

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Joint WDB & WGB Meeting & Awards Celebration

February 12, 2025



A proud partner of the American  network



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lacey Douglas, Workforce Solutions
817.823.0533
lacey.douglas@workforcesolutions.net

Nicole Allen Named Child Care Director for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County



TARRANT COUNTY, Texas (January 16, 2025) – Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) is proud to announce Nicole Allen as our new Child Care Director. With 25 years of experience in Early Childhood Education and Workforce Development, Nicole brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role, where she will oversee critical programs supporting both child care providers and working families in Tarrant County.

In her new position, Nicole will manage state funding for the Quality Rating program -Texas Rising Star, Child Care Scholarships, and initiatives that assist Employers and Parents, all in collaboration with Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. In her over 10 years with WSTC, she has been a driving force in the development of projects that have positively influenced both local and state policies in Texas, particularly in the realm of Early Childhood Education.

Among her significant contributions, Nicole played a key role in the creation of the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS), which allows child care teachers and administrators to track their training and education progress. She has also been an advocate for the Camp Fire First Texas Early Education Apprenticeship Program (EEAP), the first U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program for early educators in the State of Texas. Nicole also played a vital role in the implementation of a Professional Learning Community for Early Learning leaders across the North Texas region.

Ms. Allen is highly engaged in her field and sits on several influential boards and committees, including the Early Learning Alliance, TECPDS Advisory Committee and Best Place for Working Parents Steering

Committee. She also serves as a subject matter expert for the Child Care and Education Research Connections Advisory Council. Recently, Nicole was elected Secretary for the Child Care Network of 28 Local Workforce Boards across Texas.

Nicole holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master's in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Texas. She recently received a Certificate in Early Education Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education Zaentz Institute. She is passionate about building strong partnerships in the Tarrant County community and believes that it takes a village to support the child care industry.

"We are thrilled to have Nicole lead our Child Care division," said Judy McDonald, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. "Her extensive experience, leadership, and commitment to improving early childhood education and workforce development in Texas will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on our community."

###

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC), under the direction of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce development boards located throughout the state. WSTC's primary goal is to meet the needs of Tarrant County employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers and job seekers are eligible to take advantage of these services. The 29-member Workforce Development Board (WDB) is made up of business and community leaders and is chaired by Tyrone Taylor. The WDB works in partnership with the Workforce Governing Board (WGB), which is composed of Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, Arlington Mayor Jim Ross and chaired by Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare, to oversee Workforce services in Tarrant County. More information can be found at www.workforcesolutions.net or by calling 817-413-4000.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE AT

The
Beacon of
EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
OUR COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY

WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR

Mrs. Lillie Biggins

Mr. Printice Gary

Mr. Roland Parrish

FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT, LEADERSHIP, AND
DEDICATION TO SHAPING A BETTER MAVERICK
COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.

THIS DISTINGUISHED EVENING WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL CONCERT
FEATURING GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST, ANTHONY HAMILTON,
AND RENOWNED GOSPEL SINGER, MARVIN SAPP.

THE SEVENTH OF FEBRUARY,
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE
AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
TEXAS HALL
ARLINGTON, TEXAS



**The Seventy-Fourth
Multicultural Alliance Gala**

February 27, 2025

6:30 P.M.

**Fort Worth Club
306 West 7th Street
12th Floor
Fort Worth, TX 76102**

Multicultural Alliance Award

Mr. Andy Taft

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Estrus Tucker

RSVP by Monday, February 17

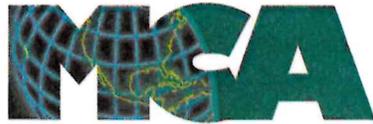
Complimentary Parking

**(Please bring your parking ticket for
validation at the Check-in table)**

Reservations at Check-in

Attire: Business

**Questions: acollins@mcatexas.com
817-454-8828 www.mcatexas.com**



MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE®

74th Multicultural Alliance Gala
Thursday, February 27, 2025

Multicultural Alliance Award Honoree: Mr. Andy Taft

Lifetime Achievement Honoree: Mr. Estrus Tucker

We are a local organization whose mission is to promote inclusion, diversity and understanding while working toward eliminating bias, bigotry, and oppression in our community.

Funds raised from this annual event sustain and underwrite year-round local programming. Our programs include Interfaith Dialogues, Seminary Interfaith Retreat, Camp COMMUNITY, MCA Table Talk, People’s Art Collaborative, presentations, and workshops.

