



# Public Service RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 1-7, 2022

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TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 | 6:30 PM EST | WEBEX



## National Issues Forum: Youth and Opportunity

Public Service Recognitions  
Participation Certificates  
Gift Card Incentives



**HOST:** National Issues Forums Institute  
Network Partner  
Albany State University (ASU)  
College of Business, Education and  
Professional Studies  
Master of Public Administration Program  
(MPA)  
Lois B. Hollis Center for Social Equity  
MPA Fridays+  
Professional Development Series  
**CONVENED BY:**  
Veronica Adams-Cooper, PhD  
ASU Professor & NIF Moderator



## National Issues Forums Report - Network Partner: Albany State University (Albany, GA)

### FORUM PURPOSE

A National Issues Forum (NIF) was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm via Webex. The issue book used was, "Youth and Opportunity: What Should We Do for Future Generations to Thrive?" This forum was held as part of the NIF Institute's, "We the People" initiative and it's partner's, Net Impact, "Up to Us" microgrant initiative.

The forum was hosted by the NIF network partner, the Lois B. Hollis Center for Social Equity (LBHCSE), in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program within the College of Business, Education and Professional Studies at Albany State University (Albany, GA). It was the Center's culminating public service event for its 2022 MPA Fridays+ Professional Development Series. This forum event served as the Center's observance for Public Service Recognition Week 2022 (May 1-7).

### FORUM RESULTS

There were 17 forum participants from the campus and community. The forum moderator was Dr. Veronica Adams-Cooper, LBHCSE director. Forum participants deliberated on the three options (See below) after viewing the starter video. Fifteen minutes were allotted for each option and 15 minutes were devoted to closing reflections. Participants were invited to complete the online post-forum questionnaire. All participants received a \$5 gift card and participation certificate via postal mail.

#### OPTIONS

1. Equip People to Succeed - Many young people need more education and training to realize their full potential and lead successful lives.
2. Give Everyone a Fair Chance - Not everyone in the United States has an equal chance to succeed.
3. Focus on Economic Security - Deep-rooted problems in our society have not been addressed, putting the next generation at risk.

### FORUM REFLECTIONS

Both the campus and community participants deliberated on the topics using local community concerns and information. Here were some key reflections.

- The participants felt there was a great deal remaining to be discussed.
- One participant was a university professor in education who shared the critical need for enhanced educational relevancy of the curriculum.
- One participant was a local, elected official, who presented aspects of how this issue could be incorporated into local priorities.
- Another participant was a local community leader and executive director of a nonprofit leading social change who provided staggering data on local infrastructure disparities.
- Several MPA students shared social equity concerns.