



MAY/JUNE 2015 UPDATE

IWNC ACTIVITY

Southwest Pathways Conference

The Global Pathways Institute at Arizona State University partnered with Innovate+Educate to sponsor a two-day event in Scottsdale in late May. The goal of the conference was to launch a regional movement aimed at preparing youth for careers. Over a hundred speakers flew in from across the country. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and ASU President Michael Crow delivered keynote remarks.

IWNC members and partners played a leading role at the conference. Timm Boettcher of Realityworks moderated a session on business-education partnerships; Jerry Ellner of Universal Technical Institute and David Wilcox of Global Skills X-Change were among the presenters on that panel. Jan Bray of Bray Strategies moderated a breakout on credentialing; Roger Tadajewski of the National Coalition of Certification Centers was among the panelists in that session. Tamar Jacoby of Opportunity America and Russell Krumnow of Opportunity Nation appeared on a panel on state CTE policy. Russell Krumnow and UTI board member Bill Lennox participated in a plenary session on the challenges facing Southwest youth. Jamai Blivin of Innovate+Educate and Kimberly Green of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium participated in a plenary laying out broad-brush solutions. Ron Painter of the National Association of Workforce Boards moderated a plenary on career pathways and economic development . . .

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IWNC/UTI Scottsdale gathering

IWNC and UTI cosponsored an event timed to coincide with the Southwest Pathways Conference. Invitees toured the UTI Avondale campus, visiting technician training labs, computerized diagnostic bays and specialized manufacturer training facilities – a hands-on lesson in how STEM can be integrated into education and training for careers in the automotive industry. The tour was followed by a reception . . . [**read more**](#)

Industry Alignment Index

Dave Wilcox and Walla Elsheikh of GSX continue to work on the Industry Alignment Index, which measures how well school programs are aligned with industry needs. A prototype of the index was presented at the Southwest Pathways Conference, highlighting how a measurement strategy can support the improvement of education and industry partnerships. GSX plans to introduce the index in some Wisconsin school districts in coming months, and it's working with IWNC and the Global Pathways Institute to explore piloting the index in Arizona. IWNC plans to market the results of the index when it is completed . . .

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UPCOMING EVENTS

National Leadership and Skills Conference June 22-26, Louisville, KY

SkillsUSA's annual conference showcases CTE students from across the country. More than 16,000 students, teachers and business partners are expected to attend. Some 6,000 CTE state contest winners will participate in the culminating SkillsUSA championships, competing against the clock and each other to complete projects in 100 different hands-on trade and technical areas, including electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and the culinary arts . . . [read more](#)

Paving the Way for Work: Part-Time Workers and Policies to Help Them July 8, Washington, DC

New America will hold a discussion in Washington, DC on how to spur job creation for part-time workers. Participants will include Erica Groshen, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Byron Auguste, managing director of Opportunity@Work . . . [read more](#)

Close It 2015: DEMAND MORE October 13-15, Washington, DC

The Close It Summit: Demand More will build on the success of the 2014 Close It Summit. This year's event will highlight the continued need for change in how people make the transition for education to employment and focus on innovative startup solutions bringing needed disruption to the training and hiring market. Ryan Craig, managing director of University Ventures and author of *College Disrupted: The Great Unbundling of Higher Education* will deliver a keynote. Registration opens July 5 . . . [read more](#)

ACTE CareerTech VISION 2015 November 19-22, New Orleans, LA

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the nation's largest nonprofit association committed to advancing education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. This year, its annual conference will take place in New Orleans: the nation's largest annual gathering of CTE professionals. There will be several hundred conference sessions, an extensive expo and subevents, including a Construction Career Pathways Conference sponsored by NCCER. Early-bird registration ends July 10 . . . [read more](#)

NEWS FLASH

Obama signs order to honor CTE students

On June 22, President Obama signed an executive order expanding the Presidential Scholars Program to include CTE students. The program, created by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, honors graduating high school seniors for academic excellence, artistic accomplishments and civic contributions. Obama's order will expand the criteria to honor students who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in CTE fields. The first group of up to 20 CTE scholars will be nominated in spring 2016 . . . [read more](#)

