

# Compete Connect

July Edition

## From the President's Desk



**Deborah L. Wince-Smith,**  
President and CEO, Council  
on Competitiveness

President Biden's envisioned infrastructure investment in his Executive Order from earlier this year ([EO 14017](#)) - and its priorities around sustainability, resilience and innovation as the keys to creating economic and national security, broad-based regional development, and global leadership for U.S.-generated, cutting-edge technologies - maps incredibly closely to the priorities of the Council on Competitiveness. Similarly, the broad strokes of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, passed this month by the U.S. Senate and pending action in the House of Representatives, reflect critical priorities identified in our National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers.

With both ends of Pennsylvania looking to update America's innovation and competitiveness playbook, the Council's voice matters even more in Washington, DC. Just last week, our Executive Committee and National Commissioners engaged in a deep dialogue with U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, mapping pathways for potential partnership and engagement.

Stay tuned here and going forward as our efforts across Washington, DC and the nation intensify.

## News

The United States must remain a world leader in technologies and industries of the future to ensure economic prosperity and national security. One of the key threats to this is the ongoing competition with China. And while investments into innovation – such as the recommendation from the Council to restore R&D investments to two percent of GDP – are crucial to boost U.S. global competitiveness, protecting these innovations from intellectual property theft and foreign influence is equally important.

In her latest Forbes.com article, Deborah Wince-Smith details how the joint statement by key leaders from the Council on Competitiveness to protect research and innovation

enterprises from foreign influence and commit to more transparency is also in the interest of American jobs, products, and new companies. Read more [here](#).

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## Council Hosts its Summer 2021 Executive Committee and National Commissioners Meeting - Featuring Two Biden Cabinet Secretaries

On July 19, the Council held its Summer 2021 Executive Committee and National Commissioners Meeting. With a rundown of the “State of the Council” and the “State of the National Commission,” Council CEO Deborah Wince-Smith and Chairman Brian Moynihan welcomed U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo - both of whom shared their visions to implement President Biden’s ambitious competitiveness, innovation, sustainability, resiliency and infrastructure agenda.



**Secretary Granholm** outlined the case for the clean energy sector as the fastest growing, with tremendous potential for public-private partnership and job creation.



**Secretary Raimondo**, building on these remarks, highlighted the Administration’s focus on democratizing place-based innovation investment and infrastructure, building capacity and capabilities across the country and between the two coasts.

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## Council Leaders Affirm Critical Role of Collaborative Research to U.S. Competitiveness

In a July 8 statement, over 40 of the Council’s academic and business leaders call for greater support of global cooperation and collaboration around U.S. research and technology priorities. The signatories endorsed increased scrutiny of domestic and foreign bad actors who seek to take advantage of the historic openness of the U.S. research enterprise.

This statement is particularly timely as these issues are being debated at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. The approach endorsed by these leaders is a balanced and appropriate response that protects U.S. interests while preserving the traditional U.S. role as a beacon to the best and brightest from around the world.

Find the full statement [here](#) and email [Bill Bates](mailto:Bill.Bates@CouncilonCompetitiveness.org) to find out more.

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## Council Executive Vice President Chad Evans Participates in the Workforce Rx Podcast, Sharing Key Findings from the National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers and the Year One Report, *Competing in the Next Economy*

Van Ton-Quinlivan, CEO of Futuro Health, a member of the National Commission Working Group Community and host of Workforce Rx, engaged Evans in a conversation focused on the underpinning, key findings and recommendations of the Commission. As he notes during the podcast, paraphrasing Arizona State University President and Commission Co-Chair Michael Crow, there are roughly “200 million Americans who are not benefiting from what we think is the most important engine of growth in our economy – innovation.”

Read more about the Council’s solution path to changing this scenario [here](#) and listen to

## Council Insight

### An Optimistic Outlook: The Start-up Boom During the Covid-19 Pandemic

[The newest census data show](#) an exceptional boom of start-ups during the Covid-19 pandemic. Monthly business applications in the summer of 2020 were almost twice as high as the year before, and the numbers seem fairly stable. This year's numbers are almost at the same level as the initial rise in 2020.

