



### **CAHRS Webcast**

### Why We are Not Getting What We Pay For

Brad Bell, Associate Professor & Faculty Director of CAHRS Brian Dunn, Visiting Lecturer, Compensation





#### **A Little Context**

- Pension plans started in the 1880s, became common post WWII and peaked in 1972
- Minimum wage laws were first passed in 1934
- Wage and salary practices were developed and implemented on a broad scale in the 1940s and 1950s
  - Salary Grades
  - Point Factor Job Evaluation
  - Compensation Surveys
- Incentive plans took hold in the 1960s
  - Annual bonus plans
  - Leveraged sales incentive plans
  - Stock option plans
  - Stock grants







#### How has the world changed?

Knowledge work has outstripped manufacturing jobs by a significant margin (<9% today)

- Manual labor has been largely eliminated
  - Off shoring
  - Automation
- We have entered the era of the mega corporation
  - Centralized control
  - Uniform practices
  - Focus on shareholder returns at the expense of communities and workers
  - Significantly widened income differentials
  - Reduced power of collective bargaining
- Remote work and "electronic leashes"







#### What are the new challenges we face today?

- Intense focus on quarterly financials
- Massive skill gaps between what is needed and available
- Failure to significantly increase productivity despite massive investments in technology and automation
- Increasing pay inequality and social unrest
- Ill advised and sometimes counter productive regulation
- Disenfranchised/disillusioned employees
- Reinvented work ethic
- Unaffordable higher education except for a select few





#### Some possible paths forward:

#### None is a panacea—gains will come incrementally

- AI based job "value" system incorporating real time market value internal valuation and skills assessment
- Pushing decision making about performance and pay down to the lowest possible level. Empower direct management
- Eliminate quarterly financial reporting
- Require some percent (e.g. 50%) of stock buy-backs to be cycled to employees/communities through:
  - Pension contributions
  - Performance based compensation
  - Charitable giving
- Renew a form of profit sharing as opposed to highly structured individualized compensation
- Create more efficient transfers of employees from one organization to another
- Introduce a comprehensive apprenticeship program





### Questions?





#### cahrs.ilr.cornell.edu



#### **Upcoming Events**

5/14/19 Sales Incentive Design and Governance Working Group | Hosted by American Express | New York City

5/15/19 Current Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in Workspace Design Webcast

5/16/19 Maximizing Internal Staffing & Succession Planning Working Group | Hosted ADM | Chicago

5/16/19 HR Transformation Working Group | Hosted by ING Bank | Amsterdam

6/05/19 HR Transformation Webcast

6/18/19 HR Analytics Working Group | Hosted by Estee Lauder | New York City

