



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-NEWS

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Help us hold the president to his promises

Earlier this week, President Trump talked about workforce development in his State of the Union Address, promoting career and technical education, job training, and vocational schools. Usually, we'd be excited if a president put our most important issues on blast. However, it's been hard to square the president's lofty words with his deeds:



- There's no sign of the [million new apprentices](#) he promised last June.
- In last year's proposed budget, he called for [deep cuts to workforce](#), apprenticeship, and CTE programs.
- He talked a lot about rebuilding crumbling infrastructure – but didn't connect those calls with the [critical need to build a pipeline of skilled, trained people](#) who can actually do the work.

[You can read our full response here.](#)

We need your help to hold the president to his promises.

Hundreds of you will be on Capitol Hill next week during our Skills Summit, talking with your representatives about these very issues. If you can't be with us, **will you [help lift our voices](#)** with a donation to National Skills Coalition today?

It's also not too late to [register for the Skills Summit](#) if you want to capitalize on this rare moment when everyone in Washington will be talking about workforce.

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[Why Are Women Still Choosing the Lowest-Paying Jobs?](#) | *The Atlantic*, 01.25.2018

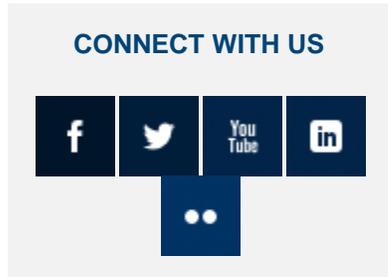
[As work changes, industry and education work together to adapt](#) | *The Altamont Enterprise Regional*, 01.25.2018

[Technology Is Changing the Manufacturing Workforce](#) | *DesignNews*, 01.18.2018

[Skilled trades offer prosperous future too](#) | *The Journal*, 01.16.2018

[States Explore New Routes to High School Completion Without Equivalency Exams](#) | *Education Week*, 01.04.2018

Apply to NSC's new work-based learning Academy & register for our webinar!
 National Skills Coalition will be launching a Work-Based Learning Academy to support up to five state teams in developing state policy proposals and advocacy strategies to expand work-based learning to low-income communities. Learn more about the Academy and how to apply here.



NSC will also be hosting a webinar on the recently released Work-Based Learning Toolkit, featuring Pat Steele of Central Iowa Works and Anne Kilzer of the Minnesota Workforce Council on apprenticeship initiatives in their states. The webinar will occur on February 20th at 1:00pm EST. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

New Maryland and Michigan fact sheets: Immigrants can help meet demand for middle-skill workers
 Two new fact sheets from National Skills Coalition highlight the important role that immigrant workers play in filling middle-skill jobs in Michigan and Maryland.

Middle-Skill Credentials and Immigrant Workers: Maryland's Untapped Assets

Executive Summary

The Maryland economy has robust demand for middle-skill workers. Almost half of all jobs in Maryland's economy are middle-skill jobs, and the state's economy is projected to grow by 1.5 million jobs by 2025. However, the state's workforce is currently short of 1.5 million workers to fill these jobs.

Immigrants can help meet this demand. In Maryland, immigrants are already employed in many middle-skill jobs, and their skills and experience are highly valued by employers. However, many immigrants face barriers to employment, such as language barriers and lack of credentials. This fact sheet provides information on the role of immigrants in the Maryland economy and offers strategies for employers and policymakers to better utilize their skills and experience.

Key Findings:

- Immigrants are employed in many middle-skill jobs in Maryland.
- Immigrants have valuable skills and experience that are highly valued by employers.
- Many immigrants face barriers to employment, such as language barriers and lack of credentials.
- Employers and policymakers can take steps to better utilize the skills and experience of immigrants.

Recommendations:

- Employers should provide language training and other support to help immigrants overcome barriers to employment.
- Policymakers should support efforts to improve the credentialing process for immigrants.
- Employers and policymakers should work together to create a more inclusive workforce.

