



Navigating a **New World Order**

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING | ATLANTA, GA
MARCH 26-28, 2018

HopeGlobalForums.org

An initiative of  **OPERATION
HOPE**

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, MARCH 26th

6:00 PM | OPENING RECEPTION (INVITE ONLY)

Remarks: Federal Reserve Vice Chair Randal Quarles

TUESDAY, MARCH 27th

7:30 AM | MEMBER BREAKFAST (INVITE ONLY)

Presentation: Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International

8:30 AM | OPENING PLENARY

Remarks: Philippe Bourguignon, Vice Chair, Revolution
"Around the World in 18 Stops"

Remarks: Raj Sisodia, Co-Founder, Conscious Capitalism
"The Healing Organization"

Presentation: "Putting Purpose Into Practice"
SunTrust CEO Bill Rogers, CHRO Margaret Callihan,
Financial Well-Being Executive Brian Ford

A Call to Action: CoreLogic CEO Frank Martell

Moderated Conversation: "The Future of Work:
Assessing the Impact of A.I. and Beyond"

11:00 AM | BREAKOUT: STRAIGHT TALKS

CEO Roundtable: "Creating Cultures That Matter: hosted by
Conscious Capitalism

In Conversation: Atlanta Federal Reserve President
Raphael Bostic and John Hope Bryant

12:00 PM | LUNCH PLENARY

Remarks: Jon Campbell, EVP, Head of Government and
Community Relations, Wells Fargo Bank

Moderated Conversation: "Treating People Well"
with Lea Berman and Jeremy Bernard

Keynote Remarks: Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent,
NBC News

2:00 PM | BREAKOUTS: IDEA LABS

Our Disappearing Workforce: Solving an Economic Mystery

A New Urban Reality: The Gentrification Dilemma

The Great Reset: Rebooting Domestic Migration

An Era of Epidemics: Assessing the Economic Impact

Unleashing Innovation: Credit for the Poor reimagined
with FICO

4:00 PM | CLOSING PLENARY

Dr. Lynn Todman "Economic Vitality in Communities
of Color: Healing the Trauma of Racism"

In Conversation: ACT-1 Founder and CEO,
Janice Bryant Howroyd and John Hope Bryant

6:00 PM | NETWORKING RECEPTION (INVITE ONLY)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28th

7:30 AM | MEMBER ROUNDTABLES (INVITE ONLY)

**"The Changing Regulatory Landscape: Good for the
Investing Public?"**

"Revisiting the CRA: Perspectives for the Future"

"Why China Matters"

"Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: 5 Things You Need to Know"

"The Future of Housing: Implications of Reform"

**"Climate, Science and the Economic Impact: Why the
Poor are Hit the Hardest"**

8:30 AM | OPENING PLENARY

Remarks: John Donovan, CEO, AT&T Communications

In Conversation: Amy Goldstein, Pulitzer Prize
winning reporter, The Washington Post and author,
Janesville: An American Story

Remarks: To be announced

Moderated Conversation: Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.,
Ambassador Andrew Young and John Hope Bryant

11:00 AM | BREAKOUT: STRAIGHT TALKS

Moderated Conversation: "Blockchain, Bitcoin and
Why We Should Care"

In Conversation: Peter Georgescu, Chairman Emeritus,
Young & Rubicam and author, Capitalists Arise!

12:00 PM | LUNCH PLENARY

Presentation: "The Future of Retail"

Adult Pitch Competition presented by SunTrust

In Conversation: Comptroller of the Currency Joseph
Otting and John Hope Bryant

2:00 PM | WORKING GROUPS: 5 BIG IDEAS

**Science Fiction As Science Fact: Thriving in an
Automated Economy**

**Igniting Small Business: Can the Entrepreneur Jumpstart
the Economy?**

Where Do We Go From Here? Healing the Cultural Divide

Fin Tech in Focus: Can Fin Tech Increase Inclusion?

Higher Education: The Next Big Disruption

4:00 PM | CLOSING PLENARY

In Conversation: Delta Air Lines CEO, Ed Bastian

Keynote: Operation HOPE Founder, Chairman and CEO
John Hope Bryant



YOU ARE INVITED TO
REIMAGINE
The Global Economy

Navigating a **New World Order**

Global prosperity can only be achieved with an economy that provides equity and opportunity for everyone. With the theme “Navigating a New World Order”, the 2018 Annual Meeting will challenge participants to outline a vision for a new, global economy – where the poor, underserved and dislocated middle class are viewed as untapped assets for entrepreneurship, job creation and economic growth.

