



SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Business Leaders Advocate for Skills on Capitol Hill

Twenty-five business leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., yesterday to urge policymakers to invest in the skills of America's workers



with the goals of closing the skills gap and developing a pipeline of skilled, trained workers that can meet the demand of growing industries. They shared their workforce challenges, especially their inability to find enough skilled, trained workers. And, they urged key lawmakers to improve the way apprenticeship and career and technical education works so they better align with the needs of businesses.

[Learn more from Business Leaders United.](#)

New Leadership at WDQC

It's an exciting day for the Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC), as Bryan Wilson becomes the new director of the initiative. Bryan brings years of experience in workforce development and career and technical education, including demonstrated success in using data for policy and program improvement.



As a longtime member of the National Skills Coalition team — and a frequent collaborator with WDQC policy analysts Jenna Leventoff and Christina Pena — Bryan is well-positioned to further integrate data advocacy into the organization's broader work to ensure that every worker and every industry has the necessary skills to grow and thrive. [Read more in the Skills Blog.](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

[Business Leaders Advocate for Skills on Capitol Hill](#)

[New Leadership at WDQC](#)

[A Window of Opportunity for Congress on DREAM Act](#)

[New Fact Sheet: Immigrants and Middle-Skill Jobs in Texas and Arkansas](#)

[Ohio Budget Bill Includes Provision to Advance Skills-Based SNAP E&T](#)

[Transportation Department Withdrawing Proposed Local Hire Provisions for Infrastructure Projects](#)

[Connecticut Bill Codifies SLDS and Standardizes Intake Forms](#)

[Georgia Announces Grants to Support Sector Partnerships](#)

[NSC, With Nearly 50 Organizations, Signs Letter to Senate Appropriators](#)

[Work with us!](#)

[On the road with NSC](#)

NSC IN THE NEWS

[Skills shortage presents opportunities to workers](#) | *NJ.com*, 08.06.2017

[Gap in middle-skill jobs forces employers into tough spot](#) | *St. Louis Business Journal*, 08.09.2017

[Commentary: Educators, employers must address looming workforce shortage crisis](#) | *St. Louis Business Journal*, 08.10.2017

[RI's new higher-ed commissioner wants to expand free college tuition plan](#) | *Providence Journal*, 08.15.2017

A Window of Opportunity for Congress on DREAM Act

The Trump administration's recent announcement ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is sending ripples through the U.S. labor market.



Now is the time for Congress to act and resolve the uncertainty surrounding the nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants who have temporary DACA work permits, and the American businesses that employ them.

Bipartisan legislation introduced in Congress this summer recognizes the important role that Dreamers play in filling middle-skill jobs across the United States. [Get all the details](#) on Congress's opportunity for action in NSC's latest blog post, and then check out our new fact sheet on [Dreamers and Middle-Skill Jobs](#).

New Fact Sheet: Immigrants and Middle Skill Jobs in Texas and Arkansas

Texas and Arkansas are among 40 states that have set ambitious goals for postsecondary credential attainment by state residents.



To reach those goals, both states will need to invest in skill-building opportunities for adults who have limited formal education or gaps in their foundational skills. Immigrants are among those who can benefit from upskilling opportunities. Learn more in NSC's [new fact sheets](#) on immigrants and middle-skill jobs in Texas and Arkansas.

Ohio Budget Bill Includes Provision to Advance Skills-Based SNAP E&T

In its 2018-19 budget, the Ohio legislature took an important step toward supporting quality skill-based training programs for Ohioans eligible for food assistance (SNAP). The new law requires that the Director of Job and Family Services, in collaboration with the Chancellor of Higher Education, convene a planning committee to identify potential training partners and funding sources that could be used to leverage SNAP E&T's 50 percent reimbursement grant (often times called "50-50 funds"). Through these funds, the federal government reimburses



[If they aren't going to college or job training, what are Georgia's high school grads doing?](#) | *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 08.20.17

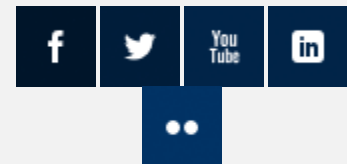
PARTNER RESOURCES

Former NSC board member, Harry Holzer has recently released his new book, [Making College Work: Pathways to Success for Disadvantaged Students](#). The book highlights practical solutions for improving higher education opportunities for disadvantaged students.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will be hosting [Investing in America's Workforce: Improving Outcomes for Workers and Employers](#), on October 4-6 in Austin, TX. More information on registration [here](#).

