NSC releases state sector partnership policy toolkit
NSC has developed a new toolkit to help states develop or expand policies that support local sector partnerships. The toolkit is a companion piece to our recent 50-state scan, which identifies 21 states with sector partnership policies in place. On November 3, NSC will host a webinar to share tips from its Sector Partnership Policy Toolkit and lessons learned from partners in the field who have worked to establish sector partnership policies in their states. Click here to register for the webinar, or to watch the recording.

Taking Care of Business: WDQC releases new paper, webinar
WDQC has released a new paper, entitled Taking Care of Business: Employer Engagement in Workforce Data. The paper highlights the importance of involving business leaders in the development and use of workforce information. If you missed it, you can watch the Webinar here.

NSC weighs in as Senate takes up CTE reauthorization
Based on input from stakeholders across the country, National Skills Coalition submitted recommendations to the Senate HELP Committee for the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act. Read our blog here, our recommendations here, and check out NSC’s recent Aligned by Design webinar for further information on how CTE can partner with workforce systems.
NSC co-convenes Future of CTE Summit

The National Skills Coalition co-convened The Future of CTE Summit on October 6-8 in Orlando, Florida. Led by the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium, the Summit included some 175 CTE leaders and stakeholders who brainstormed the creation of a new vision for CTE. Attending the summit on behalf of NSC were Board Members Brenda Dann-Messier and Rory O’Sullivan, Leadership Council Members Bill Rayl, Pamela Murray, and Tammy Childers, Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba, and State Policy Director Bryan Wilson. The process will culminate in the release of a new vision for the future of CTE in Spring 2016.

NSC advances federal postsecondary legislative agenda

Last week, Senator Al Franken (D-MN) and Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) introduced legislation that would build community colleges’ capacity to deliver high quality job training programs in direct partnership with businesses. The Community College to Career Fund Act would provide dedicated funding to community colleges and other postsecondary institutions to address skill gaps in their local areas through industry partnerships. NSC is continuing to work with our members in the field and Congressional offices to advance other key priorities on our federal postsecondary agenda including the JOBS Act, which would amend the Higher Education Act by expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term job training programs; and Student Right to Know Before You Go Act, a bill that would create a federal student record system to report on postsecondary students’ progress and outcomes, including post-completion earnings.

President signs deal on budget, debt limit

Today, President Obama signed a two-year budget deal and a suspension of the debt limit through March 2017. The budget will cover FY 2016 and 2017, establishing spending limits well past the 2016 election cycle. The agreement raises sequestration-level budget caps by $80 million through FY 2017 and sets Nondefense Discretionary (NDD) spending at $518.4 billion, about 5% higher than FY 2014 and FY 2015 budget levels. Read more on our Skills Blog.
White House convening highlights strategies for integrating immigrant workers

NSC staff joined nearly 150 fellow civic and nonprofit leaders in Washington in early October for a White House convening of the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign. The campaign encourages state and local governments to pursue activities that support the inclusion of all residents, and foster the economic, civic, and linguistic integration of immigrants and refugees.

NSC partners host lawmakers at workforce development, training, and education facilities

Over the summer, many NSC partners hosted site visits with their U.S. Senators and Representatives or State Legislators. Site visits are an opportunity for elected officials to visit workforce development, education, or training facilities and see programs in action. Read more about their efforts to advocate for workforce funding.

NSC Spotlight: Alex Johnson

This month, NSC shines the spotlight on Alex Johnson, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Capital Workforce Partners in Hartford, Connecticut. Read his interview over on the NSC Skills Blog.

Latest edition of "The Book of the States" includes article by NSC's Bryan Wilson

NSC State Policy Director Bryan Wilson's article, Closing Skill Gaps, is included in the Council of State Governments' new 2015 edition of The Book of the States. Closing Skill Gaps provides state policymakers and others with a brief, introductory overview of state strategies to close skill gaps and meet employer skill needs. The article discusses how each state has multiple programs that help individuals prepare for middle-skill jobs.
WDQC launches new Workforce Credentials Coalition website

The Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC) has created a new website for the Workforce Credentials Coalition (WCC), in collaboration with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy, and the North Carolina Community College System. These organizations have been spearheading this growing Coalition of states and national partners working to improve alignment between academic and industry-based credentials.

On the Road with NSC

- CEO Andy Van Kleunen, BLU Director Scott Ellsworth, Chief of Staff Rachel Unruh, and WDQC Director Rachel Zinn participated in the Lumina Foundation’s Connecting Credentials Summit.

- State Policy Director Bryan Wilson took part in the Strategic Plan Visioning Session of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition on October 1 in New York City.

- Federal Policy Director Kermit Kaleba attended the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) Annual Conference in Portland, OR from October 14-15, and gave the luncheon keynote address on federal higher education and workforce policy.

- National Field Director Jessie Leslie was a plenary speaker at the National Council for Continuing Education & Training (NCCET) conference on federal and state policy opportunities in Portland, OR. She also spoke at the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) conference, which was co-sponsored by the Ohio Workforce Coalition, on federal and state policy opportunities in Columbus, OH.

- Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Bergson-Shilcock was the keynote speaker at the Virginia Association for Adult and Continuing Education conference in Norfolk, VA. Amanda also presented two workshops at the conference; one on adult education and workforce collaboration and the other on immigrant integration.

- Senior State Policy Analyst Brooke DeRenzis and Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Bergson-Shilcock presented jointly at the National Association of Latino

- BLU director Scott Ellsworth spoke to the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnerships National Summit about employer strategies to address regional talent development.

- Federal Policy Analyst Katie Spiker presented on upcoming federal workforce development policy in Greensboro, NC on October 28th at the NCWorks Partnership Conference.