



MARCH 1, 2018

Increasing momentum to end Pell's bias against working students

Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA) is a top priority for Congress this year.



NSC just [submitted a letter](#) to the Senate HELP committee with a set of policy recommendations they should consider as they draft a reauthorization bill. NSC's suggestions would modernize higher education policy to address the needs of today's job market where 50 percent of jobs require more than a high school diploma, but not a college degree. Among other suggestions, NSC's recommendations would:

- Eliminate the bias in the Pell grant program that works against working learners who want to earn short-term, in-demand credentials; and
- Ensure program quality by adopting language from the College Transparency Act.

In a recent [piece in US News](#), National Skills Coalition CEO Andy Van Kleunen discusses short-term Pell as a commonsense, bipartisan idea that would give people the skills they need to compete and give businesses in every locale access to a pipeline of trained, skilled employees.

Business Leaders United has also been making the case to extend Pell grants to cover quality, short-term, industry-recognized credentials. BLU members have been regularly engaging Congress, the administration, and the media on this issue due to Pell's antiquated bias against educational programs which prepare people for in-demand jobs in their growing industries. Most recently, BLU executive committee member Angel Pineiro, Jr., wrote a [letter to the editor of the Pocono Record](#), describing how the policy would help his business grow.

[Visit our Skills Blog](#) to get caught up on all the developments

IN THIS ISSUE

[Increasing momentum to end Pell's bias against working students](#)

[Skills Summit Wrap-up](#)

[Focus on skill building, not work requirements](#)

[New DC data bill would shine light on workforce program performance outcomes](#)

[Deadline extended for Work-Based Learning Academy applications!](#)

[White House budget promotes some workforce priorities, but includes drastic cuts to key programs](#)

[Gateway to Careers and BUILDs Acts aim to support skilled workers and industry partnerships](#)

[On the road with NSC](#)

NSC IN THE NEWS

[Less Community, More Vocational](#) | *Inside Higher Ed*, 2.2.18

[Trump criticized for remarks on community colleges](#) | *The Daily Tar Heel*, 2.7.18

[Reshoring and skilled workforce: One hinges on the other](#) | *Assembly Mag*, 2.9.18

[Kaine proposes grant program to boost job training](#) | *Augusta Free Press*, 2.10.18

[Go-Between Groups Help Businesses, Schools Shape Apprenticeships](#) | *Education Week*, 2.13.18

[Trump's infrastructure plan raises hopes and questions](#) | *Marketplace*, 2.14.18

[Apprenticeships, Funds for Job Training Boosted in Bills Before Congress](#) |

in short-term Pell.

The 2018 Skills Summit and the future of work

This year's Skills Summit took place February 5-7 with nearly 350 stakeholders from 36 states.

Attendees were invited to reflect on the policy successes of the past year and visualize the future of America's workforce. Read more on [our blog](#).



Focus on skill building, not work requirements

Recently, President Trump introduced his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019. The proposal calls for the establishment or expansion of work requirements in federal housing aid and food assistance programs. This comes on the heels of a federal invitation to states to apply for waivers to implement work requirements for Medicaid health insurance.



Rather than imposing work requirements on people with few financial resources – and putting them at risk of losing food, health care, and housing which make training more possible – federal and state policymakers should focus on strengthening workers' access to education and training aligned with the needs of local and regional employers. [Read more on the NSC blog](#).

New D.C. data bill would shine light on workforce program performance outcomes

The Council of the District of Columbia unanimously passed a bill that would require the district's Workforce Investment Council to create a guide detailing the district's spending on workforce development and adult education programs as well as the performance outcomes of these programs. NSC's Workforce Data Quality Campaign worked with



Management, 2.21.18

[Expanding grants to short-term programs would pay big dividends.](#) | *U.S. News and World Report*, 2.22.18

[Can Apprenticeships Train the Workforce of the Future? States Hope So.](#) | *Governing Magazine*, 2.27.18

[The U.S. needs to do a better job training its workers. Here's how](#) | *CNN Money*, 3.1.2018

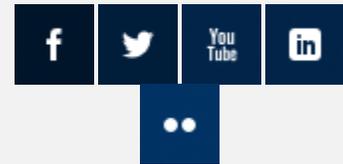
PARTNER RESOURCES

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. is seeking a Senior Program Director for their Workforce Solutions program, based in their headquarters in Maine. Learn more about the position [here](#).

