Session Speakers:

Dr. William J. Antholis
Moderator
Managing Director, The Brookings Institution

Maura Banta
Director of Global Citizenship Education, IBM

Neil Britto
Executive Director
The Intersector Project

Rashid Ferrod Davis
Founding Principal
P-TECH

Cass Conrad
Executive Director, School Support & Development, CUNY

Session Summary:

Attendees of this strategy session participated in a P3 case study simulation, led by The Intersector Project. Participants were broken into working groups to discuss tools, strategies, and best practices for forming collaborative partnerships between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. These working groups were followed by a panel discussion reflecting the case study, moderated by Dr. William Antholis. Rashid Ferrod Davis, opened the panel, explaining that P-TECH was created to target an underrepresented population and enable students with the necessary skills to reach a middle income lifestyle and break the cycle of poverty. In collaboration with the New York Department of Education and CUNY, a tailored curriculum was developed to prepare students for a job in the corporate sector. Maura Banta explained IBM’s role in the partnership, as the company provided over 60 internships for students finishing their junior year. As the curriculum was focused on special skill training, they were given substantial responsibility during the internship and progress during their experience was clearly evident. Effective tools and tactics established within the partnership included, shared digression – where decision making authority was well divided and clearly defined among partners, good governance structure – where a steering committee was comprised of representatives of each sector, and expert guiding – where experts in each area could drive the project to success. The panel then reflected on some of the challenges faced within this P3. For example, the program was not made compulsory so keeping students engaged proved difficult, especially as a number lacked interest in working specifically for IBM. There were additional pragmatic issues, including finding a location that was close to IBM employees but still accessible for students belonging to the target group in NYC, building an appropriate team around the project, as well as finding and allocating necessary resources. Questions from the audience covered collaborative decision making, recruiting champions to advocate for partnerships, and the ability to stick to predetermined schedules. Participants left this strategy session armed with the tools necessary to form strategic and efficient P3 partnerships of their own.
Panelists:

– Dr. William Antholis of The Brookings Institution, Rashid Ferrod Davis of P-TECH, and Maura Banta of IBM

– Strategy Session participants in smaller working groups prior to panel discussion on case study

– Cass Conrad of CUNY in conversation with fellow panelist Neil Britto of The Intersector Project

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“IT IS AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM AND INTERACT WITH LEADERS OF P3 INITIATIVES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.”

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