We will examine the “New World Order” in five tracks, along with the corresponding disruptions facing each sector. They include:

New World Order: Work
Disrupting: People

New World Order: Financial Services
Disrupting: Money

New World Order: Cities
Disrupting: Poverty

New World Order: Society
Disrupting: Norms

New World Order: Government
Disrupting: Policy

Through a series of nuanced conversations, intimate “Straight Talks” and working “Idea Labs”, attendees will interact with some of world’s leading voices, innovators, influencers and policy makers. Delegates will have the opportunity to help craft “50 Big Ideas” on how the Invisible Class can “Navigate the New World Order” and play a vital role in the dynamic 21st century economy.

MONDAY, MARCH 26TH

6:00 PM | OPENING RECEPTION

Program: To Be Announced

TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH

7:30 AM | MEMBER BREAKFAST *(Invite Only)*

featuring Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford

8:30 AM | OPENING PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Remarks: Philippe Bourguignon, Vice Chair, Revolution, LLC
“Around the World in 18 Stops”

Presentation: To Be Announced

Presentation: To Be Announced

Moderated Conversation:

Where Will the Jobs Be?

Assessing the Impact of A.I. and Beyond

The world of work is in a state of flux, which is causing considerable anxiety—and with good reason. There is growing chasm of opportunities between high- and low-skill jobs, unemployment and underemployment - especially among young people, stagnating incomes for a large proportion of households, and income inequality. Migration and its effects on jobs has become a sensitive political issue in many advanced economies.

Automation, enabled by robotics and artificial intelligence, brings the promise of higher productivity (and with productivity, economic growth), increased efficiencies, safety, and convenience. But these technologies also raise difficult questions about the broader impact on jobs, skills, wages, and the nature of work itself.

Additionally, the labor market has been quietly transforming as companies are replacing full-time employees with “offshore” and independent contractors, part-time positions, temps and other alternative work arrangements. Since 2005, the number of people in non-traditional arrangements grew by 9 million and now make up 16% of the U.S. workforce, while traditional employment declined by 400,000 jobs. Simply put - in the past 10 years, all net job growth in the U.S. economy has been in alternative work arrangements.

Where will the jobs of the future come from? How do we adequately transition workers from obsolete positions? Will A.I. and automation create enough new jobs to offset losses in

traditional sectors? Will there be enough jobs to gainfully employ everyone? How do we counterbalance the rise of the “gig economy” and its impact on wages? Do we need to brace for a new norm of less than desirable employment numbers?

11:00 AM | STRAIGHT TALKS (Imperial Ballrooms A/B)

CEO Roundtable:

Creating Cultures That Matter hosted by Conscious Capitalism

In Conversation:

**Atlanta Federal Reserve President Raphael Bostic &
Operation HOPE Chairman John Hope Bryant**

12:00 PM | LUNCHEON PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Keynote Remarks:

Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent, NBC News

Moderated Conversation:

To Be Announced

2:00 PM | IDEA LABS: 5 BIG IDEAS

Our Disappearing Workforce: Solving an Economic Mystery

While unemployment rates continue to hover at historically low numbers, wage increases and expanded hiring has for the most part not followed suit. This seems to be a reflection of a general uneasiness about the economy shared by business and workers alike.

Are the unemployment rates accurately reflecting the current post-recovery landscape? The official definition leaves out some significant groups – the “underemployed” (part-time workers who would prefer to work full-time) are counted among the employed. And “discouraged workers” (people who’d like a job but have stopped looking) aren’t counted as part of the labor force at all.

Last year, over 1.5 million people drop out of the workforce altogether, joining the ranks of “discouraged workers”. More alarmingly, America’s prime age men are working at the lowest numbers since the Great Depression, with Italy as the only OECD country with less men working than the United States.

During a typical recovery, workers who have been laid off or could not find adequate employment are absorbed back into the workforce. Yet the longer this recovery lasts, the larger the number of nonparticipants in the labor market. As a consequence, a smaller percentage of Americans are working now that at any time since the 1970’s.