California EDGE Coalition is looking for an Executive Director to join their team. Find more information on how to apply [here](#).

Share these exciting job opportunities with your networks!

CONNECT WITH US



Councilmembers to develop the bill. [Read more on WDQC's blog.](#)

Deadline extended for Work-Based Learning Academy applications!

The deadline to submit applications for our Work-Based Learning Academy has been extended to **Friday, March 9, 2018.** The



Academy will support up to five state teams in developing state policy proposals and advocacy strategies to expand work-based learning to low-income communities. [Please download an application](#) to find out more and apply. For questions, contact Rachel Hirsch, State Network Manager, at rachelh@nationalskillscoalition.org.

White House budget promotes some workforce priorities, but includes drastic cuts to key programs

The Trump Administration released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Presidential



Budget Request earlier this month, providing a mixed bag of funding increases and cuts across a range of federal workforce, education, and human services programs. NSC continues to advocate for adequate investment in key workforce and education programs and the consistent inconsistency from the administration only reinforces the importance of weighing in with your policy makers to ensure they understand how vital workforce and education programs are to your communities, your work, and the President's priorities. [Learn more about the potential impact of this budget request.](#)

Gateway to Careers and BUILDS Acts aim to support skilled workers and industry partnerships

In February, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives that would set aside – from



a Congressional infrastructure package – funding for workforce development that would be used to train workers and support industry partnerships in construction, transportation, energy, and other critical infrastructure industries. It's called the BUILDS Act; it's a companion bill to legislation already moving in the Senate. [Learn more about BUILDS.](#)

[Ask your Senators to Co-Sponsor the BUILDS Act and build the workforce we need to build our nation's infrastructure.](#)

The Gateway to Careers Act was also introduced in the Senate. It's a legislation aimed at supporting career pathways and support services (like basic skills instruction, transportation and childcare, and comprehensive career counseling) for nontraditional students. [Read more about the Gateway to Careers Act.](#)

On the road with NSC

- Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba participated in a panel discussion on federal workforce policy at the [Community College National Legislative Summit](#) in DC on February 12th, and a panel on communicating the value of workforce development as part of the [National Governor's Association's](#) Winter Workforce Meeting on February 23rd.
- Kermit also moderated a February 28th Hill briefing on the need for industry engagement in career and technical education programs, which was sponsored by the [Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals](#).
- National Network Director, Jessie Leslie, presented alongside BLU business leaders at the [Ready to Work Business Collaborative](#) event on Reinvesting in Local Skills.
- Director of Upskilling Policy Amanda Bergson-Shilcock and Upskilling Policy Analyst Michael Richardson traveled to Austin, Texas for meetings with state and local adult education, workforce development, and vocational rehabilitation staff.

- Amanda also traveled to Los Angeles, where she presented twice on immigrant workforce issues as part of the [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees](#) annual convening.
- Michael Richardson traveled to Annapolis, Maryland to provide written and oral testimony in support of [Senate Bill 842](#) - a bill that seeks to allow GED earners to become eligible for the Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access Grant, a need base grant that provides up to 100% of tuition and fees for community college or a four-year university.
- Senior Federal Policy Analyst, Katie Brown, participated in a panel discussion regarding best practices for successful advocacy at the [Community College National Legislative Summit](#) on February 11th.
- WDQC Director Bryan Wilson testified in support of creating a federally held student-level data network, such as would be created by the College Transparency Act, before the [National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity \(NACIQI\)](#). NACIQI provides recommendations to the U.S. Department of Education regarding accrediting agencies that monitor the academic quality of postsecondary institutions and educational programs.
- On February 20, Bryan Wilson talked about non-degree credentials during a webinar for [Think College](#), a national organization dedicated to inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability, and Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID).

[DONATE »](#)

[STAY INFORMED](#)

[TELL A FRIEND](#)

National Skills Coalition is a not-for-profit, non-partisan 501-c-3 tax-exempt organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

All content © 2014 National Skills Coalition, All Rights Reserved
1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 712, Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202.223.8991 · Fax: 202.318.2609