

# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



**The Role of Community Colleges in  
Preparing Students for the Green Economy**

*Call to Action Webinar  
August 1, 2024*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**THE  
KRESGE  
FOUNDATION**

**NCWE**  
The National Council for Workforce Education

  
**CRIMSONBRIDGE  
FOUNDATION**

 **ResearchEd**



**RURAL CLIMATE  
PARTNERSHIP**

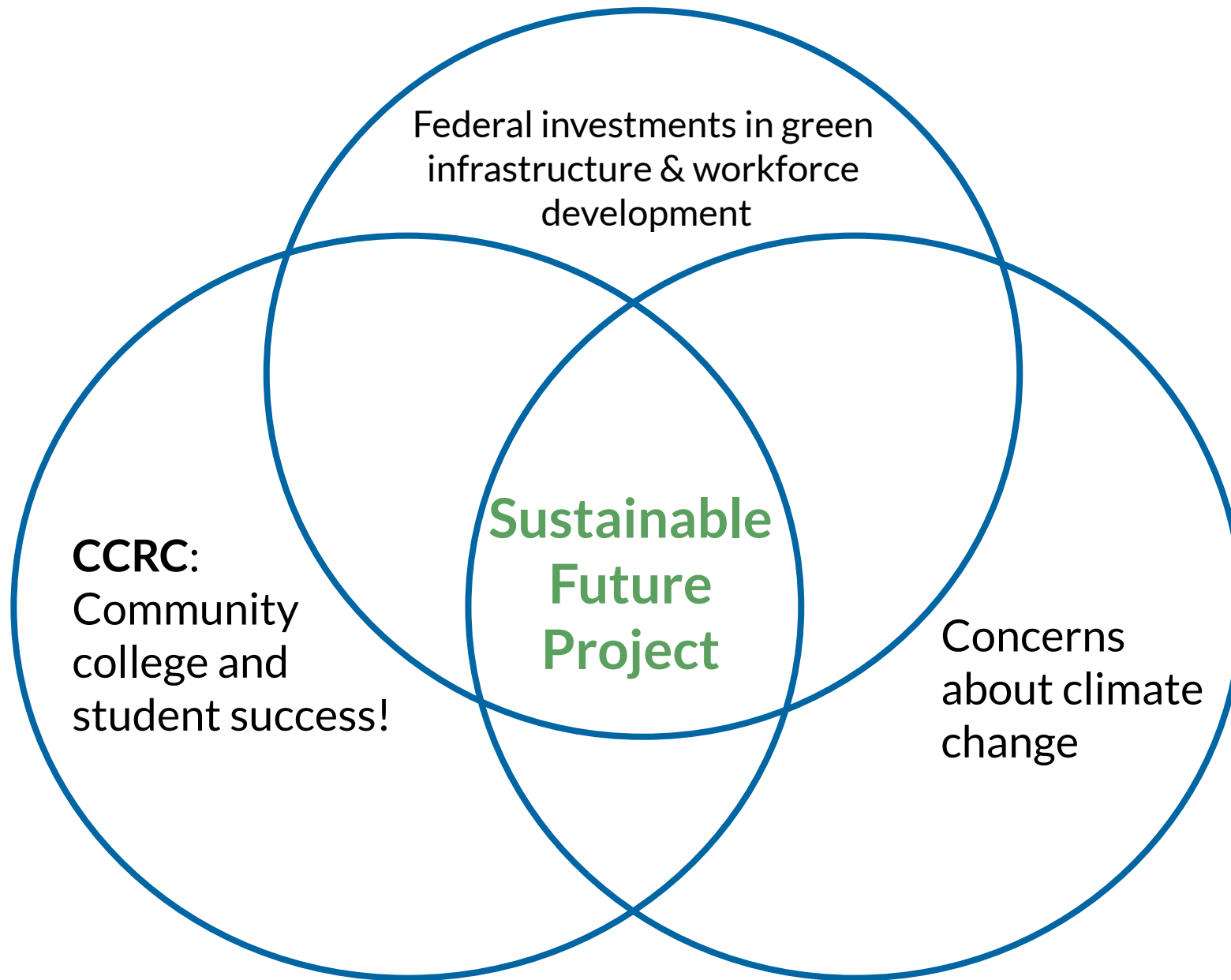
 **THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE**

EDUCATION RESEARCH &  
OPPORTUNITY CENTER

# AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction to the Building A Sustainable Future project
- Bill McKibben: Heroes of the Green Transition
- Panel discussion: How are community colleges addressing climate change and preparing students for the green economy?
- Closing remarks

# Building a Sustainable Future Project



# Project Timeline

## Symposium April 2024

- 24 community colleges from 19 states
- Representatives of various foundations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education,
- 10 national intermediary organizations

