

MAY 2018

States making progress in measuring non-degree credential attainment



A new 50-state scan from the Workforce Data Quality Campaign, [Measuring Non-Degree Credential Attainment](#), shows that states are making progress collecting data about credentials including certificates, industry certifications, and licenses. Realizing that non-degree credentials can lead to strong employment outcomes, many states now have education attainment goals that include non-degree credentials of value.

Just last month, Maryland's governor [signed](#) the Career Preparation Expansion Act, which will help Maryland measure non-degree credential attainment and narrow the middle-skills gap by requiring certain entities to provide the state with data about licenses, industry certifications, and certificates.

WQDC will be hosting a webinar on June 18th to provide an overview of the scan. The webinar will also feature panelists from Tennessee, Missouri, and Iowa. Each speaker will discuss how their states have begun to collect data about non-degree credentials. [Save your spot today!](#)

In other WDQC news, on June 22 in Director Bryan Wilson spoke at the Indiana Health Workforce Summit about data tools that can help states meet the demand for health care workers.

Work requirements don't reduce poverty, but skill building can help



Last month, we shared an analysis on the newly introduced Farm Bill, which would have [undermined](#) otherwise promising investments in SNAP E&T with punitive work requirements that would likely result in

millions of Americans losing access to basic food assistance. Work requirements can be counterproductive to the goal of helping people find family-supporting careers. With your help, we urged representatives to vote against the House bill and instead make critical investments in training. Earlier in May, the House voted against the Farm Bill by a count of 213-198.

However, a TANF reauthorization bill that would lift some key restrictions on education and training but would maintain current work requirements for TANF recipients is headed to the House Floor. The House Ways and Means Committee approved legislation that would reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Get more details [here](#).

NSC experts have weighing in on how policymakers should focus on skill building, rather than work requirements:

[50-something food stamp recipients could face tough job search under proposed rules](#), *The Miami Herald*

[GOP plan to tie food stamps to job training is not 'reform'](#), *The Seattle Times*

[Proposed Changes to SNAP in the Farm Bill Could Leave Rural Texans Hungry](#), *Texas Observer*

Indiana students visit NSC, ask their reps to #MakePellWork

Recently, a group of students from Indiana's Ivy Tech Community College-LaFayette Campus stopped by NSC's office to prepare for meetings with their members of Congress. The students, most of whom qualify for federal and state grants that cover their tuition (including Pell grants) spoke about their own experiences in navigating financial aid for their career-driven education. And they talked with their Members of Congress about how modernizing the Pell grant program and postsecondary data policy could have made their experience easier. [Read more on the blog](#).



#MakePellWork in the Media

[Making the Case for Pell](#), *Inside Higher Ed*

[Pave the path for more graduates](#), *Detroit News*

Moving Apprenticeship Forward



The [Apprenticeship Forward Collaborative \(AFC\)](#), led by NSC and New America, recently met with senior advisors in both the Department of Labor and Department of Education. Given the significant federal and state attention on apprenticeship, AFC is developing a set of principles for policymakers and practitioners to consider to enable more employers to offer high-quality apprenticeship opportunities to a broader range of workers – meeting business need, improving workers' skills and spurring U.S. economic growth.

AFC is also hosting a set of regional events over the coming months. The first, co-hosted with the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University, will focus on apprenticeship in the northeast and will feature a keynote by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. On June 12th, AFC will host an event in New Orleans to outline the coalition's principles for apprenticeship expansion and highlight apprenticeship innovation taking place in the south. Both events will include panelists representing AFC and NSC partners and members of Business Leaders United. Stay tuned for more updates from AFC.

In other apprenticeship news, the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion [submitted](#) their recommendations on expanding apprenticeship in the U.S. to the President. NSC's reaction was highlighted in this [Inside Higher Ed](#) piece.

NSC has also been on the road talking work-based learning.

Senior Federal Policy Analyst Katie Spiker provided an overview of federal workforce and education policy, including apprenticeship on a panel hosted by the [House of Representatives Rural Caucus](#).

Katie also gave a federal policy overview of apprenticeship and short-term Pell on a Workforce Development panel at the [American Boating Congress](#), hosted by the [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#). Read more about some of the initiatives discussed during the event in this [Trade Only Today](#) piece.

She also presented a legislative update for apprenticeship programs at the [International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans' Washington Legislative Update](#).

On May 7th, Senior State Policy Analyst Melissa Johnson and Katie previewed their upcoming brief on expanding work-based learning for parents with child care needs at the [American Public Human Services Association \(APHSA\) 2018 Summit](#). They were joined by Matt Williams, Research Director of the [Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative](#) and Julie Kuklinski, Executive Director of the [Moore Community House Women in Construction Program](#), which is profiled in the upcoming report.

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