The result: fewer workers means a smaller economy. It means fewer people producing fewer goods and services for fewer people to consume. A variety of factors are at play: a disconnect between the jobs available and the skillset of job seekers, Baby Boomers reaching retirement age, the opioid crisis, rates of incarceration, a surplus of degreed millennials, and the decline of the manufacturing economy.

How can we ensure our workforce is adequately trained to fill the jobs of the future? How can we rejuvenate the communities hollowed out by lost manufacturing jobs? What can be done to reintegrate men? To support the sectors generating job growth?

A New Urban Reality: The Gentrification Dilemma

Cities have long been neglected and viewed as havens for poverty and crime, with dilapidated structures and abandoned property remnants of an economy that transitioned from manufacturing to services. Industries no longer needed central city locations and found cheaper land outside the city and workers willing to travel thanks to improved transportation and telecommunications systems.

Today, companies and individuals are flocking back to urban environments. Living and working in cities is once again a viable option as trends of suburbanization are rapidly reversing. Cheap land, unique and historic buildings, proximity to transportation hubs and existing infrastructure have all contributed to the migration back to cities. Advocates of

gentrification point to the benefits of high-paying jobs, increased real estate values, higher tax revenue and increased spending for goods and services.

Detractors note that the influx of newcomers are wealthier and more powerful than current residents. With them comes the money to improve housing and the physical environment, often creating improvements that the past residents fought hard for but could not afford to do or lacked the political power to secure. Many are feeling pushed out of their own communities due to increased housing prices and overall cost of living.

In the latter phases of gentrification, demand for living space far outstrips the supply of condos and apartments available. Commercial rents rise so much that shopkeepers can no longer afford them. The quirky shops that attracted the original gentrifiers begin to disappear, replaced by chain stores and high-end boutiques.

Priced out of the original renewal area, residents decide to settle in neighborhoods farther from the center. Cities such as Washington DC and Atlanta, once 2/3 black, have lost their African American majorities. Suburban communities are taking in minorities who are either forced to or wish to leave. However, these enclaves were designed as auto-dependent communities, without the access to public transportation prevalent in an urban environment.

How can longtime residents participate in the current revitalization? Does gentrification really solve problems or just conceal them? How can increased economic activity support inclusion for the majority of residents? Can growth and reasonable rent (residential and commercial) be accommodated?

The Great Reset: Rebooting Domestic Migration

When examining the health of local and national economies, we typically focus on employment and income data. Another critical indicator worth closer attention is where we choose to move, where we are leaving and what happens when we stop moving.

Historically, America has been a place where uprooting one's family and life in search of greater opportunities was a norm, if not embedded in our national DNA. During the Gold Rush, Depression and the great post-World War II expansion, millions of Americans left their hometowns for places where they could earn more and provide a better life for their children.

But domestic mobility has fallen in recent years. While 3.6% of the population moved to a different state between 1952 and 1953, that number had fallen to 1.5% between 2015 and 2016. The share of people who move at all, even within the same county, has fallen too, from 20% in 1947 to 11.2% today.

However, it was not simply moving that mattered – it was that they moved to specific areas that were growing. When farming jobs were plentiful in the Midwest during the early

1900's, people moved there. Iowa and Missouri were more populous than California. Black men who moved North from South earned at least 100% more than those who stayed.

For most of the 20th century, a janitor and a lawyer could earn more living in New York than in the South. As people moved, they decreased labor supply in the regions they left, driving up wages there and tightening them in the markets they moved to. This effect increased wage growth in poorer areas faster than in rich areas for much of the last century.

But over the past 20 years, this trend has slowed, meaning people are not migrating fast enough to richer areas to bring wages down, and populations are not declining fast enough in poorer areas to bring wages up. This has led to a stratification of America, where the highly-skilled and wealthy live in high-cost, amenity-filled cities and the rest are increasingly stuck in places with few opportunities.

Why is this? Why have people stopped moving? How can exorbitant housing costs in high-opportunity areas be offset? How can we expand opportunity in lower-growth regions?

An Era of Epidemics: Assessing the Economic Impact

A series of ongoing epidemics have reached a tipping point, having real economic consequences that are impacting employers, families and communities. The opioid crisis alone is responsible for 170 overdose deaths a day, more than 64,000 in 2016 alone, and is primarily affecting prime working age men. Upwards of 20% of job applicants are rejected because they cannot pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Currently in the U.S., 1.1 million prime age working men are in prison and over 9 million prime working age men have been incarcerated, with few options for economic self-sufficiency upon release. The burden on U.S. taxpayers to maintain this system is staggering: \$80 billion a year nationwide, with a per inmate price tag of \$60,000 a year in California and \$167,000 in New York City, exceeding what most Americans earn.

