Congress should make Pell grants more job driven

The U.S. has a middle-skill gap
Middle-skill jobs — jobs that require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree — make up 54% of jobs in the U.S. economy. But only 44% of U.S. workers are trained at the middle-skill level.


Making Pell Grants more job driven will help help bridge the skills gap
More than half a million people earned short-term postsecondary certificates in 2010, and more than two-thirds were in high-demand sectors. While 25% of undergraduate credentials are short term, only 4% of Pell dollars go to these programs, limiting access for lower-income job seekers.


Making Pell Grants more job driven pays off
The average postsecondary certificate holder has 20% higher lifetime earnings than an individual with only a high school diploma — a difference of about $240,000. We need to make sure U.S. workers and businesses can access the skills that drive economic growth and shared prosperity.

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees, June 2012.

Endorse the JOBS Act, which expands Pell eligibility to short-term, industry-validated postsecondary certificates.

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