



# NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

## Today's students aren't who you think

More than ever before, students are enrolling in postsecondary education with a clear goal: find a good job and increase their pay. These students are different than traditional, full-time students who go to college right after high school. Many are already working and raising a family; and their goal isn't a bachelor's or associate's degree – it's earning an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license that can quickly lead to an in-demand job that pays well.

Despite the importance of these certificates to working people, employers, and our economy, federal financial aid programs like the Pell grant program unfairly exclude students who enroll in short-term programs. This bias really hurts career-minded people who want to quickly learn the skills that would get them a foot in the door at a local business. And, it makes it hard for business to find trained workers, slowing economic growth.

## Extend Pell grants to working people taking short-term programs

How modernizing our federal higher education policy can improve outcomes for students and employers in today's economy



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In a new publication, [Putting Pell Grants to work for working students](#), NSC urges lawmakers to end the bias against working students and modernize our federal financial aid system so that it meets the needs of today's students and employers.

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