Diabetes has become a major public health problem that is approaching epidemic proportions worldwide. About 18 million people die every year from cardiovascular disease, of which diabetes and hypertension are major predisposing factors. More than 1.7 billion adults worldwide are overweight, with 312 million of them obese.

As we look to combat these epidemics, are there more humane and economically sensible systems to consider? What policies and practices are contributing to the current crises? What successful strategies have been deployed? How can impacted communities and stakeholders better collaborate?

Unleashing Innovation: Credit for the Poor reimagined with FICO

Access to credit is an important means of providing people the opportunity to make a better life for themselves. It fuels the dreams and aspirations of people who want to

purchase a home or car, start a business or pay for higher education. All of these factors are foundational elements for increased social mobility and in turn, create the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs while expanding access to middle- and upper-class opportunities.

Yet many people in poor and minority communities – regardless of their creditworthiness – find credit hard to come by, making the climb out of poverty extremely difficult. Weak credit options force many working families into a disastrous cycle of short-term, high interest loans in order to sustain themselves.

A poor credit score inhibits the ability to access the basic requirements needed to succeed in today's society. Credit scoring is used by employers, landlords, auto dealers and internet and cell phone providers to mitigate risk. A poor credit score can cut off access to work, housing, transportation and communication. Communities with a low credit score average typically align with lower quality of life indicators: poorly performing schools, higher crime rates, lack of thriving retail options, higher mortality rates.

Credit markets for the poor are underdeveloped because lenders are unwilling to take risks on issuing credit or only do so at exorbitant interest rates. How challenging are the lending markets in LMI communities? What can be done to improve access to credit for disadvantaged groups? Why have programs that facilitate small business development done little to reduce poverty? Can moving credit scores in LMI communities cascade outward to improve overall quality of life?

4:00 PM | CLOSING PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Presentation:

To Be Announced

6:00 PM | SOCIAL & NETWORKING RECEPTION

(Invite Only) featuring entertainment with GOODING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28TH

7:30 AM | MEMBER ROUNDTABLES (*Invite Only*)

- Becoming a Purpose Driven Leader
- Revisiting the CRA: Perspectives for the Future
- Why China Matters
- Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: 5 Things You Need to Know
- The Future of Housing: Implications of Reform
- Climate, Science and the Economic Impact: *Why the Poor are Hit the Hardest*

8:30 AM | OPENING PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Keynote: **To Be Announced**

Presentation: **The Future of Retail**

In Conversation: **Amy Goldstein**, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter, *The Washington Post* and author, *Janesville: An American Story*

11:00 AM | STRAIGHT TALKS (Imperial Ballrooms A/B)

Blockchain, Bitcoin and Why We Should Care

Touted by some of its supporters as one of the most important inventions since the creation of the internet itself, blockchain exploded onto the global financial scene in 2017. Originally created in 2008 as the technology behind bitcoin, blockchain is an immutable, nearly unhackable distributed database that enables direct peer-to-peer exchange of value, removing the need for financial intermediaries.

Against the backdrop of bitcoin's meteoric rise in value, investors have poured nearly \$1 billion into blockchain-related startups in 2017. Many of the world's largest global financial firms — including are investing millions in blockchain platforms, hoping to harness its distributed network to reduce transaction fees and delays, enhance data security, and launch new consumer-focused products.

Though banks have been the first major corporate players to make significant investments in blockchain, tech giants like IBM and Google are now building platforms that will offer blockchain solutions to a wide range of industries, from helping health care companies better manage medical records and insurance claims to improving the traceability and transparency of global supply chains.

What is blockchain technology and why are banks so interested in it? Will blockchain revolutionize the global financial system? What are the major challenges to mass adoption? How can blockchain be applied to industries beyond financial services?

In Conversation: Peter Georgescu, Chairman Emeritus, Young & Rubicam and author, *Capitalists Arise! End Inequality, Grow the Middle Class, Heal the Nation*

12:00 PM | LUNCHEON PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Reflections on April 4th, 1968: The Journey from Civil Rights to Silver Rights - *A Historic Conversation with Ambassador Andrew Young, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and John Hope Bryant*

In Dr. Martin Luther King's final book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*, he outlined his vision for the future, including the need for better jobs, access to affordable housing and quality education.

