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## The Congressional Award Foundation Kicks off *Pathways* Series with Professional Development Webinar

**Washington, DC (May 24, 2021)** —The Congressional Award launched its *Pathways* series with a webinar on Professional Career Development. The virtual event featured prominent speakers **Congressman Greg Murphy (NC-03)**, **Jim Dunn**, EVP, Chief People & Culture Officer at Atrium Health, **Gerard Camacho**, AVP, Workforce Development at Atrium Health, and **Raymond Hall**, VP, Organization Effectiveness & Analytics at Boeing.

Congressman Greg Murphy and Jim Dunn spoke about being open-minded when it comes to a career path and encouraged students from all backgrounds to explore flourishing industries in STEM fields.

“The young professional workforce now is more diverse than any other generation before,” said Representative Greg Murphy. “By its fundamental nature, a career in STEM teaches people how to think critically, work as a team, and develop project management skills.”

The Congressional Award’s National Director **Erica Heyse** continued the discussion by leading a live Q&A with Gerard Camacho of Atrium Health and Raymond Hall of Boeing. The two experts discussed a range of topics related to carving out one’s pathway to a fulfilling career – various educational routes, the importance of mentorship, and discovering your passion.

On the topic of how to stick out among applicants while embarking on a job search, both Gerard Camacho and Raymond Hall emphasized the importance of collaboration and emotional intelligence.

“The key is relationship-building. Establishing that trust, the ability to build trust, this is what allows you to have emotional intelligence. That’s something they don’t teach you in school.” Camacho said.

The Congressional Award is excited to continue offering *Pathways* programming to highlight various industry leaders and give students a chance to hear from specialists throughout several professional industries such as STEM, the arts and entertainment, government and public administration, entrepreneurship, and more.

Access the full recording of the event [here](#).

*The Congressional Award is U.S. Congress’ only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a young person through the Senate and House. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program encourages and recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 14-23. Visit [www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org) to learn more about the program.*

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