

Opening Questions:

1. To start, can each panelist share their experience or perspective on the current state of registered apprenticeship programs and their role in connecting education to the workforce?
2. How can we better align the curriculum in high schools, community colleges, and vocational schools with the needs and standards of apprenticeship programs?

Apprenticeship Integration:

3. What are some of the biggest challenges faced by educational institutions and apprenticeship programs when trying to create seamless pathways for students into the workforce?
4. How can apprenticeship programs help students develop both hard skills (e.g., technical trades) and soft skills (e.g., communication, problem-solving) that employers value?
5. Are there any innovative partnerships or models that have been successful in blending classroom learning with on-the-job apprenticeship experiences?

Addressing the Skills Gap:

6. There's a growing demand for skilled workers in trades and occupations. How do registered apprenticeships address the gap between the skills students graduate with and the skills needed by employers in today's economy?
7. In what ways can apprenticeships help diversify the workforce, particularly in industries where certain groups (e.g., women, minorities) are underrepresented?

Support and Resources:

8. What types of support, either financial, mentorship, or resources, are necessary to ensure that apprentices have a positive experience and can successfully complete their programs?
9. How can we increase awareness and participation in apprenticeship programs, particularly among students who may not traditionally pursue this pathway after high school?

Employers and Industry Involvement:

10. How can employers ensure that they are providing effective mentorship and training in their apprenticeship programs, and what role do they play in bridging the gap between education and hands-on experience?
11. What incentives or policies would encourage more businesses to actively participate in or expand their involvement in registered apprenticeship programs?

Closing Questions:

12. What are some best practices for creating a sustainable, long-term partnership between educational institutions and apprenticeship programs to ensure continual alignment with industry needs?
13. Looking ahead, what are some of the emerging trends or technologies that might shape the future of apprenticeship programs, and how should educational institutions adapt to these changes?
14. For students or educators considering apprenticeship programs, what advice would you give to ensure that they fully benefit from this valuable learning opportunity?