To that end, Dr. King held a summit in Atlanta on March 14, 1968 that for the first time included leaders from outside the civil rights movement. He gathered prominent individuals from all walks of life and asked for their "commitment, capacity and connectedness" to build a credible and powerful campaign of economic inclusion, one that would make "the invisible visible". Less than three weeks later, on April 4th, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis.

This universal message of hope - that humankind for the first time has the technology and resources to eradicate poverty and end global suffering - continues to resonate today.

In a historic conversation, two of Dr. King's closest aides who were witnesses to the tragic events of April 4th will share their reflections and most importantly, a vision towards completing Dr. King's unfinished work for economic freedom and self-sufficiency. Civil Rights to Silver Rights.

In Conversation: Comptroller of the Currency Joseph Otting and John Hope Bryant

Science Fiction as Science Fact: Thriving in an Automated Economy

We are in the midst of a new industrial revolution – and this time around we will have to work with our machines, not just control them, in order to succeed. These new machines will continue to be integrated into the workplace, replacing humans in thousands of jobs in every sector of the economy.

Once only imaginable in the realm of science fiction, today's machines are performing surgeries, flipping burgers and navigating cars through rush-hour traffic. Science fiction is now science fact.

The rise of robots has been greeted with a mixture of awe and skepticism. Will these machines become massive job killers that decimate our workforce? Estimates predict that 83% of jobs making less than \$20/hr. are endangered by automation, as opposed to 31% making \$20-\$40 and only 4% for those making above \$40/hr.

Since the late 1970's, productivity growth has not translated to higher wages for low- and middle-income workers. Additionally, the wage premium for college-education skilled labor has continually increased. This creates an incentive for business to invest in technologies that raise the productivity of lower-skilled workers, accelerating automation in the workplace.

How will AI and robotics alter the substance of the jobs that will remain in place? Can a hybrid team of humans and computers be better than a homogenous group of either? What will the impact be on low wage workers? How can we prepare a workforce to thrive in the new economic reality? What can be done to increase economic inclusion?

Igniting Small Business: Can the Entrepreneur Jumpstart the Economy?

We often look to the huge, multinational corporations as the drivers and guardians of our economy, when in reality it is small business that is the prime force for innovation, job creation and GDP growth. Of the nearly 6 million employers in the U.S., firms with fewer than 500 workers account for 99.7% of those businesses. Small business startups are responsible for creating 7 out of every 10 new jobs, totaling 3 million new jobs annually.

In our rapidly changing economy, small business and entrepreneurship should be able to thrive in the face of globalization, technological change and automation. However, fewer small businesses are starting and more are failing now than in the last 40 years. The implications are huge.

In a dynamic economy, businesses are born, grow and die. Jobs are created and lost and resources reallocated according to their best use. If there are fewer companies and more aging (or failing) ones, then labor and investment stagnate in old industries. The economy is not refreshed and growth slows.

What is behind the drop off in business creation? Common assertions include access to capital, finding talent with the appropriate skillset; immigration policies that keep skilled workers out; taxation and regulation; and economic uncertainty. These capture much of why companies struggle to scale, but offer only a partial explanation as to why fewer companies are starting in the first place.

The slump in entrepreneurship has coincided with an extended period of increased consolidation in nearly all major industries. A lack of competitive pressure reduces the need for companies to react quickly to new innovations. The rise of industry heavyweights could be scaring off competition, with YouTube, Instagram and hundred of lower profile startups opting to sell out to industry heavyweights rather than challenge them directly.

Has the state of the entrepreneur fundamentally changed? What are the conditions that small businesses need now to succeed? How do we get startups to “scale up”? Under what conditions can entrepreneurs innovate? What kind of jobs can entrepreneurs create to spur economic growth? How can we encourage and strengthen women and minority-owned businesses?

Where Do We Go From Here? Healing the Cultural Divide

Two thirds of rural Americans say people in big cities hold values different than theirs, and nearly half of urban Americans say the same thing about their rural counterparts. The political divide between rural and urban America is as much cultural as it is economic, even though they share much of the same fears and concerns about their economic future.

