**JULY 1, 2016**

**Federal agencies release final WIOA regulations**
The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education released the final regulations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act this week. National Skills Coalition will release more detailed analyses of the final regulations over the next few weeks, including a webinar on July 12th at 2:00 pm. Visit our [Skills Blog](#) for more, and click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

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**NSC releases report showcasing model immigrant skill-building programs**
A [new report](#) from National Skills Coalition, *Upskilling the New American Workforce*, showcases seven program models from around the United States, along with context on the policies that enable these programs to effectively serve immigrant workers. The report is a practical resource for policymakers, funders, and advocates who are seeking to scale up innovative models.
WDQC infographic features states’ college scorecards. The Workforce Data Quality Campaign has released a new infographic highlighting examples of state legislation that requires colleges and universities to report on employment and earnings of program graduates. Get the infographic here.

House moves to reauthorize Perkins Act
The House Education and Workforce Committee has released the “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act,” a new bill that would reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act through Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The bill makes a number of policy changes intended to strengthen alignment between Perkins-funded CTE programs and other education and training programs. Read NSC’s initial analysis over on our Skills Blog.

Upcoming Summer of Skills webinars
Join us on July 7 for our webinar WIOA State Plans: Realizing Innovation and Opportunity. The webinar will summarize NSC’s review of selected state plans. Also on WIOA: our July 12 webinar Unpacking the WIOA Final Rules will provide a preliminary analysis of the new rules and how they will impact states. On July 26 we will be hosting Federal Workforce Policy: Mid-Year Update, a webinar to share updates on the FY 2017 appropriations process, apprenticeship, and other federal investments. Stay up-to-date with other Summer of Skills webinars here.
Senators introduce bipartisan TANF reauthorization bill, would expand access to education and training

On June 23, Senators Angus King (I-ME), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced the bipartisan "Enhancing and Modernizing Pathways to Opportunity, Work, Education, and Responsibility (EMPOWER) Act of 2016," which will lift Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) training restrictions and will make it easier for TANF to align with other workforce programs. More details on our blog.

House anti-poverty task force releases agenda, calls for increased work requirements, reduced federal role

Earlier this month, the House Republican Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility released a broad set of policy proposals intended to stake out the party's anti-poverty agenda for the remainder of 2016 and beyond. The new report includes proposals for sweeping changes to safety net programs including TANF and SNAP. Click here for more details.

Senate appropriation bill makes cuts to workforce programs, funds year-round Pell and Apprenticeship

On June 9, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 29-1 to approve the bipartisan Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies spending bill for Fiscal Year
The bill would fund year-round Pell grants and increase funding for apprenticeship. Unfortunately, it would also reduce funding for WIOA, particularly for Adult and Youth programming under WIOA Title I. Read more on our blog.

California appropriates $200 million for a strong workforce
The California legislature has appropriated $200 million for the community colleges’ Strong Workforce Program. In 2015, the community colleges’ Board of Governors’ Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy issued a set of recommendations to enhance postsecondary career technical education. Read more on our skills blog.

New fact sheets:
Immigrants can help meet demand for middle-skill workers in Arizona, California
National Skills Coalition recently released two new fact sheets focusing on how immigrants can help Arizona and California to meet the demand for middle-skill workers. Both states have a robust demand for middle-skill jobs, which require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree. Learn more in our blog post, and take a look at the Arizona and California fact sheets.
Join our team! NSC is seeking a **Director of Development** and a **Field Organizer**. The Director of Development will manage all aspects of foundation solicitation and grants management, while the Field Organizer will help maintain and grow the coalition’s national network of stakeholders.

On the road with NSC

- NSC CEO Andy Van Kleunen discussed sustainability and federal advocacy opportunities with youth-serving organizations participating in JobsFirst NYC’s **Young Adult Sectoral Employment Project** in New York City on June 14.

- Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba spoke on the **Institute for Women’s Policy Research webinar** on Job Training and Supportive Services on June 21.

- State Policy Director Bryan Wilson spoke at **California Edge Coalition**’s legislative briefing on, “Data to Serve Policy, Programs, and People”, where he discussed how California’s workforce data compares to other states’ on June 10.

- Senior State Policy Analyst Brooke DeRenzis gave a presentation on state workforce innovations at the **National Conference of State Legislatures’ Family Opportunity Forum** in Denver, CO on June 13.

- Workforce Data Quality Campaign Director Rachel Zinn spoke at a workshop in Washington, D.C., about state and local governments' use of data. The federal **Committee on National Statistics** organized the event as part of a panel examining ways to improve federal statistics for policy research.

- WDQC Policy Analyst Jenna Leventoff traveled to Maryland and Tennessee to learn more about their state longitudinal
DOL announces millions in grants during June

- **Apprenticeship Accelerator Grants**
  On June 2, the Department of Labor awarded $10.4 million in Accelerator Grants to 51 states and local areas to expand apprenticeship to new geographic areas, industries, workers, and employers.

- **America’s Promise Grants**
  On June 6, 2016 the Department of Labor released $100 million in funding for “America’s Promise Job-Driven Grants,” which the Administration had announced earlier this year. Read more [here](#).

- **Strengthening Working Families Initiative**
  On June 14, Department of Labor awarded $54 million – more than twice the anticipated funds – to 14 partnerships across the country under the [initiative](#).

- **ApprenticeshipUSA**
  On June 22, DOL announced $50.5 million to fund ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grants.

- **TechHire**
  On June 27, the White House and Department of Labor announced $150 million in TechHire grants to partnerships across the country. Read our initial analysis [here](#).