

Title:

Partnering for Progress: How the Alabama Community College System Powers Workforce Development through Industry Collaboration

Abstract:

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) drives economic growth by partnering with industry to deliver targeted workforce training. This presentation highlights collaborative efforts including Skills for Success Training, the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), student apprenticeships, and faculty externships. ACCS supports emerging sectors like biobased manufacturing, agriculture, and biotechnology through customized programs and experiential learning shaped by industry input. By aligning training with current and future labor market needs, ACCS enhances Alabama's competitiveness in a global economy. These strategic partnerships ensure a responsive, innovative workforce development ecosystem that fuels both regional advancement and long-term economic resilience.

Bio:

With over 20 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Veronica Morin brings a dynamic blend of teaching, leadership, and innovation to her role as Associate Director of STEM and Distance Education for the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), which she joined in 2022. Previously, she led STEM outreach initiatives at Auburn University and spent more than a decade as an Associate Professor of Biology at Georgia Highlands College. Dr. Morin holds degrees in biology from Jacksonville State University and earned her doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama. She is passionate about expanding access to STEM education and workforce development across Alabama.