Urban/rural disconnects ultimately center on fairness: who wins and loses in the new American economy, who deserves the most help and whether the government shows preferential treatment to certain types of people.

A tremendous amount of anger is currently fueled by economic frustration. Rural America laments a life they once had and lost, with little hope of getting back. Urban America remains surrounded by persistent poverty and a widening disconnect between the haves and have not's. Rural America feels they have been marginalized and viewed by urban elitists as “below the line” people. Urban America feels its diversity threatened, while absorbing the blame for someone else's economic insecurity.

Yet despite the widening cultural gap, the two America's have much in common in terms of economic challenges. While levels of rural poverty in the 1950's and 60's were often double those in urban areas, that gap has closed to less than a 2% differential. Contrary to common assumptions, substantial shares of the poor are employed, with nearly half of

poor, prime-age (25-54) individuals working in both rural and urban areas. While metropolitan areas have a reputation for innovation, rural areas have higher numbers of startups and boast better business survival rates.

Both sides are also united by a feeling of “not being heard”: the companies we work for, the businesses we buy from, and the political system that governs us all seem to have grown less accountable. “They” don’t care; our voices don’t count.

Businesses treat employees as disposable, replacing full-time jobs with part-time work and cutting wages, because they can - most working people have no other alternative. Consumers feel mistreated and taken for granted because they, too, have less choice. We now have just 4 major airlines and 88% of Americans are served by just one internet service provider. Banks, health insurers, digital platforms are now gigantic. Even politicians face less and less competition, with 97% of congressional districts considered safe for the incumbents.

Are we able to bridge the cultural divide? How can we reconnect our institutions with individuals? What could rally us around our common interests? What policy solutions can support growth in both rural and urban communities?

Fin Tech in Focus: Can Fin Tech Increase Inclusion?

According to the World Bank, there are 2 billion people in the world who currently have no access to banking services. In the context of financial inclusion, financial technology holds boundless potential. As new tools and technologies are developed, and old business models are challenged, financial services can be delivered to more people with greater speed, accountability and efficiency.

Access to financial products and services is becoming more attainable than ever, especially for individuals living in rural locations or regions with the structures of a modern economy. Not only can fin tech make these products and services more accessible, it can make them more affordable by lowering the cost of doing business for the financial institution. Couple this with the near ubiquitous availability of affordable cell phones and cellular accessibility, a future where no one is excluded from the financial system may not be far out of reach.

In 2014, investment in fin tech companies rose more than 200%. After leveling off in 2016 due to maturation of the industry, investment hit record highs globally in 2017. What’s driving this momentum and can it be sustained? What are the impacts to date? What are the frictions between startups, legacy institutions and regulators and how can the relationship move toward collaboration? What are the barriers to universal financial inclusion?

Higher Education: The Next Big Disruption

For much of the past century, we have been brought up to believe that a college degree is a ticket to a better life. Although a secondary education is supposed to be our engine of social mobility, it is in need of a serious tune-up.

U.S higher education has a product that does not work, ridiculous costs and an antiquated business model. We continue to accept this because we see tremendous societal value in education.

College graduates are much more likely to climb the economic ladder, earning twice as much over the course of a lifetime as those without a degree. However, this only benefits those who complete their degree, and very few low-income people make it though. Now, most middle and upper-class parents find they cannot afford to give their children the education they enjoyed.

Cost is the number one reason why people do not go to college, and it's the main reason why they drop out. Many of those who do get a degree are saddled with burdensome debt. Student debt now exceeds consumer debt in the United States.

How did we get here? The high value society places on education coupled with abundant, government subsidized financing have driven steady demand despite soaring prices. Technology has recently accelerated this debate, as online education works and dramatically improves costs and more importantly, expands access. This provides a substantial opportunity for entrepreneurs and investors, companies seeking low-cost learning and development options and individuals looking to obtain a degree.

The great paradox we face in the 21st century economy is that we desperately need an educated workforce to fill jobs that are increasingly skilled and technological; yet we are making earning a college degree less attainable. Are we now at a tipping point where the economic stakes are so high that they will drive change? Can parents find new ways to educate their children and enable them to achieve professional success? Will a technology-driven revolution radically transform the higher education business model?

4:00 PM | CLOSING PLENARY (Marquis Ballroom)

Keynote:

Operation HOPE Founder, Chairman and CEO John Hope Bryant