



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

E-NEWS

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

New WDQC fact sheet highlights expert recommendations for stronger workforce data

WDQC has produced a new fact sheet: [Adopt These Expert](#)

[Recommendations to Strengthen Workforce Data](#), which summarizes the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking's key recommendations that could bolster workforce information.

The commission's recommendations would change how the government uses the data it collects, and would improve the quality of information policymakers have about federal investments. [Read more in the Skills Blog.](#)



Register today for the 2018 Skills Summit

The 2018 Skills Summit is scheduled for

February 6-8 at the

Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., with plenaries and content-rich sessions. [Check out our 2018 Skills Summit webpage](#) to view the agenda and [register](#) now to join colleagues from across the country to advance a national skills agenda and influence a range of federal policies. Make sure you take advantage of our hotel block at the Omni Shoreham at \$219/per night (\$40 less per night than last year!).



IN THIS ISSUE

[New WDQC fact sheet highlights expert recommendations for stronger workforce data](#)

[Register today for the 2018 Skills Summit](#)

[Business leaders fly to D.C. to meet with Administration](#)

[Hurricanes have made lack of skilled workers a national crisis](#)

[Register now for the 2017 Federal Policy Update](#)

[Immigrant Dreamers play crucial role in economy](#)

[House Republicans release tax reform bill; education and employment credits impacted](#)

[Seattle Jobs Initiative releases guide for SNAP E&T advocates](#)

[Senators Warner, Casey, and Stabenow introduce the Investing in American Workers Act](#)

[On the road with NSC](#)

NSC IN THE NEWS

[Is DeVos devaluing degrees?](#) | *Inside Higher Ed*, 11.28.17

[Stuck in the middle](#) | *Building Indiana*, 11.27.17

[How language learning translates to food safety](#) | *Food Quality and Safety*, 11.22.17

[GRIT program aims to bring more Montana women into trade industries](#) | *Montana Public Radio*, 11.21.17

[How do you create 5M apprenticeships?](#)

Business leaders fly to D.C. to meet with administration

On November 7-8th, business leaders of BLU headed to DC to meet with the members of the administration, including the



Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, and the White House Domestic Policy Council. The meetings elevated the voice of small and mid-sized businesses in the current federal dialogues on apprenticeship and work-based learning. Participants also discussed how education could better keep pace with the needs of business through the modernization of student financial aid. [Read more.](#)

Register now for the 2017 federal policy update webinar

A year ago this month, National Skills Coalition released [Skills for Good Jobs: An Agenda for the Next President](#). Despite a challenging political climate, we've worked with our state and local partners to build bipartisan support for federal policies that can expand access to skills and credentials for U.S. workers and businesses. Join NSC's federal policy staff on Thursday, December 14th for our year-end wrap up on what's been happening on Capitol Hill and with the Trump Administration. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

Hurricanes have made lack of skilled workers a national crisis

Recent natural disasters have laid bare our country's need for skilled workers. But, federal policymakers

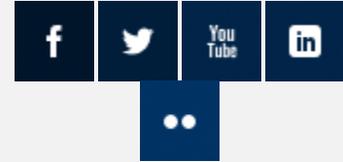


aren't addressing critical shortages of skilled workers needed for years of rebuilding. NSC's Andy Van Kleunen's recent piece, [Hurricanes Have Made Lack of Skilled Workers a National Crisis](#), discusses these workforce shortages and illustrates how lofty infrastructure plans and job creation won't get us very far without a comprehensive workforce strategy.

11.15.17

[Rethinking the mission: community colleges and workforce education](#) |
American Enterprise Institutes, 11.15.17

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Immigrant Dreamers play crucial role in economy

When the Trump administration announced in September 2017 that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was ending, it sent a substantial jolt across the U.S. labor market. [Surveys show](#) that the overwhelming majority of DACA recipients are employed, and many play a key role in filling middle skill positions in the American economy.

