



PRESENTED BY



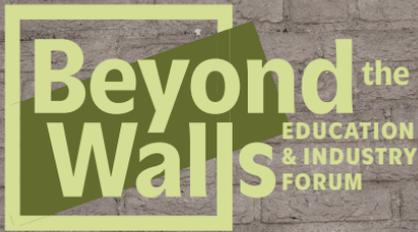
# SESSION 2

## Developing Private Sector Programs:

Building Private Sector - Education Partnerships that Move the Needle

Thursday, December 4, 2025  
2:30 - 5:30 pm

Hmong American Peace  
Academy (HAPA)



## ABOUT THE SERIES

“Beyond the Walls” is a forum presented by VJS Construction Services that brings educational and industry leaders together to share knowledge, foster relationships, and enhance Milwaukee’s future workforce.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

- Highlights **real-world partnerships** between education and industry
- Focuses on **skills-based talent development**
- Gives leaders **tools and ideas** they can bring back to their schools and organizations
- Offers a **rotating format and location** to keep conversations fresh and relevant
- Creates **networking opportunities**

### UPCOMING SESSION TOPICS\*

\*Session topics may change based on our attendee feedback.

**Session 2:** Developing Private Sector Programs - TODAY!

**Session 3:** Nurturing a Culture that Retains and Unleashes Young Talent - Spring 2026

**Session 4:** Topic To Be Determined Based on Attendee Feedback - Spring 2026

Register for sessions and stay up-to-date on the series by visiting our website.



# AGENDA

- 2:30 - 3:00 pm**    **Registration, Networking, and [Optional] Small Group Tours**  
Explore HAPA's new high school
- 3:00 - 3:45 pm**    **Introduction & Session Speakers**  
Upcoming Needs in the Talent Pipeline  
Education and Private Sector Partnerships
- 3:45 - 4:30 pm**    **Panel Discussion**  
Moderated by Luke Harrison
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm**    **Private Sector Fair**

## MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF "BEYOND THE WALLS" BY ATTENDING EACH SESSION

Complete the series to unlock  
the full perspective!



SESSION 2 STICKER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



	SESSION 2
SESSION 3	SESSION 4

Enhancing Milwaukee's future workforce together.

**Beyond the Walls**  
EDUCATION & INDUSTRY FORUM

**vjs**  
CONSTRUCTION  
SERVICES

# SPEAKER BIOS



**AMANDA PAYNE**  
**President & CEO,**  
**Waukesha County**  
**Business Alliance**

Amanda Payne is President & CEO of the Waukesha County Business Alliance, leading the county's largest business association. She is known as a regional leader in advocating for the business community, fostering strong relationships with businesses, and driving business growth.

In her 10+ years at the Alliance, Amanda has played a key role in transforming the Alliance's advocacy work, getting local business leaders engaged in the public policy process and ensuring the voice of business is heard on critical issues. The Alliance is a leader in building business education partnerships to create a talent pipeline and provides programs annually for 3,000+ area students. Payne is a proud fifth-generation Waukesha resident, and she and her husband live in Waukesha with their three boys.

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**MARK MONE**  
**Chancellor Emeritus,**  
**University of**  
**Wisconsin - Milwaukee**

Chancellor Emeritus Mark Mone led the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee through significant transformation and achievement over his eleven-year tenure.

Under his leadership, UWM earned national recognition for its research (R1) excellence, community engagement, and commitment to access—becoming the only Wisconsin institution with the prestigious Carnegie triple designation. He forged groundbreaking partnerships with global leaders like Microsoft and Rockwell, spearheaded a \$251 million fundraising campaign, and oversaw the creation and revitalization of more than a dozen campus buildings. His legacy includes elevating UWM's academic reputation, expanding equity and student centeredness, and increasing the university's economic impact and talent pipeline. Prior to his service as chancellor, Mark was a Lubar College of Business faculty member, consultant, and coach, as well as the leader of executive education.

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**MODERATOR**  
**LUKE HARRISON**  
**Leadership Coach &**  
**Consultant, Cristo Rey**  
**Network**

Luke Harrison is a leadership coach and consultant, formerly founding principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit HS Milwaukee and academic dean at Achievement First. He helps organizations link education to career pathways and coaches leaders using emotional-intelligence practices.

A graduate of Rufus King HS, he holds degrees from Fordham, NYU, and National Louis University and is a certified EI 5-Square Leadership Coach. He has received the Herb Kohl Principal Leadership Award and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Rose Award.

# PANELISTS

**CHRIS  
HER XIONG**



Chief Executive Officer,  
Hmong American Peace Academy

**MATT  
SPENCER**



Senior Project Manager,  
VJS Construction Services

**EVERETTE  
FERNANDES**



Vice President, Corporate Work  
Study Program,  
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

**TAMI  
MARTIN**



Director of Workforce  
Development,  
Froedtert

**RENÉ  
HOWARD-  
PÁEZ**



President,  
St. Joan Antida High School

**MADDY  
TARBOX**



Marketing Director,  
Continuum Architects + Planners

# Connecting **Today's Classroom** to **Tomorrow's Careers**

GPS Ed Work-based Learning Journey™



CAREER  
AWARENESS  
GRADES 8–10



CAREER  
EXPLORATION  
GRADES 9–11



CAREER  
EXPERIENCE  
GRADES 10–12



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**HIGH SCHOOL**

## STUDENT BENEFIT

Implement a personalized career-training plan, whether that means securing employment in your desired field and/or continuing education.

## SCHOOL BENEFIT

Increase the amount of career-ready students graduating.



## JEFF ZIEGLER

Director of Partnership Development,  
GPS Education Partners

✉ [jziegler@gpsed.org](mailto:jziegler@gpsed.org)



CAREER PREPARATION > CAREER DEVELOPMENT  
GRADES 12-14 GRADES 12-16

### **POST - SECONDARY**

#### **EMPLOYER BENEFIT**

Gain access to highly motivated employees, trained and developed to meet your company needs.

Students develop professionally through WBL, becoming productive members of their community.

# PRIVATE SECTOR FAIR

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



## HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!** Please fill out our anonymous feedback form so we can improve our upcoming sessions.

