

I am Linda Harris, Director of Youth Policy at CLASP. For more than forty years CLASP has worked on policy solutions that impact the lives of low income individuals and families. Our youth agenda focuses on the situation of disconnected youth in communities of high economic distress... and for the past 4 years we have focused our lens on the education and labor market situation of young men of color.

- 2 years ago CLASP issued a publication "[We Dream a World](#)". It was the vision document for the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys". Among other things we recognized the importance of:
 - Committing to full-scale community wide strategies that reach out and re-engage young black men,
 - building supported pathways that put them on paths to labor market and economic success,
 - Expanding opportunities for work experience, work exposure, internships,
 - Brokering access and breaking down those impediments to access and unfair hiring practices
- In a subsequent paper – "[Building Postsecondary Pathways for Low Income Young Men of Color](#)" – we highlighted the important role that community must play in assembling the systems, funding, and resources ... and the federal and state role in building community capacity to build interventions at scale.
- To deliver these young men to futures of economic promise, these activities must leverage opportunities in industry sectors that provide good jobs, good wages, and opportunity for advancement. That is what is exciting about today's discussion -- the potential of the transportation sector to do just that.
- Our panelist represent a rich assembly of expertise and experience in this arena and will talk about the promise that the transportation Infrastructure may hold for advancing economic opportunity for young black men.