

Northeastern University
Policy Innovation Hub

Strategic Plan and Launch

The Policy Innovation Hub

Mission

Leverages **people-centered scholarship to confront pressing policy challenges** at every scale, from the local to the global. By **connecting and amplifying** the expertise, experiences, and perspectives of students, faculty, centers, communities, and decision makers, PIH **cultivates partnerships, creates spaces for shared learning, and strengthens the ties** between policy research, policy practice, and public impact.

Vision

We envision a future where policy innovation emerges through

- shared learning,
- meaningful partnership, and
- public engagement,

creating new possibilities for addressing complex challenges across communities, institutions, and borders.

The Policy Innovation Hub

Our Values

- **Collaborative Engagement**. We build long-term, trust-based relationships with students, scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and communities to support meaningful collaboration and public impact.
- **Engaged Policy Scholarship.** We support rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship that connects research, experiential learning, and practice to real-world policy challenges.
- **Context and Responsiveness.** We approach policy work with humility, recognizing that effective solutions must be grounded in the needs, priorities, and realities of the communities and systems they seek to engage.
- **Integrity and Accountability.** We value ethical practice, transparency, evidence-informed work, and shared responsibility in how we conduct research, partnerships, and engagement.
- **Student Partnership and Learning.** We create meaningful opportunities for students across Northeastern University to contribute to research, partnerships, and applied policy work as active collaborators and emerging leaders.

The Policy Innovation Hub

Affiliated Centers

BARI

Northeastern University
Center for International
Affairs and World Cultures

Northeastern University
Dukakis Center for
Urban and Regional Policy

Global Action for Policy Initiative
Northeastern University

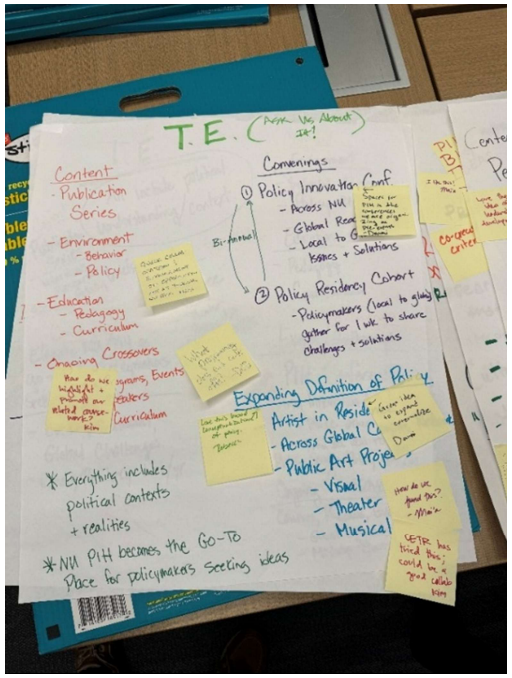
Northeastern University
Plastics Center

SOCIAL IMPACT LAB

Year 0: Building Community

- Kick Off Retreat
  - 17 directors and staff from all six centers
  - Explored:
    - Identity
    - What We Can Be
    - What We Can Do





