

# The Fate of the American Dream: Strengthening Our Education and Skills Pipeline

September 19-20, 2005 • Washington, DC

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September 19, 2005

Dear Friends,

We welcome you to **The Fate of the American Dream – Strengthening Our Education and Skills Pipeline**, a forum that will explore ways to improve the path to better education and better jobs for all Americans. This event is hosted by Jobs for the Future, a national research and policy advocacy organization. It is sponsored by a number of corporations also committed to improving the pipeline: Ford Motor Company Fund, Citigroup Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Aetna, BellSouth, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Fidelity Investments, Manpower, and The McGraw-Hill Companies, with support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The forum audience is comprised of decision-makers—corporate leaders, public officials, and policy advocates—who by virtue of their positions in the business and policy communities can make a difference in advancing efforts to improve our nation's education and workforce systems.

We expect several outcomes from this forum: profiles of promising solutions that can be adopted locally; the identification of and advocacy for policies to strengthen the pipeline; a group of corporate leaders committed to action; and a video production of the Fred Friendly seminar to support those activities.

It will take vision, innovation, courage, and commitment to overcome the institutional barriers that limit equity and economic opportunity for too many Americans. By working together, we can build on both new and proven approaches that make a difference and pave the way for better education, better jobs, and a brighter future.

Thank you for coming today and being a part of this effort. We look forward to today's conversation and future collaboration.

Sincerely,



Marlene Seltzer  
President and CEO  
Jobs for the Future



Hilary Pennington  
Vice Chairman and Co-Founder  
Jobs for the Future