Platinum Sponsor	\$ 10,000
Gold Sponsor	\$ 7,000
Silver Sponsor	\$ 5,000
Bronze	\$ 3,000
Individual ticket	\$ 300

Printing deadline for sponsorship listed in the program: February 14, 2025

Fort Worth Club
10 guests per sponsorship
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Business Attire

\$1000 of sponsorship and \$100 of individual tickets are not tax deductible.

R.S.V.P.

I/We would like to be a sponsor

Name_____

Organization_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Email_____

Phone Number_____



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lacey Douglas, Workforce Solutions
817.823.0533
lacey.douglas@workforcesolutions.net

Post L Group Wins Award at Texas Workforce Conference *Award honors local employer for excellence in Texas*

TARRANT COUNTY, Texas (December 6, 2024) – Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC), is proud to recognize Post L Group as the region's 2024 Local Employer of Excellence. Post L Group accepted the award at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 27th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 4 - Dec. 6, 2024, in Grapevine. Local Workforce Development Boards nominate employers who make a positive impact on workers, the community, and the state through their partnerships with Texas Workforce Solutions.

The Post L Group is a pillar in the DFW construction industry, known not only for their outstanding projects, including schools, universities, and municipal buildings, but also for their commitment to giving back to the community. They have been instrumental in providing opportunities for young adults through paid internships and summer employment programs.

They are a true workforce champion, but their engagement goes beyond employment. The Post L Group actively participates in job fairs, collaborates on panels, and plays a vital leadership role in the construction consortium. Their President/CEO, Jeff Postell is an active member of our Workforce Development Board and provides invaluable insight into the skills and needs of our construction partners.

Judy McDonald, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County said, "Post L Group's dedication to creating exceptional career opportunities, promoting growth and maintaining a high standard of excellence serves as a model for other employers in the region. It is truly a privilege to celebrate their achievements and recognize the hard work and innovation that has made Post L Group a standout in Tarrant County."

"More than 653,000 employers call Texas home, and businesses like Post L Group are the engine driving Texas's economic success," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza. "By tapping into resources offered through the Texas Workforce Solutions system, employers can help build a stronger, more skilled workforce."

For more information about resources available to Tarrant County employers and job seekers, visit: <https://workforcesolutions.net/>.

###

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC), under the direction of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce development boards located throughout the state. WSTC's primary goal is to meet the needs of Tarrant County employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers and job seekers are eligible to take advantage of these services. The 29-member Workforce Development Board (WDB) is made up of business and community leaders and is chaired by Tyrone Taylor. The WDB works in partnership with the Workforce Governing Board (WGB), which is composed of Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, Arlington Mayor Jim Ross and chaired by Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare, to oversee Workforce services in Tarrant County. More information can be found at www.workforcesolutions.net or by calling 817-413-4000.



Your weekly members-only updates from the
National Association of Workforce Boards

January 31, 2025

This Week at NAWB

Senior Director, Government Relations and Advocacy, **Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied**, spoke to the North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards about potential risks to federal funding and how we can advocate together to tell our story and demonstrate our public value.

Senior Director, Programs and Initiatives, **Mala Thakur**, and Program Manager, **Angela Hiller**, attended the **American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Development Institute Conference** alongside Manager, Skills for Social Impact for **Microsoft Philanthropy**, **Nagma Meharali**. During the conference, they engaged with both grant partners and community colleges.



Letter Sent to DOLETA Seeking TEN 21-24 Guidance

On **Thursday, Jan. 30**, we held a series of **Executive Order Implementation Listening Sessions**. Throughout these sessions, nearly 200 participants

representing 145 local and state workforce boards asked nearly 400 questions to be posed to the **U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration (DOLETA)** for clarification on the recent executive orders, TEN 21-24, and their impact.

We compiled the list of questions and synthesized the top responses for each category that participants felt most strongly need to be addressed. We have since sent a letter to DOLETA and will keep you updated as we learn more.