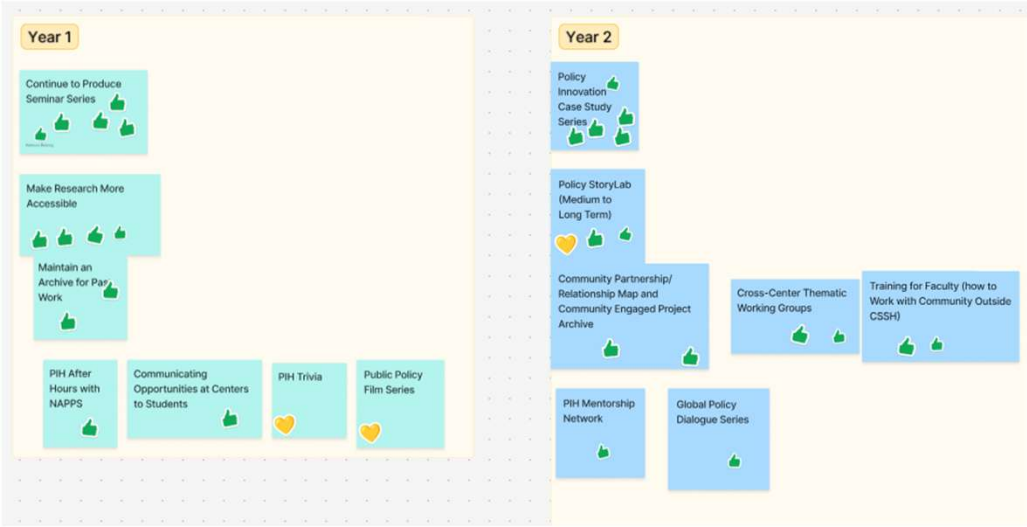
Year 0: Building Community

- Kick Off Retreat
- *What is Policy Innovation?* Seminar Series
  - Seven sessions in Spring 2026, one led by each center.
  - Inclusive conversations on people-centered scholarship.
  - 30-40 attendees per session.



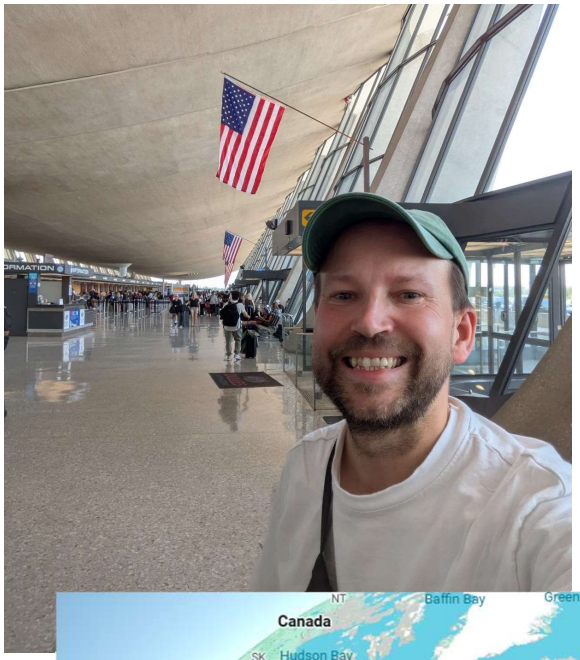
Year 0: Building Community

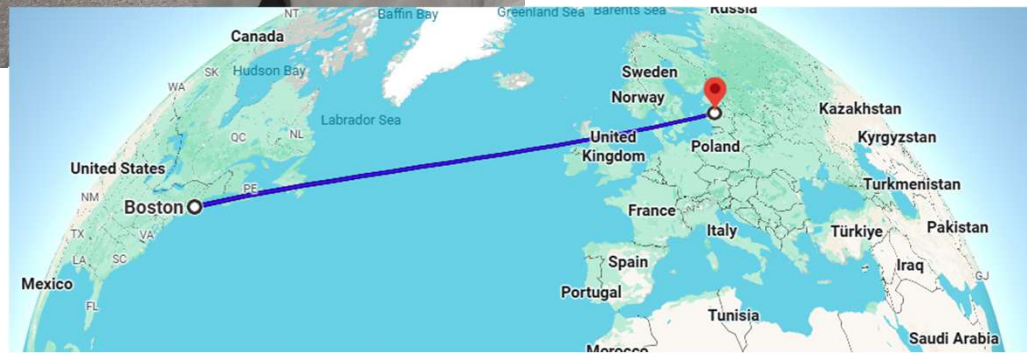
- Kick Off Retreat
- *What is Policy Innovation?* Seminar Series
- Launch Advisory Group
  - Center directors, unaffiliated faculty, students, staff, and partners
  - Translated themes from seminar into launch and strategic plan