## Call to Action July 2024

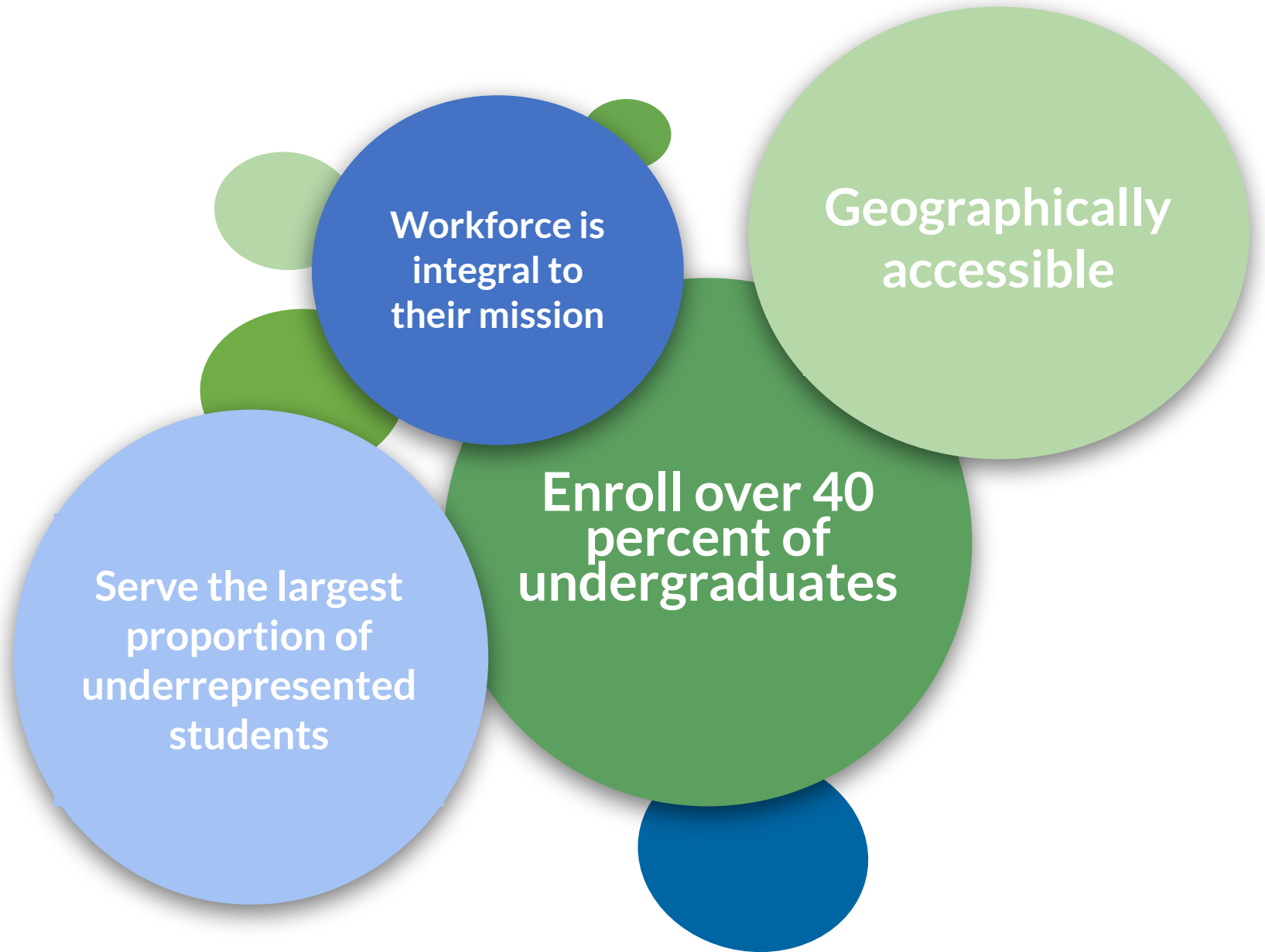
- Synthesizes themes from symposium
- Offers “talking points” for community colleges to drive discussions about green jobs and build coalitions

## New Research 2025 and beyond

- Landscape Study
- Field research
- Develop metrics and outcomes
- Community of practice

# Community Colleges and the Emerging Green Economy: A Call to Action

**1. Community colleges are uniquely positioned to prepare students for the green workforce.**



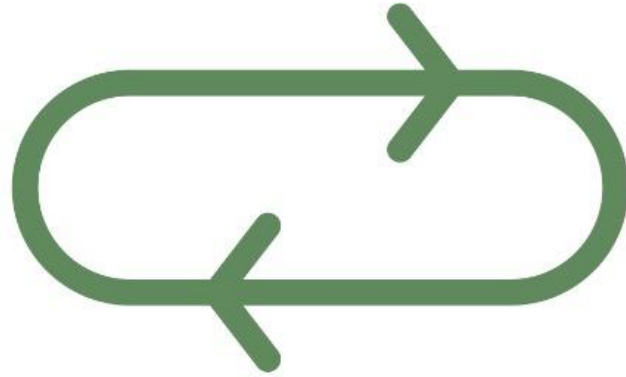


## 2. Green jobs are already here.

Types of Green Jobs	Example
Jobs in which the work process can be made <b>more sustainable</b> . All jobs are green jobs.	Office administrator
Jobs affiliated with economic activities that contribute to <b>reducing carbon emissions</b> .	Wind turbine service technician
Jobs affected by the green transition either by an <b>increase in demand or change in tasks</b> .	Auto technician
Jobs that have a high <b>green skills</b> intensity.	Environmental science and protection technician

Source: Tsironis, A (2023). Preparing the Workforce for the Low-Carbon Economy: A Closer Look at Green Jobs and Green Skills. Asian Development Bank.

