Advocating for Adult Education:
When Learners Take the Lead

Webinar
November 1, 2017
Today’s webinar

• **Introduction**: Why advocate?
• **Resources**: What NSC offers
• **Conversation**: Meet the Student Ambassadors
• **Questions**: What would you like to know?
Introduction: About NSC

- Supporting effective implementation of existing policies such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II
- Advancing new adult education and skills policies at the state and federal level
- Advocating for adult education to be part of broader skills and workforce policy conversations

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www.nationalskillscoalition.org
Why advocate?

• It works! Policymakers welcome the opportunity to hear from constituents

• It’s not just about passing legislation: **Educating policymakers** about your issue can pay other dividends
State-level advocacy

- NSC’s **50-state scans** show where your state stands on each policy
- Our skills equity **policy toolkits** showcase states with strong policies & provide a legislative template for you to use

[www.nationalskillscoalition.org/skillsequity](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/skillsequity)
Federal-level advocacy

- Informed by adult educators and skills advocates, NSC has developed **policy recommendations** for adult education and upskilling in key federal legislation.
Want to engage with NSC?

- Participate in an NSC **constituent call** to share your perspective with a policymaker.
- Join us in Washington DC for our February 2018 **Skills Summit**

[www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/events/2018-skills-summit](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/events/2018-skills-summit)
Let’s talk resources
Make use of our publications.

• Use publications as “leave-behinds” when you visit policymakers, or drop one in the mail with a personalized note.

www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/publications
Steal this resource: Charts & graphs from NSC

- Use charts from NSC’s *Foundational Skills* report to make the case to policymakers.
- Fresh data on skill gaps & opportunities can help grab policymakers’ attention.
Example #1: Help policymakers grasp the need for adult education.

Source: NSC/AIR analysis of PIAAC data on service-sector workers with low literacy.
Example #2: Show how skill gaps are affecting the current workforce.

Source: NSC/AIR analysis of PIAAC data on service-sector workers with low literacy.
Learners’ writing skills:

• Add an activity to your curriculum that allows students to practice telling the story of how adult education helps them.

Resource: *The Change Agent* (adult education publication accepting student submissions):
http://changeagent.nelrc.org/

Photo credit: Casa de Maryland
Learners’ civic engagement:

• Build comfort with public speaking by having learners practice telling their stories to each other
• De-mystify policy by making a field trip to a City Council meeting or similar opportunity
• Look for real-life opportunities for learners to tell their stories to policymakers

Resource: In-depth slides on adult learner civic engagement from Networks for Integrating New Americans initiative: http://tinyurl.com/CivicLearners
Additional resource #3:

• COABE’s Student Ambassador program offers numerous rich resources for training, including webinars and a student strand at the upcoming national conference in Phoenix, AZ in March 2018

www.coabe.org/how-to-train-students-to-meet-with-legislators/

www.nationalskillscoalition.org
Additional resources #4

• A Student Congress event is being planned for April 2018 in Washington DC

• COABE encourages you to submit student success stories at EducateAndElevate.org
Let’s turn to our conversation...
Meet Diane Jackson.

- Staff member at Queen Creek Family Resource Center
- President-Elect of the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning
What is the Queen Creek Family Resource Center?

Family Resource Center

www.qcusd.org/Family_Resource_Center

www.nationalskillscoalition.org
Why is it important to engage with state policymakers?
Why launch a Student Ambassador program?
Introducing the Student Ambassadors
Meet Maybelin Rodriguez
Meet Martha Bomann
Meet Maria Alvidrez
Next: Identifying key policymakers
Meet Ana Morin
Advice for adult educators
Advice for adult learners
Time for your questions!
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