Estimates suggest that [ending DACA will cause a loss of \\$460 billion](#) to the national GDP over the next decade.



[See how DACA changes lives and learn what's next for Dreamers.](#)

House Republicans release tax reform bill; education and employment credits impacted

On November 2nd, House Republicans released a copy of the [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#), which would reform the U.S. tax code.



Several provisions in the draft legislation would impact training-related business and individual tax credits including the proposed repeals of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit business tax credit and section 127, the exclusion of employer-provided education assistance from individual income. The bill also proposes the elimination of the Lifetime Learning credit, collapsing this provision into an updated version of the American Opportunity Tax Credit. The proposed repeals and consolidation of these provisions would be counterproductive for businesses looking for skilled workers and for workers in need of training and jobs. [Learn more about the bill.](#)

Seattle Jobs Initiative releases guide for SNAP E&T advocates

Advocates looking to help low-income people train for family-supporting jobs should check out a new guide released by Seattle



Seattle Jobs Initiative

Jobs Initiative. [The SNAP E&T Advocates Guide](#) provides advice on practical steps that advocates can take to help states make skills training an integral part of their SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs. Skills-based SNAP E&T programs utilize partnerships with community colleges, community-based organizations, and other funds to expand quality education, training, and support services to SNAP recipients. When used in this way, SNAP E&T can help prepare recipients for middle-skill jobs with family-supporting wages. [Learn why it's a good time for advocates to weigh in.](#)

Senators Warner, Casey, and Stabenow introduce the Investing in American Workers Act

On October 31st, Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-PA), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), introduced the Investing in American Workers Act; a bill that would incentivize employers to dedicate more resources to worker training. This targeted legislation creates a tax credit to benefit employers who demonstrate a commitment to upskilling their workers. [Learn more.](#)

On the road with NSC

- CEO Andy Van Kleunen participated in a panel titled [“Reaching for the moon: can America deliver 5 million additional apprenticeships?”](#) at the Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum, hosted by the Urban Institute and Franklin Apprenticeships in Washington, D.C.
- Andy and Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba discussed federal policy issues at [the National Fund for Workforce Solutions’](#) Board and Partners Council Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Kermit also gave an update on federal workforce and education policy at the [Virginia Association for Adult and Continuing Education’s](#) 2017 conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- State Policy Network Director Brooke DeRenzis joined the Detroit Workforce System Leadership Development Academy to discuss opportunities to

advance state skills policies. The Academy, which brings together over twenty local leaders, is the result of a partnership between Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program, and JPMorgan Chase.

- Director of Upskilling Policy Amanda Bergson-Shilcock joined colleagues from the [Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education](#) in Washington, D.C., for an [American Association of Community Colleges](#) (AACC) event. They made a joint presentation to the AACC Commission on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity, focusing on immigrant students and the DACA program.
- Amanda also made two presentations at the [Metropolis North America Migration Policy Forum](#), where she shared research findings and policy recommendations on skill-building and integration of immigrant workers.
- Amanda traveled to Lansing, Michigan, for two presentations focused on immigrant workers in that state. The first presentation was to Refugee Navigators and other local workforce staff, and the second was to staff of the Michigan Talent Investment Agency and Office of New Americans.
- WDQC Director Bryan Wilson spoke at the [Data Quality Institute](#) hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Senior Federal Policy Analyst, Katie Spiker, spoke at a [Roundtable on Expanding Apprenticeships into New Sectors](#), hosted by the Committee on Education and Labor Minority Staff in Washington, D.C.
- State Network Manager Rachel Hirsch facilitated a session called “Advocacy in Action: Organizational Strategies and Employer Champions” at the [National Youth Employment Coalition’s](#) annual conference, in Washington, D.C.
- Policy Analyst Jenna Leventoff presented about the national credential evaluation landscape during the [2017 ACT Workforce Summit](#) in Austin, Texas.

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