

Jeff Fuhrer, our April presenter, has some things he'd like to know from us:

Questions from Jeffrey Fuhrer, EVP and Senior Policy Advisor for the Federal Bank of Boston, for participants in his April 21 ACE presentation:

- How do you see the impact of immigration (historically) and immigration restrictions (prospectively) on Maine's workforce and businesses more generally?
- Everyone mentions the lack of appropriately-skilled workers as a business challenge. What are the specific skills that your client businesses find in short supply? Have they raised wages for those skill areas?
- As a follow-up, do you or key business groups in your region partner with education and training institutions to address skills gaps?
- How do you see businesses' role in hiring workers from the low-wage sector? Are you concerned if businesses pay wages that are too low for workers to "make it" without significant government support?
- The Fed would be interested to hear your thoughts on how we might bring the Working Cities Challenge (more likely a "Working Communities Challenge") to Maine and other northern New England States.

Participants who are interested in the last question, if you look at our website on the Working Cities (<https://www.bostonfed.org/community-development/smaller-industrial-cities/working-cities-challenge.aspx>) that would be great. Thanks!