
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An Inaugural Educational and Workforce Symposium in the Land of Sky Region

On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, you are invited to the region's first Educational and Workforce Symposium. The A3 Event (Align, Aspire, Achieve) will focus on our region's innovative practices for educational attainment, and was planned by six local organizations alongside two statewide organizations. Those include: [Transylvania Economic Alliance](#), [Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development](#), the [Asheville Chamber of Commerce](#), [Blue Ridge Community College](#), [Western Carolina University](#), [the Land of Sky P20 Council](#), [myFutureNC](#) and the [N.C. State University's Institute for Emerging Issues](#).

In addition to hearing from 20 local organizations that are deploying successful strategies along the full academic continuum, attendees of A3 will also learn about effective advocacy techniques to support early education through postsecondary education, how to bridge connections between employers and educators and what the data is showing us in terms of our region's strengths and opportunities to improve our current and future labor pool climate. This event is a culmination of the planning team's successful completion of the NC Workforce Development Leadership Initiative which is an intensive, six-month professional training program. Graduates of the program received the professional designation of Certified Workforce Developer by the National Association of Workforce Boards.

Employers, educators, community-based organizations, elected officials and all those interested in improving education and workforce development in Western NC are invited to attend.

The event runs from 10AM-4PM at the University of North Carolina's Asheville campus (in the Highsmith Student Union). More details, including the agenda, speakers and how to register for a free ticket can be found [here](#).

About the Land of Sky P20 Council

The Land of Sky P20 Council fosters collaboration among employers, educators, and community members in the spirit of enduring economic prosperity, through the alignment of innovative cradle-to-career skills and resources that lead to life-sustaining job opportunities in our four-county region of western North Carolina. The Council is one collaborative across the state that underscores the endeavors of myFutureNC which established a goal for NC to produce 2 million individuals possessing credentials that lead to gainful employment by the year 2030. The P20 Council is grateful for the support it receives from the John M. Belk Endowment to make events like this and many other initiatives to improve educational attainment possible.