

Building Bridges to Opportunity - Holistic Career Education and Meaningful Employer Partnerships

World Youth Skills Day - July, 2025

Overview

This webinar brought together educators, career education practitioners, industry partners, and youth to explore what it takes to transform education at both the school and system levels. The session emphasized the importance of embedding career education throughout the learner journey, adopting holistic approaches to student development, and building strong, purposeful partnerships between education and industry. It also served as a platform to surface actionable insights and recommendations to guide meaningful change at every level.

Key Messaging From Keynote



Hannah Kitchen

*OECD Directorate for
Education and Skills*

- **Career certainty matters, and it's declining.** Teenagers with clear career aspirations tend to have better outcomes in adulthood. Yet OECD data shows a global drop in career certainty among 15-year-olds between 2015 and 2022, especially among boys and disadvantaged students, surfacing the need to better support students in shaping their futures early.
- **Career learning integrated across schooling shows strong potential.** Insights pointed to the value of career-informed teaching, connecting classroom learning to future pathways, supported by trained educators and structured time for reflection. When embedded throughout the learner journey, this approach can broaden access and strengthen relevance, especially in under-resourced settings.
- **Employer collaboration is more impactful when co-created.** Employers often highlight gaps in young people's transferable skills, such as communication and autonomy. The discussion emphasized that earlier and deeper engagement, from mentoring to workplace exposure, can be more effective when co-designed by schools and employers to align expectations and experiences.



[Session Recording](#)



[Keynote Presentation](#)



[About the Global Career
Education Network](#)

Key Insights From The Panel

Panel Moderator



Jonas Fathy

PHINEO

Panelists



Alexandra Ingvarsson

JPMorganChase
Global Philanthropy



Luisell Valencia

Student Advocate



Priyanka Sanghai

Antarang Foundation



Syful Akash

Altlearn

- **Integrating Career Readiness in Everyday Teaching** Embedding career readiness across the K–12 learner journey creates rich opportunities for students to connect classroom learning with their future aspirations. One effective way to do this is by integrating career-related concepts into everyday teaching—through real-world challenges, industry connections, and the development of transferable skills like collaboration and problem-solving. These approaches help students build confidence, broaden their horizons, and see how their learning equips them to thrive in the future.
- **Making Education-Industry Partnerships Matter: Aligning Education with Real-World Relevance** Meaningful education–industry partnerships go beyond one-off activities to become carefully designed, sustained collaborations grounded in industry knowledge, student aspirations, and local context. By seamlessly linking classroom learning with real workforce demands, these partnerships enable students to build growth mindsets, essential transferable skills, gain firsthand career insights, and expand their horizons. Through ongoing initiatives like mentorship, workplace immersions, career conversations, project-based collaborations, and expert guest sessions, students engage in dynamic, relevant learning experiences that prepare them to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce.
- **Creating the Conditions for Systemic Integration of Career Readiness in the Education Journey** Systemic integration of career readiness requires dedicated curriculum time, embedding career learning in subjects, and hands-on activities. Teachers need ongoing support and resources to confidently deliver or facilitate career-focused education. Strong collaboration with employers, universities, and community partners ensures students gain relevant exposure to diverse career paths aligned with local and future needs. Together, these elements could contribute to making career readiness an integral part of every student's education.

Panelists' Recommendations For Advancing Career Readiness

- **Advancing career readiness requires a comprehensive, school-wide approach** that ensures all students have equitable access to experiences that connect learning with life beyond school. This includes dedicating time within school timetables and embedding career readiness into everyday teaching and learning. Education–industry partnerships should be treated as an essential part of this effort—well-structured, sustained, and co-developed—rather than occasional or optional. Achieving meaningful and lasting impact relies on cross-sector collaboration to create solutions that are locally grounded, student-centered, and inclusive of all learners.

Key Recommendations From Small Group Conversations

- **Building Collaborations to Advance Holistic Career Education** Effective implementation of career education throughout the student journey requires strong collaborations among schools, families, higher education institutions, and industry partners. These collaborations ensure career readiness is embedded as a continuous, developmentally appropriate process rather than isolated interventions. When aligned with students' evolving learning stages and supported by strategic public sector leadership, such collaborations create sustainable pathways that promote equitable access and meaningful student outcomes.
- **Supporting Teachers to Connect Classroom Learning with Industry** Programs that facilitate direct engagement between teachers and companies—such as site visits, job shadowing, or short-term placements—significantly enhance educators' understanding of how academic content applies to real-world career pathways. This, in turn, strengthens curriculum relevance, boosts teacher motivation, and supports the effective adaptation of instruction across diverse educational settings, including both urban and rural areas with varying industry access, ultimately enriching student learning experiences.
- **Roadening Student Aspirations through Participatory and Practical Learning** Students benefit most when they actively engage in participatory learning experiences that introduce them to a diverse range of careers and connect them with industry mentors through authentic, real-world projects. This immersive involvement broadens their understanding of potential career pathways, builds confidence, elevates their voices, and helps them connect their learning to meaningful purpose—especially for those from underrepresented or marginalized backgrounds. Such hands-on, participatory approaches are essential for cultivating sustained motivation and preparing students for future opportunities..

Organized by



**GLOBAL CAREER
EDUCATION NETWORK**

Facilitated by

Teach For All
A Global Network

Supported by

JPMorganChase

If you are interested in learning more or being part of this evolving work, please reach out to
Tarek Chehidi at tarek.chehidi@teachforall.org.