[Download the Letter](#)

NAWB Awards Nominations Close Monday



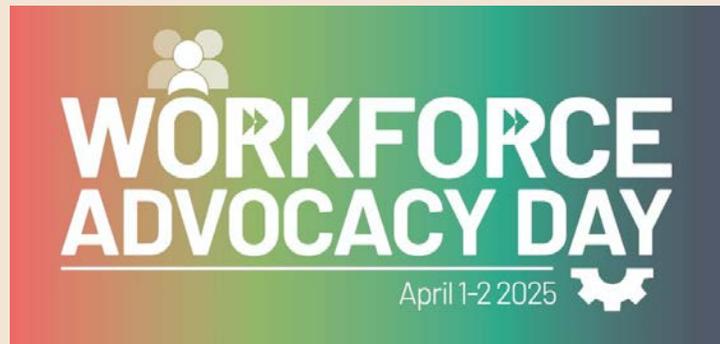
The [NAWB Awards nominations](#) process is quickly coming to a close. Be sure to submit your nominations by **Monday, Feb. 3**.

Act fast to get the chance to have development boards and their partners recognized for their outstanding contributions, innovative strategies and life-changing impact.

NAWB Awards will be presented at The Forum on **Tuesday, April 1**, during that morning's general session, with the exception of the Congressional Workforce Champion award, which will be given during Workforce Advocacy Day.

[Submit a Nomination](#)

Last Day to Register for Workforce Advocacy Day



With a major funding deadline approaching, new executive orders, and budget talks heating up, your voice is needed now more than ever to support workforce programs.

Secure your spot today to join NAWB for **Workforce Advocacy Day** and meet with your members of Congress April 1-2 in our nation's capital.

[Register Today!](#)

Visit the NAWB Pop-Up Shop!

Our brand-new [merchandise shop](#) is now open—featuring a stylish range of swag, from comfy t-shirts to cozy scarves. But hurry, it's only here for two weeks!

Don't miss your chance to grab your favorites before they're gone. [Shop now](#) and show off your NAWB pride!



Welcome New Members





ATLANTIC COUNTY

W D B

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network



On the Calendar

TODAY! Friday, Jan. 31: [Workforce Advocacy Day Registration Deadline](#)

Deadline Monday, Feb. 3: [NAWB Award Submissions due](#)

Coming Soon! Thursday, Feb. 20: Winter Webinar: Apprenticeships

Wednesday, Feb. 12: [Section 188 Webinar Series: Pt. 2: Partnering with Employers for Inclusive Hiring and Retention](#)

Friday, Feb. 28: [Public Policy PowerUp](#)

Tuesday, March 4: [Winter Webinar: Changing Organizational Systems and Culture: Using Technology](#)

March 29 - April 1: [The Forum](#)

April 1 - 2: [Workforce Advocacy Day](#)

On Our Radar

[Don't Cut Federal Jobs Money, Spend It on People the Smart Way](#), Nick Beadle for Jobs That Work

[Closing the Skills Gap: How Boards Can Help Tackle the Scarcity Crisis](#), Christie Smith for Corporate Board Member

[Workforce Development in the Age of Advanced Technologies](#), Reliable Plant

[Six Strategies for Navigating a Multigenerational Healthcare Workforce](#), Jacob Kupitezky for Fast Company

Congressional and Administration Updates



Trump Administration Issues - Then Rescinds - Federal Funding Restriction

This week, the Trump Administration ordered a “temporary pause” of federal grants, loans, and other programs that run counter to previously issued executive orders. The [two-page memo](#) issued by the **Office of Management and Budget** was then [rescinded](#) due to widespread confusion regarding the order’s scope and intended impact. Since that time, two courts have placed further legal holds on this effort. Currently, federal agencies are reviewing programs under their jurisdiction and are due to report by **Monday, Feb. 10** which programs and activities could potentially be restricted. We have been sounding the alarm in our recent policy statements and events that federal funding will be under the microscope and that, as a community, we must continue to highlight the significant benefits and return on investment provided by the public workforce system.

If you or your partners have been directly impacted by these latest developments, please be sure to [let us know](#). This will be a critical component of our advocacy, helping policymakers understand the very real impact these decisions have on workers and employers.

Five Ways to Advocate Today

- 1) [Contact](#) your members of Congress to share information about how the federal investment in the public workforce system contributes to a stronger economy in wages, tax revenue, productivity, business development, and reduced reliance on public assistance. You can call, email, send a letter, or use social media to connect.
- 2) Invite your members of Congress for a [Site Visit](#).
- 3) Register for [Workforce Advocacy Day](#).

4) Put Advocacy on the agenda of your next Board Meeting, and recruit your business leaders to become advocates.

5) Register for the next [Public Policy PowerUp](#) on **Friday, Feb. 28** at **1pm ET**.

