

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sadie Collective Concludes SACE 2026: Rooted in Resilience — Shaping Policy and Building Hopeful Futures

WASHINGTON, D.C. — March 6, 2026 — The Sadie Collective successfully concluded its 2026 Sadie T.M. Alexander Conference for Economics and Related Fields (SACE) on February 27, 2026, at the Urban Institute, following a research reception on February 26 hosted in partnership with the Brookings Institution. Now in its eighth year, the gathering brought together students, early-career professionals, academics, private sector leaders, and policy practitioners for an inspiring exchange of research, professional development, and community building.

Under the theme “Rooted in Resilience: Shaping Policy and Building Hopeful Futures,” SACE 2026 showcased original research presentations and poster sessions, interactive workshops, career-focused opportunities, and cross-sector networking that highlighted both the intellectual promise and practical contributions of emerging economists.

“Resilience is more than endurance; it is the courage to imagine something better and build towards that goal,” said Board Chair, Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo, reflecting on the theme and the Collective’s broader work.

Highlights from SACE 2026

The Sadie Collective convened more than 250 students, scholars, and professionals on February 26–27, 2026, for the Sadie T.M. Alexander Conference for Economics and Related Fields, reaffirming its mission to transform the face of economics and expand pathways for underrepresented talent.

Over two days of programming in Washington, D.C., SACE 2026 brought together emerging leaders and established experts for rigorous research dialogue, forward-looking policy conversations, and structured career development designed to build a more inclusive and resilient economics profession.

Reframing the Economic Narrative

The conference featured a keynote address by Dr. Belinda Archibong, whose research examines inequality, institutional development, and long-term economic outcomes. Dr. Archibong challenged attendees to interrogate the structural drivers of inequality and

underscored the importance of evidence-based scholarship in shaping equitable policy solutions.

Panel discussions addressed community-centered policy design and the future of work in an AI-driven economy. Speakers explored how technological transformation, labor market shifts, and evolving institutional dynamics require economists to engage deeply with questions of equity, opportunity, and economic power.

Elevating Research and Intellectual Leadership

A cornerstone of SACE 2026 was the presentation of original research by undergraduate and graduate students within the Sadie Collective community. Scholars presented empirical and policy-oriented work across development economics, labor markets, public finance, and economic inequality.

These sessions reflected the Collective's commitment not only to representation, but to intellectual rigor. Attendees engaged in substantive discussion, offering critical feedback and fostering ongoing scholarly dialogue.

Expanding Career Pathways and Professional Access

Professional development remained central to the conference experience. Participants engaged in interactive workshops hosted by J-PAL North America and Bates White Economic Consulting, gaining applied insight into research design, consulting frameworks, and evidence-based evaluation.

The conference concluded with a career and opportunities fair, providing in-person access to recruiters from leading employers, research institutions, and top graduate programs. The fair created direct pathways for students and early-career professionals to pursue roles in economics, policy, consulting, and academia.

Sponsors and Exhibitors

- The Sadie Collective extends deep gratitude to the organizations whose partnership made SACE 2026 possible. Our Gold Sponsors, the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute, provided both institutional leadership and steadfast support. We are also grateful to our Bronze Sponsor, Bates White Economic Consulting, for its continued commitment to strengthening the economics pipeline.
- SACE 2026 was further enriched by the participation of exhibitors and career fair recruiters, including Analysis Group, American Economic Association Summer Training Program, Bates White Economic Consulting, the Brookings Institution, Cornerstone

Research, the George Washington Elliot School of International Affairs, the George Washington Department of Economics, and Princeton University Department of Economics, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Towson University, Up to Us, and the Urban Institute. Their engagement connected attendees with tangible career pathways in economics, public policy, research, and data analysis, amplifying professional opportunities across sectors and reinforcing the conference's mission to translate scholarship into impact.