



Huge movement in our campaign to #MakePellWork

This April, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds called on Congress to extend Pell Grants to students taking short-term programs that quickly lead to good jobs and in-demand careers in growing industries like financial services, health care, and advanced manufacturing.

NSC CEO Andy Van Kleunen joined the governor in Iowa along with leaders from the state's community colleges, Iowa employers, and students earning short-term credentials. Andy praised Iowa's Innovative GAP tuition program, calling it a model for other states and the nation because it picks up where federal financial aid like Pell grants leave off – enabling students to attend short-term community college programs that lead to in-demand careers.

The announcement was reported throughout the state in outlets small and large, including [Radio Iowa](#), The [Sioux City Journal](#), Des Moines [Business Record](#), the [River Cities Reader](#) and The [Toledo Chronicle](#)

Andy appeared on WHO News Radio 1040 in Des Moines and spoke with host Jeff Angelo about how expanding Pell to short-term programs would help the trades and growing industries in Iowa and across the country. You can listen to his radio interview [here](#) – tune in at the 19 minute mark.

The announcement brought more attention to our [recently released brief](#) which argues why we should end Pell's bias against today's working students.



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

Also in April, President Trump issued an Executive Order calling for new work requirements [across a range of safety net programs](#). And, the newly introduced Farm Bill [undermines 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. It seems like several lawmakers are trying to equate *work requirements* with *workforce development* – but in reality, work requirements aren't very effective at lifting people out of poverty.

NSC is **urging lawmakers to make critical investments in training that focus on skill building** without outdated, red-tape work requirements.

For an excellent primer on how imposing work requirements can be counterproductive to the goal of helping people find family-supporting careers and connecting businesses with the trained workers they need, read this piece by NSC board member Jessica Fraser, and Director of the Indiana Institute for Working Families entitled, [If my state was serious about ending poverty, we would focus on skill building, instead of work requirements](#).



Announcing the new Work-Based Learning Academy state teams

We are pleased to announce the five state teams that have been selected to participate in our 2018-2019 Work-Based Learning Academy: **Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Washington**.

The Academy will help state teams advance policies to expand work-based learning to low-income communities. Read more about what the state teams will be working on [here](#).

Work with us!

NSC is seeking a Chief Development Officer (CDO) to join the leadership team of a growing national bi-partisan policy organization.

The CDO will provide input into NSC's strategic direction from a resource development perspective, working directly with the CEO and the Board to ensure NSC's fiscal stability and financial growth. The CDO will oversee all organization fundraising, which principally focuses on private foundation grants but which also includes donor solicitation (major, member and grassroots) and other strategies. [Read more about the position here](#).

Bonjour! WDQC takes data advocacy global!

Workforce Data Quality Campaign was in Paris, France this month, at the request of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD Center for Skills has worked to advance skill strategies in more than ten countries, ensuring that "people of all ages can develop the skills to work productively and satisfyingly in the jobs of tomorrow." [Read more on WDQC's blog](#).



NSC in the news

[Kaine, Young, Jones introduce bill to ensure addiction recovery programs include job training](#) | *Augusta Free Press*, April 11

[GOP proposes stricter work requirements for food stamp recipients, a step toward a major overhaul of the social safety net](#) | *The Washington Post*, April 12

[GOP Adds Employment Requirements for Food Stamp Benefits](#) | *KPFA 94.1-FM Berkeley*, April 14

[Are apprenticeships the new on-ramp to good jobs?](#) | *The Hechinger Report*, April 15

[Trade schools not only option](#) | *The Brookhaven Courier*, April 18

[GOP presses for stiff work requirements for food stamps](#) | *The Hill*, April 18

[Another Higher Ed Bill Stalled in Congress](#) | *Inside Higher Ed*, April 20

[Industry and Community Partnerships Central to Expanding Apprenticeships](#) | *The EvoLLLution*, April 20

[Can \\$1 billion help low-income Americans find jobs?](#) | *CNN Money*, April 20

[Kaine Co-Sponsors Bipartisan Legislation To Ensure Students Have Adequate Data When Selecting Postsecondary Education](#) | *Alexandria News*, April 23

[GOP food stamp plan falls short](#) | *Politico*, April 24

On the road with NSC

CEO **Andy Van Kleunen** was the keynote speaker at the Rhode Island Economic Progress Institutes's [Budget Rhode Map: Paving the Way to Good Jobs](#) conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Andy, along with other [Re-Work America Taskforce members](#), met with Mayor Rahm Emmanuel and Former Commerce Secretary, Penny Pritzker in Chicago.

Federal Policy Director **Kermit Kaleba** and Senior Federal Policy Analyst **Katie Brown** travelled to Iowa April 24-27. Katie and Kermit visited the United Way of Central Iowa and the Central Iowa Works program in Des Moines on April 24, and followed their tour with a meeting of state advocates to discuss federal workforce and policy issues, including how to build on Governor Reynold's call for expanding Pell for short-term programs.

Kermit and Katie followed their tour with a meeting of Iowa Skills2Compete partners and staff for Senators Grassley and Ernst to discuss federal policy as part of the National Council on Workforce Education's New Workforce Professionals Academy.

Kermit also participated in a panel discussion on “Sustaining Momentum for Career Readiness” at the AdvanceCTE Spring Meeting on April 4th, and a panel on federal workforce issues at the Independent Electrical Contractors Policy Conference, both in Washington DC.

Director of Upskilling Policy **Amanda Bergson-Shilcock** facilitated a discussion on the Future of Work(force Development Policy) as part of the Retail Opportunity Network gathering of Walmart grantees in Chicago.

Amanda also participated in two panels as part of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) National Policy Institute on Workforce Development in New York. Her comments explored the role of Latinos in the service sector and the broader context of workforce development policy.

On April 10th, Senior State Policy Analyst **Melissa Johnson** spoke about SNAP E&T best practices at the first annual meeting of Georgia’s SNAP E&T contractors, USDA Food and Nutrition Services, and Georgia’s Department of Family and Children Services in Savannah, Georgia. Georgia’s first E&T contractor - [Goodwill of North Georgia](#) - hosted and coordinated the meeting.

On March 28, WDQC Director, **Bryan Wilson** spoke about data tools and adult education at the [Coalition for Adult Basic Education \(COABE\) conference](#) in Phoenix, Arizona.

Bryan also gave a presentation on the College Transparency Act and using data to support equity at the [National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity](#) in Arlington, Virginia on April 17.

Policy Analyst **Jenna Leventoff** discussed strengthening K-12 and workforce linkages at [Advance CTE Spring Meeting](#) in Washington, D.C.

From our partners

The Transportation Learnline Center is seeking a new Project Associate to manage their American Apprenticeship Initiative. Take a look at the job description [here](#).

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