



DECEMBER 22, 2016

Business leaders talk middle-skill gap on Capitol Hill

On December 7-8, 70 business leaders from around the country came to Washington D.C. for the 2016 BLU Fly-In. The members of



[Business Leaders United](#) had more than 90 meetings on Capitol Hill. They shared their workforce challenges - in particular, their difficulties in finding trained skilled workers for open positions. They advocated for work-based learning and job-driven higher education policy proposals outlined in [NSC's Skills Good Jobs: An Agenda for the Next President](#). BLU members also brought with them a recently released BLU Brief entitled, "[Policies that Work: Making Work-Based Learning Work for Business.](#)"

Scanning the states for skills equity policies

Does your state have a job-driven financial aid policy? What about a stackable credential policy? An integrated education and training policy? How about alignment? NSC has scanned all fifty states and the District of Columbia to determine which states have the policies in place to expand access to middle-skill training, credentials, and careers – particularly to those who have faced barriers to economic opportunity. [Find out how your state stacks up](#) – and if your state is missing one of these critical policies, check out our handy policy toolkits that include resources and model legislation for policymakers and advocates who want to advance a skills equity agenda in their state. [Head over to our blog for more.](#)



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NSC IN THE NEWS

[Georgia business owners are meeting with Congress. Trump admin next week](#) | Albany CEO, 12.1.16

[Ohio business owners urging Trump administration to support job growth](#) | Dayton Daily News, 12.05.16

[Trump administration should address skills gap to aid in creating good workers](#) | The Hill, 12.08.16

[Legislators talk state of the State](#) | Piqua Daily Call, 12.13.16

[Ohio employees receive help in finding skilled workers](#) | Plain Dealer, 12.15.16

[New online tool helps businesses find trained workers](#) | Circleville Herald, 12.16.16

[Amazon go doesn't have to be the end of the American Dream](#) | Forbes, 12.19.16

Annual fly-in maintains momentum on workforce data

On December 13-14, WDQC brought together leaders from 20 states to engage on federal data and accountability policies. The third annual conference in Washington, D.C., included panel discussions with data innovators, federal agency officials, and philanthropists.

Participants also engaged in peer learning sessions.



STATE PROGRESS ON WORKFORCE DATA

NOVEMBER 2015



Related: WDQC has just released a survey of all fifty states and the District of Columbia that reports their progress on the organization's 13-point Blueprint for strong data systems. The full report, entitled [Mastering the Blueprint: State Progress on Workforce Data](#), includes an analysis of overall state progress and examples of how states are implementing Blueprint elements.

SWEAP update: Ohio unveils new data tool

State leaders in Columbus, Ohio unveiled a new data tool that will provide employers and state policymakers with better information about the supply of education and training the state. [The Workforce Supply Tool](#) was made possible by the NSC State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP), with support of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation and USA Funds. [Read more over on our Skills Blog.](#)



Register now for the 2017 Skills Summit!

Registration is open for NSC's 2017 Skills Summit which takes place February 5-7, 2016 in Washington



D.C. Head over to our [event page](#) to view the working agenda. Don't miss out. [Register today!](#)

Congress funds budget through April – key workforce investments at FY2016 levels

Before adjourning for the holidays, Congress completed work on a

“[continuing resolution](#)” (CR) that extends Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funding for the federal government through April 28. The CR largely extends funding for federal programs – including key workforce investments under the Departments of Labor and Education – at current FY 2016 levels. [Read more](#) over on our Skills Blog.



On the road with NSC

- Chief of Staff Rachel Unruh presented a briefing on federal policy for [Chicago Jobs Council's](#) workforce development working group.
 - Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Bergson-Shilcock provided a briefing on immigrant workforce issues for state officials in Sacramento, California.
 - Amanda also participated in two panels as part of the [National Immigrant Integration Conference](#) in Nashville. She moderated a discussion on a new report on under-employed immigrants, and participated in a panel on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and other immigrant workforce issues.
 - WDQC Director Rachel Zinn delivered the keynote address at a [two-day forum](#) to mark the public launch of New Jersey's state longitudinal data system, which is being used to inform workforce policy. More than 150 people attended the event at Rutgers University's Heldrich Center for Workforce Development.
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