**Weekly Not Adjusted U.S. Business Applications**

Source: U.S. Census.



Of note: while the pandemic has devastated many businesses, it has opened new opportunities for budding entrepreneurs. [A private survey by Gusto](#), a payroll and benefits provider, found that 11 percent of business owners in 2020 were Black, compared to only 3 percent in previous years, and 49 percent were women, compared to 27 percent in the past.

### The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) Releases Future Skills Report

The Council's sister organization, the GFCC – co-chaired by Council Chair Emeritus Chad Holliday and Deborah Wince-Smith – has just launched a new report, *Future Skills: Lessons and Insights from a Review of Innovative Skills Development Initiatives*, shedding light on the megatrends affecting the global skills landscape, and benchmarking 32 innovative schools and programs operating in over 15 countries.



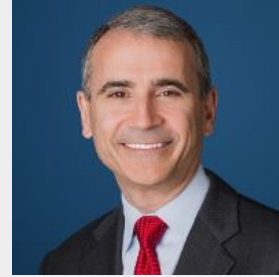
The report unveils how structural transformations in an increasingly complex reality will unlock new demands for digital skills and STEM, blended with “soft skills,” such as critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, resilience, adaptability, and teamwork. The report is available for download [here](#).

## Member Spotlight

### National Commissioner and The Aerospace Corporation's President and CEO Steve Isakowitz Speaks at a Panel About Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Aerospace

The City of El Segundo hosted an online panel

with key leaders in the aerospace sector, including Council member and National Commissioner Steve Isakowitz about the importance of inclusion for the growth and innovation of the sector. As Isakowitz noted, “Innovation does not happen when you’ve got a bunch of likeminded people sitting around the table saying ‘I agree’. Innovation happens when someone speaks those magic words ‘Hey, have you considered this.’ It’s all about creating the kind of culture where people feel really empowered.”



**Steve Isakowitz,**  
President and CEO, The Aerospace Corporation

More information [here](#).

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### **Jonathan McIntyre, CEO of Motif Foodworks Joins a Panel with Super Chef Dominique Crenn on “What is Taste?”**



**Jonathan McIntyre,**  
CEO of Motif Foodworks

National Commissioner Jonathan McIntyre talked with key leaders in the industry about the importance of looking at food through a scientific lens to develop consumer interests in food that are innovative, plant-based, sustainable, and packed with nutrition and health benefits. This work should inform the National Commission’s efforts around developing and deploying at scale innovations that will transform markets, address sustainability and climate issues, as well as cultivate next-generation talent for the industries of the future.

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### **Deere & Company CTO - and Chair of the Council’s Technology Leadership and Strategy Initiative (TLSI) - Jahmy Hindman Joins FIRST Executive Advisory Board as Strategic Partner**



**Jahmy Hindman,**  
Chief Technology Officer,  
John Deere

The Council congratulates TLSI Chair Jahmy Hindman on his appointment to the FIRST Executive Advisory Board. FIRST, an international non-profit with the mission to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, had early roots at the Council with deep engagement and support from former Chairman Paul Allaire (former Chairman and CEO, Xerox). Deere has been a sponsor of FIRST since 2011 and became a strategic partner in 2017. Today, Deere supports hundreds of FIRST teams in the United States, Canada, Brazil, India, Argentina, France, and Germany through team grants and volunteers.

Read more [here](#).

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### **Kimberly Reed, Former Chairman of the Board of Directors, President, and CEO of the Export-Import Bank of the United States Receives Franklin Roosevelt Award**

As the first woman to serve as President and Chairwoman of EXIM Bank, Kimberly Reed was recognized this month for her exceptional work by reopening and transforming the institution after 4 years of near closure. Under her leadership, EXIM provided \$150 billion dollars in lending authority to increase the United States’ competitiveness and support hundreds of thousands of American jobs - with a major focus on understanding the

competitiveness challenges facing U.S. exporters in countries like China.



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