Source: National Skills Coalition, 2018. www.skillscoalition.org

While immigration settlement patterns differ substantially between the two states, in both cases, immigrant workers will be vital to helping the states meet the demand for middle-skill workers and respond to local industries' talent needs. [See the fact sheets.](#)

Administration pushing work requirements for SNAP and Medicaid recipients
 National Skills Coalition has long expressed concerns about work requirements under [TANF](#), [SNAP](#), and



other safety net programs, noting that such requirements are ineffective at reducing poverty or promoting long-term, stable employment and that voluntary participation in well-funded,

skills-based education and training programs is a better option.

This month, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue released principles for reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill, laying out the Trump administration's priorities as Congress prepares to consider the first comprehensive update to the law since 2014. The document does signal that the administration is seeking changes to the SNAP Program that would [encourage stronger work participation from recipients](#).

Related: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a letter to state Medicaid directors encouraging states to consider [imposing new work requirements](#) on Medicaid recipients as a condition of eligibility or continued coverage under the program.

Connecting Credentials recommends action steps on credentials

Connecting Credentials is a collaborative effort of more than 120 national organizations, including WDQC, for the purpose of making



credentials easier to understand and use. In 2017, Connecting Credentials convened five workgroups to recommend action steps to address the credentialing needs and priorities of diverse learners, especially adults with no recognized postsecondary education. WDQC Director Bryan Wilson and Connecting Credentials CoDirector Evelyn Ganzglass share the [work groups' recommendations in this blog post](#).

Congress passes short-term funding bill

On Monday, January 22nd, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), funding the government through February 8th and ending a 2 ½ day



partial government shut down. Much of the attention around the bill and shutdown has focused on the potential for a bipartisan agreement on the status of the rescinded Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and young immigrants known as Dreamers. The CR did not include provisions addressing Dreamers' situation, but Republican leadership in the Senate committed to moving a bill forward in the coming weeks. NSC continues to champion legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers that is inclusive of middle-skill credentials. [See more.](#)

Philadelphia launches “city fellowship” to match jobseekers with in-demand positions in municipal government

The City of Philadelphia recently began piloting a fellowship program that will enable qualified immigrant jobseekers to gain crucial municipal work experience. The model draws on key

principles recommended by National Skills Coalition as part of effective work-based learning policies. [Read about it on the Skills Blog.](#)



Welcome Kristie Mark

As [Chief Finance and Administration Officer, Kristie Mark](#) leads NSC's operations and finance team. Kristie works to ensure the financial stability and operational excellence of the organization. Before joining National Skills Coalition, Kristie spent over thirteen years in working in Democratic politics. She most recently served as the Chief Administrative Officer during President Obama's Administration.



On the road with NSC

- CEO Andy Van Kleunen participated in the [Bentonville Conference on American Life](#), a gathering of national experts examining the challenges faced by millions of working Americans, including those who shop and work at Walmart, held in Bentonville, Arkansas.
- Senior Federal Policy Analyst Katie Spiker gave a Federal Policy Update at the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans' [Institute for Apprenticeship,](#)

- [Training and Education Programs](#) in Houston, Texas.
- Upskilling Policy staff Amanda Bergson-Shilcock and Michael Richardson traveled to Indianapolis for meetings with state agency staff and advocates for adult education. The work is part of NSC's ongoing project to [support alignment between adult education and workforce systems](#).
 - Michael and Amanda also traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the most recent convening of [ELL Navigator pilot](#) grantees and connect with California skills advocates.
 - WDQC Director, Bryan Wilson and Policy Analyst, Jenna Leventoff traveled to North Dakota for the launch of the state's attainment goal. They spoke before fifty state leaders including legislators, and higher education and workforce officials about including non-degree credentials as part of the state's attainment goal.
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1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 712, Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202.223.8991 · Fax: 202.318.2609