

## Preparing a Green and Blue Workforce

### A Convening Focused on Collaborative Action

Climate change has created an urgent need to prepare our current and future workforces for careers that reduce environmental risks, safeguard the environment, and promote people's climate resilience and well-being. Around the world and across the United States, current K–20 education, workforce training, and workforce reskilling systems are not keeping pace with this need.

On February 7–8, 2024, Education Development Center (EDC) will be leading the convening *Preparing a Green and Blue Workforce*, which will engage cross-sector thought leaders in discussion and action to address this growing workforce crisis. To be held at EDC's Washington, D.C., office, this convening is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Ares Charitable Foundation, and Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation.



With this convening, EDC plans to foster connection, collaboration, and communication that will spur and sustain innovative green and blue workforce preparation within the United States. From the convening, we will build a community of leaders who are committed to taking action to strengthen key systems; contribute to national and global problem-solving; and develop strong, inclusive green and blue economies.

A brief overview of the agenda for the two-day convening follows:

1. **EDC President Liesbet Steer** will present opening remarks.
2. **Keynote speaker Ani Dasgupta, President and CEO of the World Resources Institute**, will share insights.
3. **Scientists, manufacturing industry leaders, and labor economists** will discuss the technological skills and competencies that are needed for the green and blue economies.

4. **K–20 education leaders** will share what schools, districts, states, and the federal government are doing to support the skills and knowledge needed to enter the blue and green jobs labor force.
5. **Program leaders** will identify promising initiatives that focus on addressing opportunity gaps and preparing students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM to pursue green and blue careers.
6. **Leaders from all sectors** will engage in working sessions and outline strategies to strengthen K–20 education, workforce training, and workforce reskilling systems to meet industry and societal demands.



### Convening Outcomes

- + Meeting proceedings that will begin to define skill sets and educational pathways to prepare current and future workforces to adapt to and address the challenges of climate change
- + A research and development agenda to support this vision
- + A hub of cross-sector leaders located across the United States and connected to colleagues from around the world

## About EDC

### A Partner in Change

EDC is a global nonprofit that advances lasting solutions to improve education, promote health, and expand economic opportunity. Since 1958, EDC has been a leader in designing, implementing, and evaluating powerful and innovative programs in more than 80 countries around the world. In all of our initiatives, we bridge research and practice, propelling the uptake of new findings to improve outcomes for people of all ages.

EDC's mission guides us to work in contexts where the lack of access to resources and inequity directly imperil progress. We do this work for a simple reason—because only through building equitable systems can we have a lasting impact on individuals, communities, and the world.

EDC works with youth, communities, governments, civil society, donors, and private foundation partners to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reinforce climate responsive development programming, strengthen gender equity and social inclusion, and contribute to evidence-based learning and collaboration.



EDC also leads educational research and development to design innovative products that foster the multiple literacies that are critical to thriving in today's world, including environmental, scientific, mathematical, reading and writing, data, technological, media, and civics.

A few highlights of EDC's work related to the *Preparing a Green and Blue Workforce* convening follow:

1. **EDC's *Our World, Our Work* initiative** aims to support 1 million youth in their pursuit of inclusive and sustainable jobs in the green and blue economy over the next 10 years. [Learn more.](#)
2. **EDC Earth Science** is a full-year, research-based high school course featuring 59 data-intensive Earth Science investigations set in real-world contexts that include analyzing climate data. [Explore the course.](#)
3. **EDC's *research, evaluation, and policy support*** enables clients to scale effective programs, implement rapid-cycle quality improvement, and analyze and strengthen systems. [Learn about one evaluation.](#)

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**Contact:** [Andrés Henríquez](#), EDC Director of STEM Education Strategy (212.807.4226)