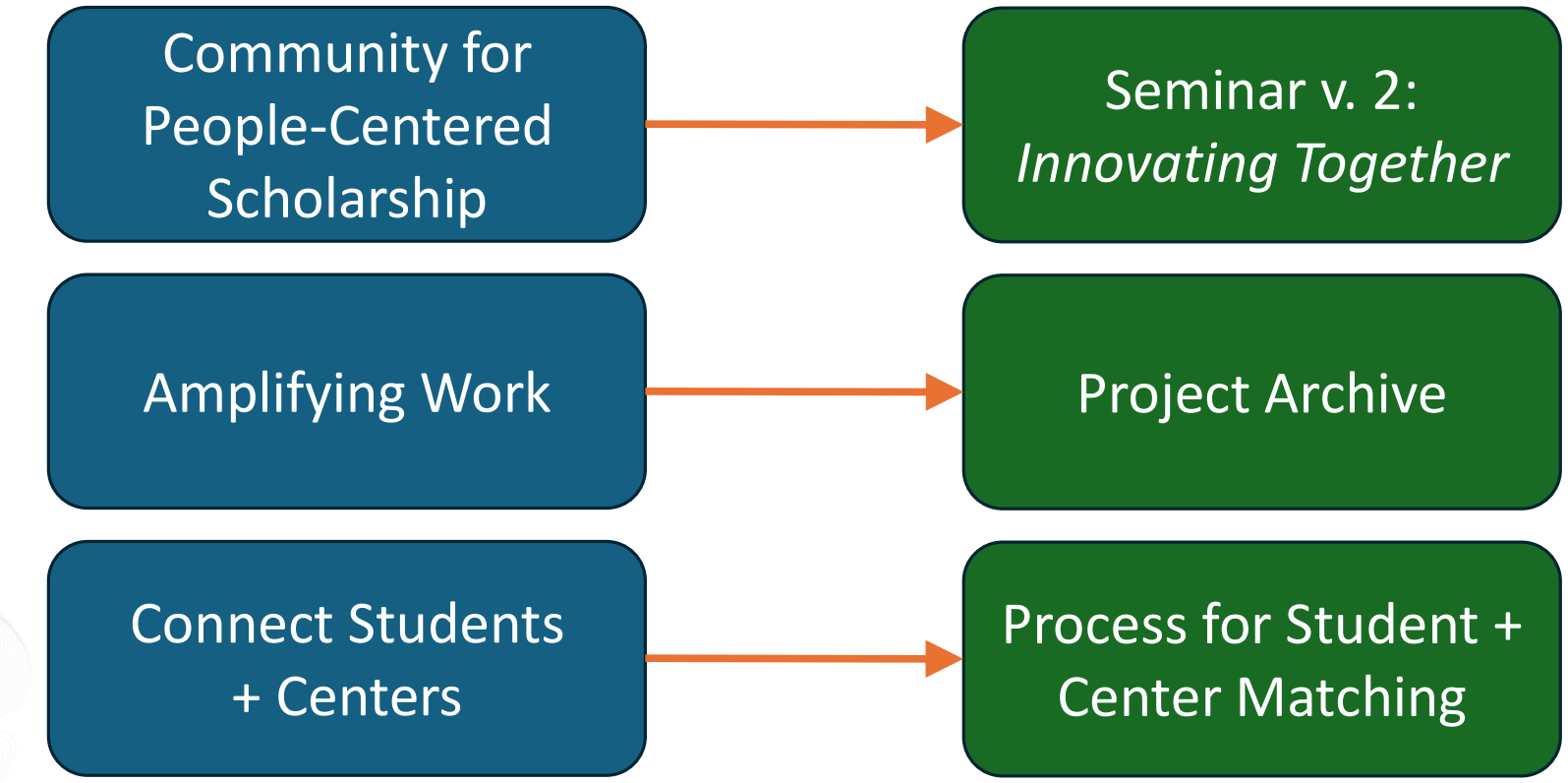
Year 0: Building Community

- Kick Off Retreat
- *What is Policy Innovation?* Seminar Series
- Launch Advisory Group
- Professional Fellow from Latvia
  - Kaspars Kravinskis spent June exploring policy innovation
  - Co-hosting symposium on that theme in Latvia w/ Co-Director O'Brien in October