[National Association of Workforce Boards](#) | nawb.org



NAWB | 1155 15th Street NW, Suite 725 | Washington, DC 20005 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

Funding Talks Advance; Bipartisan CONSTRUCTS Act Gains Support



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 27, 2025

Please Visit our Website at: www.uscmwdc.org

Washington Update

Appropriations

Top Democratic appropriators are awaiting a Republican proposal on government funding as GOP leaders consider a bipartisan deal to raise the debt limit, avoid a shutdown, and address disaster aid and border security funding. House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (CT) expressed optimism about a potential bipartisan agreement to finalize FY25 appropriations by the mid-March deadline — hoping a deal on overall funding levels can be reached by the end of January to allow time for negotiations on the 12 funding bills.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (NY) rejected the idea of linking California wildfire aid solely to a debt limit increase. Meanwhile, House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (OK) downplayed concerns about Congress' control over spending being undermined by the administration's efforts to freeze funding, stating that seeking legitimate savings aligns with the goals of most Republicans.

CONSTRUCTS Act

On January 22, Senators Jacky Rosen (NV) and Marsha Blackburn (TN) introduced the Creating Opportunities for New Skills Training at Rural or Underserved Colleges and Trade Schools (CONSTRUCTS) Act, bipartisan legislation aimed at addressing the severe shortage of skilled residential construction workers. The bill directs the Department of Labor (DOL) to create a grant program to fund residential construction training at community colleges, technical schools, and other institutions, with a focus on underserved and rural communities. By expanding workforce education, the legislation aims to strengthen the construction workforce, increase the housing supply, and reduce housing costs.

Senator Rosen underscored the need for skilled workers to address the housing affordability crisis, while Senator Blackburn highlighted the importance of training programs in controlling construction costs. The National Association of Home Builders and other industry leaders have endorsed the bill, recognizing its potential to ease labor shortages and support affordable housing initiatives. Previously introduced in the last

Congress, the CONSTRUCTS Act is expected to have companion legislation introduced in the House soon.

[Click here](#) to read more about the CONSTRUCTS Act.

Department of Labor TEN on DEI

On Wednesday, January 22, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released a Training and Employment Notice (TEN) announcing the immediate implementation of Executive Orders (EOs) titled "Ending Racial and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" and "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity."

The TEN informs ETA recipients about changes to federal financial assistance awards that prohibit activities described in these EOs, which were issued by President Trump on January 20 and 21, 2025. Effective immediately, all recipients of federal financial assistance are required to cease any activities related to "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) or "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility" (DEIA) under their federal awards. These actions align with the directives of the EOs. Additional guidance will be provided.

[Click here](#) to access the full TEN.

Initial Jobless Rate

In the week ending January 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 223,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 217,000. The 4-week moving average was 213,500, an increase of 750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 212,750. The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent for the week ending January 11, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate.

[Click here](#) to access the report.

New from DOL/ETA

U.S. Department of Labor to Cease and Desist All Investigative and Enforcement Activity Under Rescinded Executive Order 11246

On Friday, January 24, Acting Secretary of Labor Vince Micone transmitted Secretary's Order 03-2025 to all department employees, directing them to cease and desist all investigative and enforcement activity under the rescinded Executive Order 11246 and the regulations promulgated under it. The order applies to all department employees, including the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the Office of Administrative Law Judges and the Administrative Review Board. The department no longer has any authority under the rescinded Executive Order 11246 or its regulations.

[Click here](#) to access the full press release.

U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$45.6 Million in Grants to Help Young People in Communities Affected by Violence, Poverty Find Opportunities to Succeed

To overcome structural barriers such as violence and poverty that keep many young people from access to employment and reaching their potential, the U.S. Department of Labor today announced the award of \$46.5 million in grants to support programs that address the impacts of community violence and help justice-involved young people succeed in the labor market. Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the Growth Opportunities program focuses on helping young people in communities plagued by violence by supporting local organizations that provide

participants with jobs, training and other supportive services, such as leadership development, mentoring and conflict resolution.

Adolescents exposed to firearm violence - as victims or witnesses - are twice as likely to commit a violent act within two years. To reduce the potential for further violence, the department offers Growth Opportunities grants to enable organizations to provide young people in underserved communities with foundational skills and opportunities needed to succeed in the future. Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the department's Reentry Employment Opportunities program provides funding for justice-involved young people who were formerly incarcerated. On July 31, 2024, the department made funding available for the fifth round of Growth Opportunities grants, a Reentry Employment Opportunities initiative.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release.

