NSC submits public comments on WIOA regulations

NSC recently submitted comments to the Departments of Labor and Education regarding the five Notices of Proposed Rulemaking governing implementation and administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act issued by the agencies in April 2015. Read the comments and learn how you can weigh in.

Aligned by Design: New WIOA webinar series

Aligned by Design is a series of webinars hosted by NSC that will explore how states can proactively use the WIOA planning process to align key human capital investments to produce better outcomes for individuals and local economies. National and local experts will discuss opportunities for alignment between WIOA and Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Register today!

NSC announces 4 states receive resources to align workforce, education

On Friday, NSC announced that four states will participate in the State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP). California, Mississippi, Ohio, and Rhode Island will receive technical assistance and $180,000 each to implement new data tools that will help elected state officials create policies that close skill gaps and create more equitable, efficient, and aligned state workforce development and education systems. SWEAP is led by National Skills Coalition and funded by JPMorgan Chase, Ford Foundation, and USA Funds. Read the press release and download a new set of visual fact sheets that outline SWEAP’s data tools.

IN THE NEWS

UpSkilling America: How industry partnerships can improve our community | St. Louis Post Dispatch, 05.07

Community college task force emphasizes job creation | The Desert Sun, 05.14

The Numbers Crunch: Millennials are feeling left out of economic recovery | The Sacramento Bee, 05.15
Planning for WIOA in your state: New NSC case study & webinar

With the due date for WIOA state plans less than a year away, many states are getting serious about planning. Engagement Matters: A Case Study of New Jersey’s WIOA Planning Process provides an example that should be of interest to other states looking to embark on a skills-focused, inclusive WIOA planning process.

NSC also hosted a webinar on May 19 with policy leaders from the state of New Jersey to discuss how state policymakers and stakeholders can advance a robust WIOA state plan. Watch the webinar.

Workforce data explained: New WDQC short video series

Workforce Data Quality Campaign is launching a series of short videos that highlight how states are using education and workforce data to advance their skilled workforce and better align with industry demand. Watch the first video to learn how Arkansas is using data to help people reach their goals.

Strengthening Colorado’s workforce and education policies: A Q&A with Frank Waterous of Bell Policy Center

Frank Waterous, NSC leadership council member and Senior Policy Analyst at the Bell Policy Center, speaks with NSC about using coalition-building and technology to drive workforce and education policy in Colorado. Read this month’s leadership spotlight.

NSC is hiring!

Workforce Data Quality Campaign is seeking applications to fill a full-time Policy Analyst position in Washington, DC. The Policy analyst will author issue papers on best practices for data use, interact frequently with state policymakers, and communicate with staff in Congress and federal agencies to advance WDQC’s reform agenda. Learn more about how to apply.
NSC on the road

- WDQC Director Rachel Zinn spoke on a panel at the American Enterprise Institute: "High Costs, Uncertain Benefits: What do Americans without a College Degree Think About Postsecondary Education?" She also presented at the National Benchmarking Conference in Overland Park, Kansas.

- Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Bergson-Shilcock participated in a discussion hosted by the federal Interagency Working Group on Career Pathways. Stakeholders from across the workforce and adult education fields gathered along with representatives of the US Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services to discuss suggested revisions to the Career Pathways Toolkit published by DOL. The revised toolkit is expected to be released later this year.

- Business Leaders United Director Scott Ellsworth gave presentations to the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Manufacturing Summit in Taunton, Massachusetts and to the CEO committee of the Source in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- WDQC Policy Associate Christina Peña attended the annual National Association of Career Technical Education Information (NACTEi) conference in San Antonio, Texas.

- Communications Associate Yuri Chang attended the White House Summit on Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Washington, DC.

Partner resources

- Center for Public Policy Priorities’ new report, Keeping College Within Reach: How Texas Can Move More Low-Income and Adult Students through College, offers current data and analysis on postsecondary education attainment in Texas as well as recommendations for how Texas can promote access to higher education opportunities and increase completion rates.

- Community College of Philadelphia is accepting applications for the position of Vice President for Workforce and Economic Innovation. Learn more about how to apply here.

- United Way and Central Iowa Works win the Common Good Award in recognition of its promising and effective range of solutions to community challenges. United Way of Central Iowa president Mary Sellers and chief community impact officer Elisabeth Buck accepted the award.