

2025 BREAKOUTS

ROUND 1 | 2:00-2:50 P.M.

- D136 Food Forward: Crafting a World-Class Reputation for Oregon Food, Beverage & Culinary**
With: Joth Ricci, former CEO of Dutch Bros; Mike Thelin, Bolted Consulting
Oregon has all the ingredients to craft its reputation as a world-class food, beverage, and culinary ecosystem. Learn how to elevate this opportunity and expand economic benefits statewide.
- D138 Building Courage & Hope for the Future of Oregon Schools**
With: Whitney Grubbs, Foundations for a Better Oregon; Rob Manning, Oregon Public Broadcasting; Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici; Dr. Steve Cook, Bend La Pine Schools; Aryn Frazier, Center for Black Excellence; Kali Thorne Ladd, Children's Institute
Despite record spending, student outcomes are falling. Leaders will examine root causes and the bold strategies needed to rebuild performance and confidence in Oregon's schools.
- D139 Healthcare At A Crossroads**
With: Bruce Goldberg, advisor to Governor Kotek; John Kitzhaber, MD; Becky Hultberg, Oregon Hospital Association; Robin Richardson, Moda Health
Health care costs are surging while access declines. This session explores the drivers and offers solutions to make care more affordable for families and employers.
- E142 Next Steps: Portland Central City Task Force**
With: Mayor Keith Wilson, Portland; Cornell Wesley, Prosper Portland
As the Task Force nears its next phase, Mayor Wilson will outline progress and next steps. Learn how Portland will track improvements in economic recovery, public safety and community satisfaction.
- E148 How Oregon Stacks Up: A Site Selector's View**
With: Courtney Dunbar, Burns & McDonnell; Sean Ferguson, Firetiger Technologies; Monique Claiborne, Greater Portland Inc.
Site selectors shape where major investments – and jobs – land. Hear from two of the nation's leading site selection experts on what's holding Oregon back and what it must improve to win the national competition for job growth.

ROUND 2 | 3:10-4:00 P.M.

- D136 Wildfire Mitigation: Aligning Indigenous Wisdom with Technological Innovation**
With: Matt Donegan, Donegan Advisors & OBC Fellow; Scott Conway, Vibrant Planet; Jason Robison, Cow Creek Nation; Anukool Lakhina, BurnBot
Oregon faces rising wildfire risks that demand aggressive prevention. Learn how new technologies, Indigenous stewardship, and proven strategies can protect communities.
- D138 Oregon's Next Top Housing Plan**
With: Lorelei Juntunen, ECONorthwest; Katy Brooks, City of Bend Economic Development Office; Michael Anderson, Sightline Institute; Tom Cody, 1803 Fund; Molly Rogers, Washington County
Oregon must accelerate housing production to meet urgent needs. This fast-paced "policy game show" highlights barriers, bold ideas, and the coordinated action required.
- D139 Communities for Intergenerational Living**
With: Peggy Maguire, Cambia Health Foundation; Paul Halverson, OHSU & PSU; Kali Thorne Ladd, Children's Institute; Derenda Schubert, Bridge Meadows
Intergenerational strategies strengthen belonging and improve outcomes for all ages. Explore collaborative approaches that can make Oregon a leader in age-friendly community design.
- E143 Advancing Life Sciences**
With: Representative Hai Pham; Liisa Bozinovic, Oregon Life Sciences; Bob Guldberg, University of Oregon; Astou Gaye, Genentech Hillsboro Innovative Therapies
Oregon's life sciences sector is accelerating with strong research and collaboration. This session highlights emerging opportunities and investments needed to scale the industry.
- E148 FAST: A Model for Faster Economic Development**
With: Rob Stone, Oregon State University; José J. Garcia, Analog Devices; Skip Newberry, Technology Association of Oregon; Kyle Ritchey-Noll, Oregon Business Council
FAST unites 95 partners to expand semiconductor and AI innovation and build pathways to high-wage jobs. Learn how FAST is partnering to pursue major federal investment to boost Oregon's competitiveness.