Year 1: Building Infrastructure



Year 1: Building Infrastructure

- Seminar v. 2: *Innovating Together*
  - Every other Thursday, 12-1
  - Monthly fireside chats between center directors and external partners on *how* the work happened
  - In between weeks will feature other formats and voices (e.g., student panel, skills training)
  - Maintaining the crucial ingredient of extended open conversation

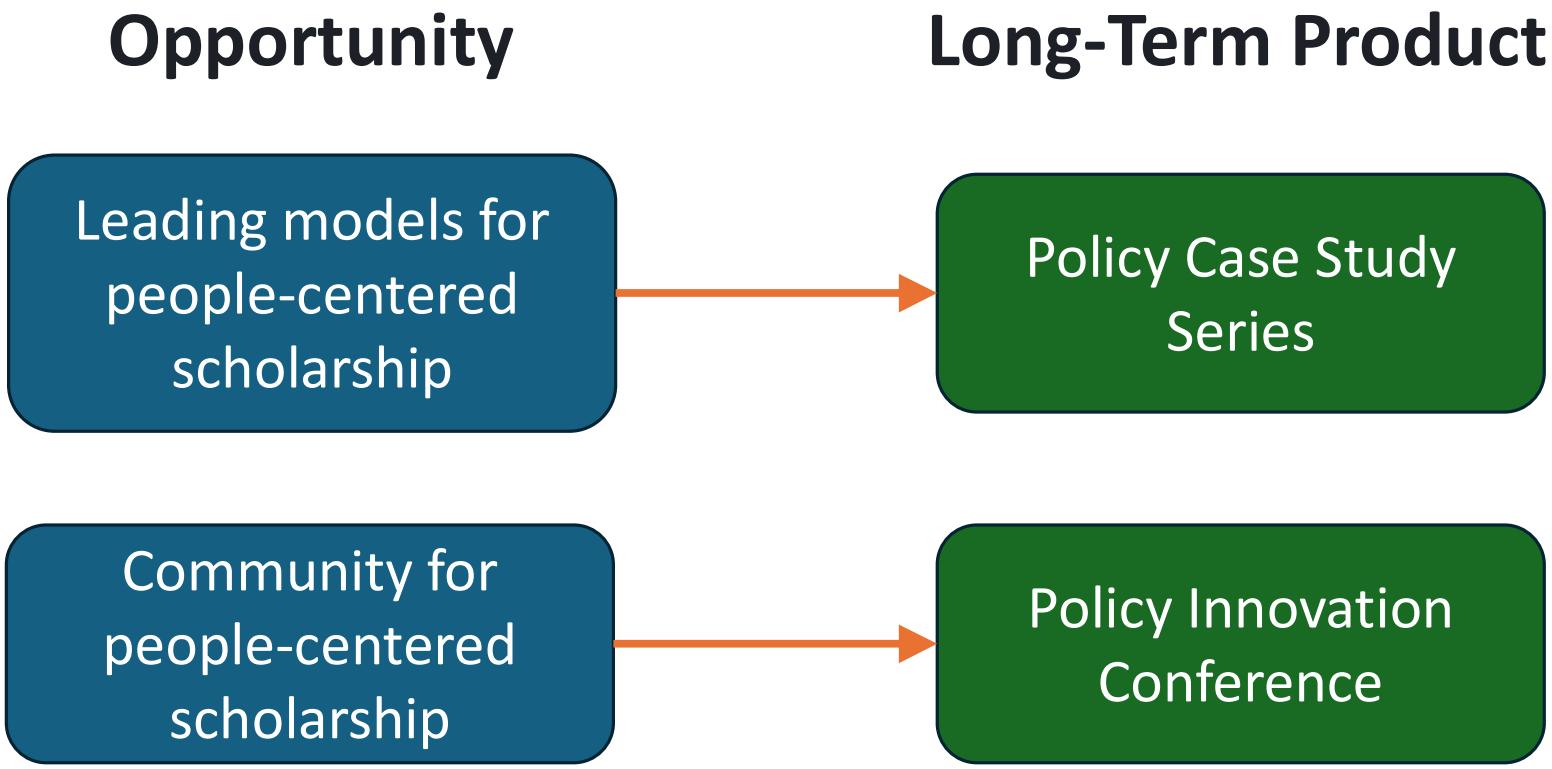
Year 1: Building Infrastructure

- Seminar v. 2: *Innovating Together*
- Project Archive
  - Identify current dissemination and archiving processes across centers
