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National Partners represent key networks with which NSC engages in ongoing strategic collaboration to shape and advance essential policy reforms at both the federal and state level.

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### Agenda at-a-glance

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:00</td>
<td>Opening Plenary: Space on the Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 - 3:30</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 - 5:00</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 9:45</td>
<td>National Advisory Panel Meetings &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:45</td>
<td>Networking Breakfast Buffet, Virginia Foer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:30</td>
<td>Plenary: Policy Update Washington                      Adams/Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 - 1:15</td>
<td>Lunch Plenary &amp; Keynote Address Adams/Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 2:45</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>WIOA Implementation Across Agencies: The Federal Perspective Adams/Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 - 5:30</td>
<td>Making Pell/Work for Workers and Employers Washington                Adams/Madison</td>
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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast, Final Hill Prep Adams/Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Hill Meetings Capital Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Closing Reception Relish, Hilton Crystal City</td>
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### Celebrating 15 years of impact: welcome to the Skills Summit

Fifteen years ago, a scrappy little advocacy organization opened its doors. Our mission: to organize local workforce development experts and allies to change how Washington thinks about skills and opportunity, and to advocate for the policy changes we knew would better serve workers and businesses in our communities.

Fifteen years later, we are thrilled to welcome you to our 2016 Skills Summit. These three days will be filled with information and reflections on federal workforce and education policy from policymakers, national experts, business leaders, and other stakeholders.

You’ll share your experiences and insights with your elected officials and continue to build the movement that you have helped to create. Since our first Skills Summit in 2002, participants like you have connected with elected officials more than 15,000 times.

We will also reflect on all that we have accomplished together in the last decade and a half. Many of you are part of that story, and for that we are both extremely grateful.

So thank you for coming to Washington and lending your voice. There is more work to do to shape America’s workforce and education policies. But when we succeed, a greater diversity of Americans will have access to a better life, and a greater diversity of U.S. businesses will enjoy a smoother pathway to growth.

### The 2016 Skills Summit has gone mobile!

Get the app on your mobile device now, for free.

1. Download the Guidebook app.
2. Search for and download 2016 “Skills Summit” guide.
3. Check out schedules, speakers, and materials.

### Congratulations to our Skills Champion Award winner

Erick Ajax, Vice President and Co-Owner of E.J. Ajax and Sons, receives NSC’s 2016 Skills Champion Award for his outstanding work to ensure our country’s policymakers invest, aggressively and effectively, in the skills of America’s workers.

Erick has worked with National Skills Coalition as an employer partner for a decade, serving on the original NSC Leadership Council. He is a founding member of business leaders United and currently serves on its Executive Committee.

Erick has been an outstanding advocate for effective workforce policies, particularly those that leverage and build upon private sector investments, while leading a successful company and sector partnership in Minnesota. E.J. Ajax invests over 5.5% of its annual payroll in employee education, and believes strongly in the value of employer-led partnerships to prepare workers for jobs within his industry.

Erick is a founding board member of M-Powered, a Minnesota-based manufacturing sector partnership.

Over the last decade, Erick has helped to raise the visibility of the skills gap, sector partnerships, and the need for federal skills policy to be informed by small and mid-sized employers. In addition to seeding and informing dozens of media pieces locally and nationally over the years, he has successfully cultivated Senator Franken (D-MN) as a skills champion in Congress. He has hosted the Senator for site visits at M-Powered, engaged in joint press activities with the Senator, and was his guest at the State of the Union. Ultimately, Erick helped to inform the Senator’s Community College to Career Fund Act, which is based on the successful sector partnerships that he visited in Minnesota.

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**PORTIA WU**

Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

**JOHN SALGADO**

President/CEO, Instituto del Progreso Latino

**HARRY HOLZER**

Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

**NISHA PATEL**

Director of the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**SENATOR TIM KAINE**

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) is co-chair of the Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus and sponsor of the Jumpstart our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act. Senator Kaine is a leading advocate on Capitol Hill, championing federal policies that expand access to skills and credentials for workers and industries.

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Associate Director, Center on Wisconsin Strategy

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