The City of New York Small Business Services and the New York City Workforce Development Board are seeking qualified vendors to operate their American Job Centers, locally referred to as Workforce1 Career Centers. These centers will meet the hiring, training, and other workforce needs of employers and provide New Yorkers with access to quality jobs, training opportunities and career advancement. Proposals are due by September 21, 2017. More details [here](#).

CONNECT WITH US



states for 50 percent of SNAP E&T program costs paid for with certain non-federal dollars. [Visit the Skills Blog for more.](#)

Transportation Department Withdrawing Proposed Local Hire Provisions for Infrastructure Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced that they would be withdrawing a proposed rule developed



under the Obama administration that would permit local governments to use geographic hiring preferences for transportation infrastructure contracts. [Read more about this disappointing development in the Skills Blog.](#)

Connecticut Bill Codifies SLDS and Standardizes Intake Forms

Connecticut recently enacted [HB 5590](#), which codifies the state's existing longitudinal data system and creates a universal intake form for



persons seeking assistance at American Job Centers or Workforce Development Board facilities.

The bill helps promote the sustainability of cross-agency data sharing in Connecticut by formally establishing the state's existing longitudinal data system, [P20 WIN](#), to link data from participating agencies for audit and evaluation purposes. The bill also codifies the system's existing executive board, which oversees the system, and adds two members to the board. [Learn more about the bill.](#)

Georgia Announces Grants to Support Sector Partnerships

This summer, the Georgia Department of Economic Development awarded \$1.5 million to support the



development of sector partnerships in six workforce regions in the state. The awards are part of a \$3 million competitive grant program to build sector partnerships across the state under its [High Demand Career Initiative](#). [Read more in the Skills Blog.](#)

NSC, With Nearly 50 Organizations, Signs Letter to Senate Appropriators

On August 4, National Skills Coalition joined with almost 50 members of the [Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce](#)



to submit [a letter](#) to Senate appropriators urging them to pass a Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bill that includes adequate investments in job training and adult education as they work to complete the FY 2018 appropriations process.

Despite the growing demands for skills, the President proposed draconian cuts to vital workforce and education programs in his [FY 2018 Presidential Budget Request](#). [Read more about the letter and those who signed.](#)

Work with us!

NSC is seeking a [Senior State Policy Analyst](#) to promote the adoption and implementation of leading-edge state skills policies, including in the areas of postsecondary education, industry and sector partnerships, and work-based learning. [Read the full job announcement](#)



We're also seeking a [Senior Federal Policy Analyst, Postsecondary Education](#), to support NSC's efforts to make federal postsecondary policy more "job-driven," by expanding access to postsecondary education and training for working and non-traditional students, while also ensuring that postsecondary programs are aligned with the needs of local and regional employers. [Learn more about this role.](#)

On the road with NSC

- State Network Director Brooke DeRenzis shared strategies for closing the skill gap during a panel discussion at the 2017 State of St. Louis Workforce Event. The event was hosted by St. Louis Community College's Workforce Solutions Group.
- National Field Director Jessie Hogg Leslie spoke at the Apprenticeship Learning Network (ALN) on Increasing Employer Engagement in Lansing, Michigan.
- Director of Upskilling Policy Amanda Bergson-Shilcock traveled to Tacoma, Washington, for the annual

gathering of state legislators as part of the Council of State Governments [CSG West Annual Meeting](#).

Amanda presented on NSC's state skills policy toolkits and resources to the CSG West Education & Workforce Development Committee.

- WDQC Director Rachel Zinn addressed the [National Conference of State Legislatures Summit](#) in Boston on using data to build a skilled workforce.
 - WDQC Policy Analyst Christina Pena presented on workforce data and college transparency during a board meeting of the Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, DC.
-
-

[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