

# Agenda



**Council on  
Competitiveness**

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## Economic Advisory Committee Inaugural Dialogue

**7.45am Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8.30am Welcoming Remarks  
Economic Advisory Committee Vision, Goals and Introductions around  
the Table**

**Kick-off Discussants:**  
**The Honorable Deborah L. Wince-Smith**  
President and CEO  
Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Gene Huang**  
Chief Economist and Vice President  
FedEx  
--and--  
Chair, Economic Advisory Committee, Council on Competitiveness

**Key Questions:**  
What is the goal of the Economic Advisory Committee (EAC)?

What is the intended role of the EAC in the context of the Council on  
Competitiveness 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year?

What 1-2 issues most concern – or encourage – you about future prospects  
for U.S. competitiveness?

**9.45am Innovating the Index:  
Re-Defining, Re-Shaping the *Competitiveness Index***

**Kick-off Discussants:**  
**Mr. Chad Evans**  
Senior Vice President  
Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Robert Rebelein**  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Economics  
Vassar College

**Dr. Michael Mandel**  
Chief Economic Strategist  
Progressive Policy Institute

**Key Questions:**

What is the *Competitiveness Index*?

Does the *Competitiveness Index* need a re-think two decades after its debut?

- Substance – are current metrics for “competitiveness” (national productivity, GDP per capita, etc.) relevant?
- Methodology – does the “snapshot” approach to competitiveness have merit? Is a true “index” helpful to policymakers?
- Delivery – how ought the Council think about sharing and releasing its competitiveness assessment in an age of applications and social media?

**Goals for the Session:**

- Increased clarity on core competitiveness fundamentals.
- Commitment of EAC members to serve as a “sounding board”/advisors for the next *Competitiveness Index*.

10.30am

**Looking Ahead:  
Exploring Future Global Economic Challenges, and Identifying  
Opportunities to Boost U.S. Productivity and Prosperity**

**Kick-off Discussants:**

**Dr. Gene Huang**  
Chief Economist and Vice President  
FedEx  
--and--

Chair, Economic Advisory Committee, Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Robert Fry**  
Senior Associate Economist  
DuPont

**Mr. David Hale**  
Chairman  
David Hale Global Economics

**Dr. William A. Strauss**  
Senior Economist and Economic Advisor  
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

**Key Questions:**

What are the major barriers to future U.S. competitiveness?

Where are the future opportunities for U.S. competitiveness – economic growth, productivity growth, and improved living standards?

**Goals for the Session:**

- Increased clarity on avenues the Council on Competitiveness ought to explore and, around which prioritize and shape ongoing and future initiatives.

**Noon**

**Lunch**

**1.00pm**

**Highlighting Current Council on Competitiveness Initiatives:  
Further Opportunities to Engage – Case Study: US Manufacturing  
Competitiveness Initiative and Council 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Kick-off Discussants:**

**Mr. Chad Evans**

Senior Vice President – Innovation, Technology, and Global Initiatives  
Council on Competitiveness

**Mr. Jack McDougle**

Senior Vice President – U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative  
Council on Competitiveness

**Goals for the Session:**

- Describe manufacturing in 2025 – in economic terms (increasing demand? How do we meet manufacturing demand? What needs to be manufactured in the United States? Etc.)
- Commitment of EAC members to serve as a “sounding board”/advisors for the Council’s US Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative and national strategy.

**1.45pm**

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

**The Honorable Deborah L. Wince-Smith**

President and CEO  
Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Gene Huang**

Chief Economist and Vice President

FedEx

--and--

Chair, Economic Advisory Committee, Council on Competitiveness