



OCTOBER 3, 2017

NSC calls for postsecondary “Career Pathways Support Fund” in new paper

In an economy where more than eighty percent of all jobs require some form of



postsecondary education or training, expanding access to high quality workforce programs at community and technical colleges is increasingly critical to our nation’s economic competitiveness. However, our current federal higher education policy doesn’t do enough to support the needs of working adults and other non-traditional students who need postsecondary skills and credentials to get and keep family-supporting jobs. In a new issue brief, National Skills Coalition proposes a new \$500 million Career Pathways Support Fund that would allow community and technical colleges to provide critical academic, counseling and support services that help low-income and other non-traditional students succeed in job-driven education programs. [Read about the proposal in the Skills Blog.](#)

Business Leaders United visits Congress to advocate for apprenticeship, investments in education and workforce development

Twenty-five



business leaders met on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to speak with their Senators and Representatives, including leadership from the House Ways and Means and Education and Workforce

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NSC IN THE NEWS

[States Look To Grow 'Middle Skill' Workforce](#) | *State Net Capitol Journal*

[Majority Of States Have Adopted "Skills Equity" Policies](#) | *State Net Capitol Journal*

[Achieve a Rewarding Career Without a](#)

committees to discuss the critical role that small- and medium- sized businesses should play as Congress develops and modernizes workforce policies. The gathering included leaders from Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. Read more about the BLU Fly In [here](#).

New project will help states align adult education/workforce systems

National Skills Coalition is leading a new project to help states align public and private investments to improve skill building and economic mobility for workers with limited foundational skills. Titled “Building the Foundation: Strengthening Public-Private Systems for Upskilling Workers,” the effort is an initiative of NSC with support from National College Transition Network at World Education Inc. The project is funded by a grant from Walmart, as part of Walmart Giving’s Retail Opportunity Initiative, a five-year, \$100 million sector-wide effort aimed at making it easier for front-line workers to advance their careers in retail or adjacent sectors by building transferable skills.

[Read about “Building the Foundation” in the Skills Blog.](#)

Get to know NSC's new leadership

NSC's board elected new leadership last week. Scott Paul, President of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, was elected board chair. Van Ton Quinlivan of California Community Colleges will remain in her position as vice chair. NSC's new board treasurer is Alice Pritchard and Brenda Dann-Messier will continue in her role as secretary. NSC would also like to welcome our newest board members: Daniel Bustillo (Healthcare Career Advancement Program), Melinda Mack (New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals), Ned McCulloch (IBM), Grant Shmelzer (Independent Electrical Contractors, Chesapeake Chapter), and Portia Wu (Microsoft). Click [here](#) to learn more about our board of directors.

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Adult Education & Family Literacy Week
National-coalition-literacy.org

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[Sen. Kamala Harris tours Fontana center, calls it a 'national model'](#) | *Fontana Herald News*, 09.01.17

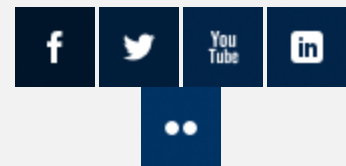
[States Focus On Middle-Skills Jobs Gap](#) | *U.S. News*, 09.01.17

[Alternative system for registered apprenticeships](#) | *Inside Higher Ed*, 6.16.17

[Keeping Close Tabs on the Local Job Market](#) | *Inside Higher Ed*, 09.20.17

[The Road to a Stable Job—Without Crippling Student Debt](#) | *Washington Monthly*, 09.21.17

CONNECT WITH US



Brooke DeRenzis is NSC's new State Policy Network Director

This month, NSC's Brooke DeRenzis takes on a new role as State Policy Network Director. In her new capacity, [Brooke](#) leads National Skills Coalition's efforts to advance skills policies at the state level. Brooke will oversee the development of NSC's state policy agenda and work with NSC's network of state coalitions and partners to provide strategic guidance for policy development, advocacy, advancement, and implementation. Brooke joined NSC as Senior State Policy Analyst in 2014.



NSC kicks off Welcoming Week with UnidosUS affiliates



WELCOMING WEEK

Hundreds of immigration-related events were held across the United States during [Welcoming Week](#). During this event, which ran from September 15-24, many events focused on the skills and contributions of immigrant workers. National Skills Coalition began the week by joining more than 150 workforce advocates at the UnidosUS (formerly NCLR) [2017 Workforce Development Forum](#), held in Las Vegas. [See more about the event and NSC's role.](#)

New report expands on the value credentials have in the job market

On September 13th, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released, ["Adult](#)



[Training and Education: Results from the National Household Education Surveys Program of 2016."](#)

The report details the value credentials such as certificates, licenses and certifications have in the job market, with data supporting the importance of expanding pathways to middle-skill careers, like access to Pell grants for short-term programs and work-based learning.

The NCES report offers insight into the importance of supporting access to these non-degree postsecondary certificates for workers to develop the middle skills businesses need. [Learn more about the report's findings.](#)

Congress approves continuing resolution to fund government through December 8; senate committee approves



Labor-HHS-Education spending bill

In September, the House voted 316-90 to approve a catch-all bill combining emergency relief funds for Hurricane Harvey with a temporary suspension of the federal debt ceiling and a continuing resolution to keep the government funded through December 8th. The legislation reflects an unexpected compromise reached earlier by President Trump and Democratic leaders, and allows Congress to avoid a potential government default or shutdown at the end of September while setting up a contentious battle over final spending levels heading into the holidays. [Read more in the Skills Blog.](#)

Markle Foundation announces new task force

The Markle Foundation has recently announces the creation of the [Rework America Task Force](#) - a partnership with



leaders of business, technology, labor, academic, and policy communities. National Skills Coalition CEO, Andy Van Kleunen and NSC Board Chair, Scott Paul both serve as [members](#) of Rework America. This task force will work with employers, workers, job seekers and educators to rethink the

American labor market and provide good jobs.

**Montana
releases report
on
postsecondary
labor market
outcomes and
supply/demand**



Montana's Department of Labor & Industry and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education released a report entitled "[Meeting State Worker Demand: A report on the Labor Market Outcomes for Montana Colleges.](#)" It will be helpful for policymakers and program managers, who can make policy changes (such as creating more or different education and training programs) to ensure that the state's education and training system is meeting the skill needs of Montana employers. Students can also use this information to make better decisions about their educational options. [Learn more about the report.](#)

On the road with NSC

- Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba participated in a panel on federal and state workforce development policies for the [New York City Workforce Funders](#) in New York on September 13th.
- Kermit also gave a presentation on federal workforce policy developments for the [Greater Washington Community Foundation](#) on September 19th.
- Director of Upskilling Policy Amanda Bergson-Shilcock presented two workshops at the [UnidosUS Workforce Development Forum](#) in Las Vegas September 13-15. View slides from Amanda's presentations on state skills equity policies and apprenticeship/work-based learning policies.
- Amanda also presented on NSC's Foundational Skills in the Service Sector report to RetailWorks AZ, an employer group convened by the Center for the Future of Arizona.
- WDQC Director Bryan Wilson participated in an [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#) symposium on employability in Washington, D.C. on September 14. Bryan was among leaders from workforce development, higher education, and researchers who discussed expectations for career preparation and employability for two- and four-year college graduates.
- Outgoing WDQC Director Rachel Zinn spoke to Congressional staff in Austin, Texas about state data

systems at a seminar organized by the [Postsecondary National Policy Institute](#).

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1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 712, Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202.223.8991 · Fax: 202.318.2609