Partnership Day 2016: Labor and Industry leaders share strategies for success

As the LERA conference approaches, I’m looking forward to seeing colleagues and participating in the workshops. This year’s theme, “Employment Relations in the Age of Uber,” is a timely one, and I know there will be many lively discussions about our role as labor relations leaders and the future of work.

I’m also anticipating answering a lot of questions about what it’s like to operate the largest labor-management partnership in the U.S. Is it easier than traditional, more adversarial labor relations? (No). Does it feel better? (Yes). Does it get results and help grow the company and labor unions? (Yes and yes). Frankly, partnership is not something labor relations professionals and academics often hear about firsthand. For that reason, we’ve created a new event called Partnership Day.

Partnership Day is August 16 in Chicago, the day before the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service conference opens. Our program will include leaders from United Auto Workers and Ford Motor Company; United Steelworkers and International Paper; SEIU Local 721 and Los Angeles County Health System; and myself and colleagues from Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions.

Robert Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California Berkeley and former Secretary of Labor, will kick things off. There will be networking opportunities, too. For more information, please visit <http://meetingservicesinc.com/fmcs/pre-conference.html>.

I hope to see you there!