  - Develop standardized structures for collective archive
  - Link archive to News and Events on website

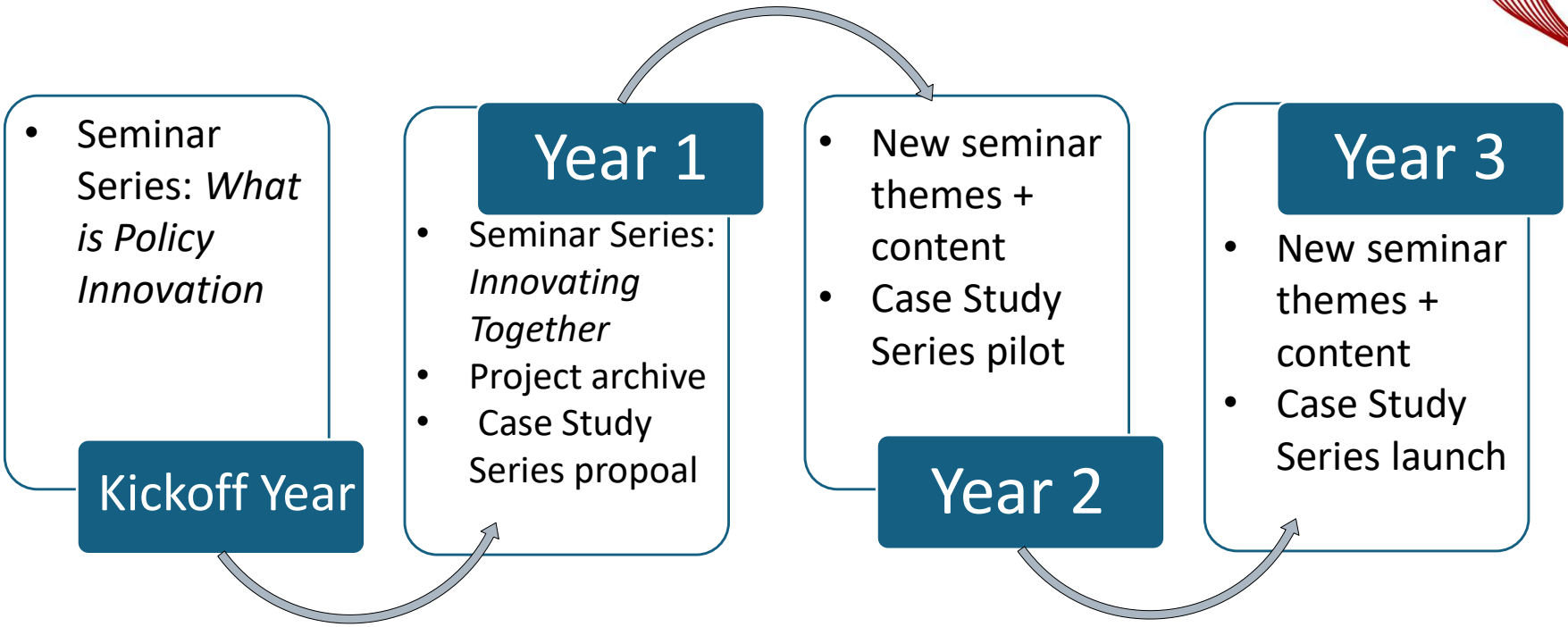
Year 1: Building Infrastructure

- Seminar v. 2: *Innovating Together*
- Project Archive
- Process for Student-Center Matching
  - Students currently find opportunities at centers through courses with center directors and proactive outreach
  - Will develop a formalized process for students to be “matched” to centers with opportunities to be involved
    - Modeled on the Center for Crime, Race, and Justice