### 3. Green jobs appeal to people across the political spectrum.



# 4. Green jobs have the potential to advance racial and economic equity.



## 5. This is the optimal time for colleges to invest in green workforce programs.

### Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), 2021



- Allows states to allocate funds to workforce development related to surface transportation infrastructure
- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI) allows for workforce development

### Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), 2022



- USDA Assistance and Support for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers and Foresters Sec. 22007
- State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants Sec. 50123

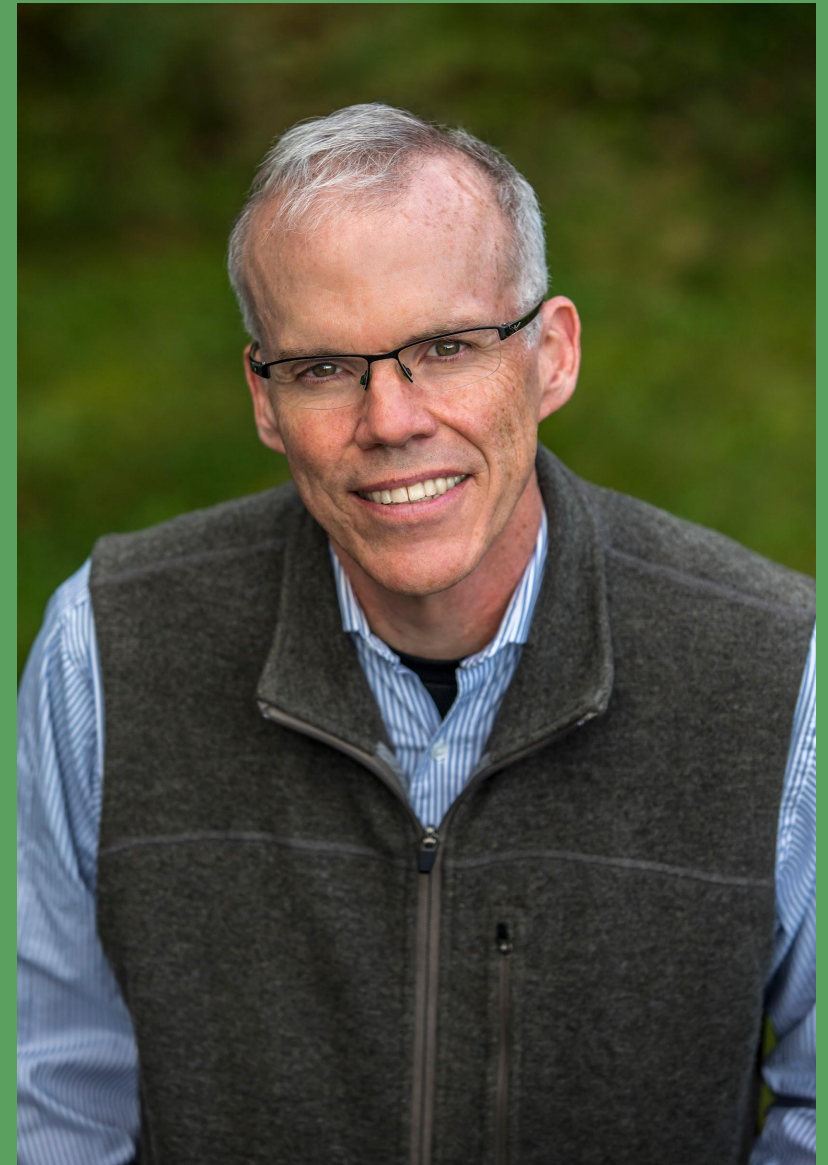
### CHIPS and Science Act, 2022



- Treasury will establish \$200 million CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund

# Bill McKibben

*Author, Environmentalist, Journalist, Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, Founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 for action on climate and justice.*



# Panel Discussion:

Jeff Clary,  
*Foundation for California Community  
Colleges*

Kristen Westover,  
*Mountain Empire Community College*

Chris McNally,  
*Hudson Valley Community College*

# The time to act is now!

Research  
2025 and beyond

- Landscape Study
- Field research
- Develop metrics and outcomes
- Community of practice



# Thank You!

FOR JOINING US IN BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

For more information,  
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Email: [fay@tc.edu](mailto:fay@tc.edu)

