Congress should make Pell Grants job-driven

The U.S. has a middle-skill gap
Middle-skill jobs — requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree — make up 54 percent of jobs in the U.S. economy. But only 44 percent of U.S. workers are trained at the middle-skill level. Employers are struggling to fill open positions.


Making Pell Grants job-driven will help
Two-year degrees aren’t the only valuable middle-skill credential. More than one quarter of all undergraduate awards in 2012 were postsecondary certificates. But many short-term programs aren’t eligible for Pell Grants, limiting access for lower-income job seekers.


Making Pell Grants job-driven pays off
The average postsecondary certificate holder has 20 percent higher lifetime earnings than individuals 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.

Please make Pell available for high-quality, short-term programs that can lead to industry-recognized credentials.