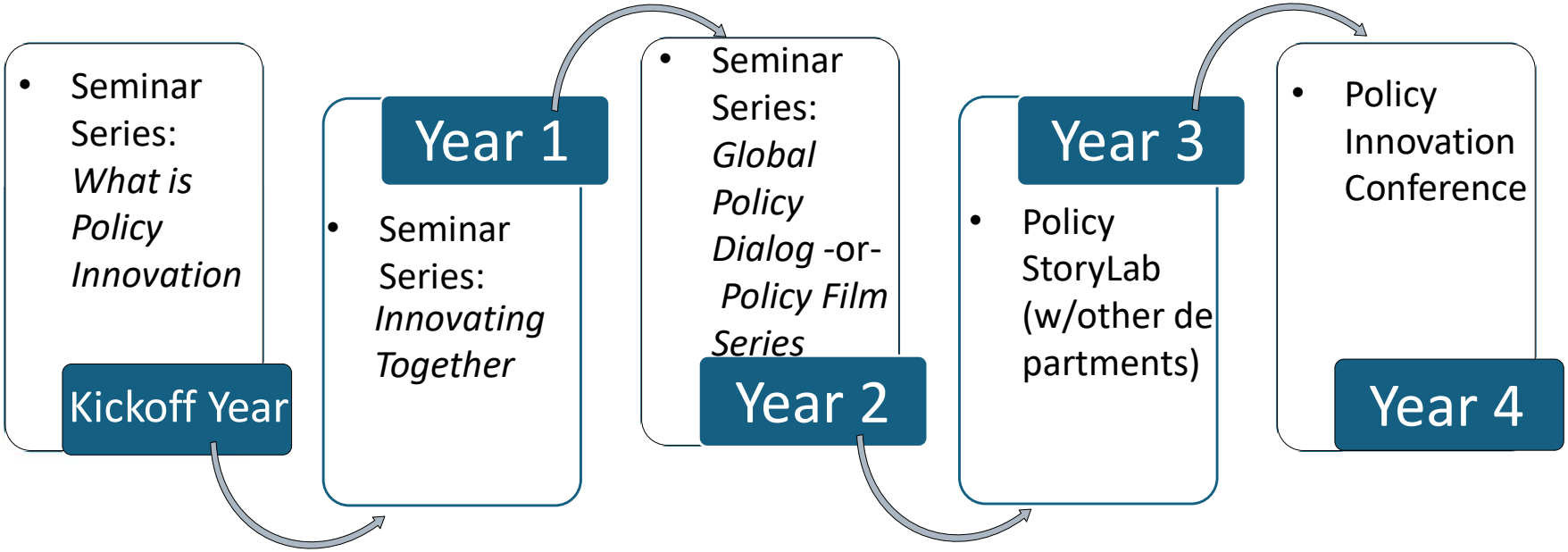
Years 2-4: Building a Leader in the Field



Models for People-Centered Scholarship



Community for People-Centered Scholarship



5-Year Strategic Plan

2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Kick Off Retreat Seminar Series: *What is Policy Innovation* Launch Advisory Group Professional Fellow from Latvia	Seminar Series: *What is Policy Innovation* Projects Archive Case Study Series proposal Process for Student + Center Matching	Seminar Series: *Global Policy Dialog* -or- *Policy Film Series* Case Study Series pilot	Policy StoryLab Case Study Series launch Policy Innovation Conference planning	**Ongoing Policy Seminar Series** **Ongoing Case Study Series** **Policy Innovation Conference**