ACTE POLICY UPDATE

Manpower Group survey shows global skills gap concerns deepening

The ManpowerGroup has released its annual Talent Shortage Survey. Among the top findings: the number of global employers facing difficulty filling jobs has increased for the sixth consecutive year, to 38 percent. Skilled-trade professionals – mechanics, electricians and chefs, among others – were listed as the hardest positions to fill for the fourth year in a row. Other hard-to-fill positions included engineers, technicians, accounting, finance and IT staff . . . [read more](#)

Policymakers talk manufacturing workforce at briefing

The think tank Third Way hosted a briefing, “Made in America: Building a Thriving Workforce and Manufacturing Base.” Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez delivered the keynote, emphasizing the need to expand the manufacturing workforce pipeline to fill openings created by impending baby boomer retirements. He pointed to passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the administration’s efforts to promote apprenticeships as important policy initiatives that support workforce development in manufacturing fields . . . [read more](#)

Obama emphasizes CTE in commencement address

President Obama delivered the commencement address at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota. LATI serves more than 2,000 students enrolled in 29 programs, including computer information systems, financial services and robotics. The institute has earned national recognition for its successful outcomes: 98 percent of graduates are employed or enrolled in continued education, and they enjoy nearly 50 percent higher earnings than the national average . . . [read more](#)

ACTE is a leading source for information on CTE-related advocacy and public policy issues. This is an excerpt of the latest policy news from the [CTE Policy Watch blog](#).

REPORTS & STUDIES

White House Upskill initiative

The White House

April, 2015

The President’s Upskill initiative is focused on empowering some of the least prepared Americans with the education and training they need to develop new skills and earn higher wages. Some front-line workers are just starting their careers. Some are older workers who don’t have the basic skills to allow them to take on more responsibility and reach higher paying roles. Still others have the competencies, but not formal credentials, to excel at a more senior-level job . . . [read more](#)

2015 Talent Shortage Survey

ManpowerGroup

May 18, 2015

Whether you’re an employer, hiring manager, satisfied in your current position or ready for your next opportunity, the talent shortage affects everyone in the U.S. workforce.

ManpowerGroup's tenth annual Talent Shortage Survey looks at the extent to which employers are having difficulty finding the right talent, which jobs are the most difficult to fill and where job seekers will find the most opportunity. Among the hardest jobs to fill in 2015: skilled trade workers, drivers, sales representatives, nurses, technicians and engineers . . . [read more](#)

Engaging employers as customers
Jobs for the Future

May 6, 2015

Educators and employers often seem to speak different languages. But when it comes to preparing people for work, they have the same objective – helping learners gain the skills they need to succeed in the workplace. This brief highlights strategies for building effective employer-educator partnerships to increase college and career success for underprepared youth and adults . . . [read more](#)

Expanding opportunity through infrastructure jobs
By Joseph Kane and Robert Puentes
Brookings Institution

May 7, 2015

Infrastructure investment supports long-term, well-paying job opportunities for U.S. workers who lack four-year college degrees. Many of these jobs have relatively low barriers to entry, and their number will grow significantly in coming years with the impending retirement of older workers. Using occupational data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this report measures the extent and impact of infrastructure jobs: changes since the recession and levels of infrastructure employment in 2013, as well as changing wages for infrastructure workers . . . [read more](#)

The second year of Accelerating Opportunity: Implementation findings from states and colleges

By Theresa Anderson, Lauren Eyster, Robert I. Lerman and Carolyn T. O'Brien
Aspen Institute, Urban Institute

March 12, 2015

Launched in 2011, the Accelerating Opportunity initiative helps students with low basic skills earn occupational credentials, find well-paying jobs and sustain rewarding careers. The first two years of the initiative were a period of growth and change for the states and colleges that implemented it. This report focuses on the initiative's second year . . . [read more](#)

Another report, from Jobs for the Future, explores lessons for replicating and scaling the Accelerating Opportunity program . . . [read more](#)

Not as hard as you think: Engaging high school students in work-based learning
By Charlotte Cahill and Sheila Jackson
Jobs for the Future

May 1, 2015

Employers seeking to bring young people into the workplace are often concerned about possible barriers that may limit their access, including labor laws and liability issues. This brief is intended to allay those concerns, highlighting the success of employers who have

opened their doors to high school students. Employers who familiarize themselves with a few basic policies can easily get around any perceived barriers . . . [read more](#)

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*If you have ideas, information or resources
you would like to see included in the next IWNC update,
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