WDC In The News

[How Colorado Governor Polis' NGA Agenda Could Reshape America's Workforce](#)

As Colorado Governor Jared Polis assumes the role of Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA), his agenda presents a compelling vision for transforming education and workforce development across the nation. Drawing from many successful initiatives in Colorado, Polis offers a roadmap for aligning postsecondary education with the evolving needs of the workforce, potentially revolutionizing how America prepares learners for the jobs of tomorrow.

At the heart of Polis' approach is a recognition that the traditional divide between higher education and workforce development is outdated and counterproductive. In Colorado, Polis has championed policies that break down these silos, and laid the foundation for a system that is better integrated and more responsive to learners and employers.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

[Why Workforce Development is Essential to a Strong Manufacturing Sector](#)

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, workforce development has become a critical pillar for ensuring the growth and sustainability of various industries. Nowhere is this more evident than in the manufacturing sector. Historically, manufacturing has been the backbone of many economies, and even as automation and globalization reshape the landscape, it remains a key driver of employment, innovation, and economic prosperity. However, to maintain this critical role, manufacturing needs a skilled workforce — one that is prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Workforce development in manufacturing is about more than just filling jobs; it's about developing a workforce that is adaptable and technologically savvy. Gone are the days with multiple options of shop classes that expose youth to the various trades that can pique an interest in a potential manufacturing career in their own community. One of the biggest challenges facing the manufacturing sector today is the skills gap. As older generations of skilled workers retire, there is a significant shortage of younger workers who possess the necessary skills to take their place. This new generation sees themselves in a tech role, or at the very least a desk job, but not working on their feet as a machinist, sheet metal fabricator, welder, or assembly tech. According to a 2020 report by the National Association of Manufacturers, 2.1 million manufacturing jobs could go unfilled by 2030 due to this skills gap. The result could be an economic downturn, increased production costs, and the loss of global competitiveness.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

[Helping Frontline Workers Move Up](#)

What's next for workforce education at the federal level is anybody's guess. As the Trump administration settles in amid a Republican-controlled Washington, big questions loom about the fate of industrial policy spending, possible legislation on AI and jobs, MAGA's take on automation and unions, the primary federal workforce system, and whether apprenticeship could finally take off. To get a sense of what to watch over the next few months, we spoke with John Pallasch, a consultant who served as assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor during the first Trump administration.

Pallasch stresses that he doesn't speak for the Labor Department or for the Trump administration: "These answers simply reflect my experience having run Kentucky's state workforce agency under Governor Matt Bevin and the Employment and Training Administration at the Labor Department in the first Trump administration."

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

How AI is Closing the Skills Gap and Building a Resilient Workforce

By 2030, it's estimated that critical industrial sectors, including oil and gas, chemicals and general manufacturing, could face 2.1 million unfilled jobs. This gap stems from the retirement of experienced workers and the increasing complexity of industrial operations. One of the most exciting developments related to closing this gap is how AI is reshaping workforce development. Technologies like AI-powered digital advisors are helping to level the playing field, providing expert guidance to workers with less experience and enabling them to make decisions that once required decades of expertise.

Use of these new AI technologies elevates expertise and leads industrial companies down a path to assuring every day is their best day of production and every worker is a world-leading expert. In effect, industrial companies can now provide their decades of institutional knowledge to all operational and maintenance staff that need to diagnose a problem or carry out a best practice.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Reports & Articles

New from U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Education Announces Incoming Trump-Vance Senior Appointees

On Thursday, January 23, the U.S. Department of Education announced a team of senior-level political appointees who will support the implementation of President Trump's vision to empower parents in their children's education and restore a focus on teaching the knowledge and skills students need to succeed.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release of appointees.

New from New America

How Are Community Colleges Accessing WIOA Funding

Public community colleges and the federal workforce system, governed by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), both aim to prepare people in this country for jobs and meet local employer needs. However, the two systems are structured differently, and it can be difficult to integrate work and strategically leverage resources despite similar goals.

Community college workforce practitioners often have questions about how they can navigate WIOA's funding landscape. Ultimately, the answer depends on each local context. WIOA funding for workforce development is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), which sends the majority of funding to states, which in turn send it to local

workforce development boards. States develop WIOA plans, but the local workforce boards are responsible for deciding how to spend the majority of the money.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Fast Fact

A [LinkedIn report](#) reveals that professionals entering the workforce today are expected to hold twice as many jobs throughout their careers as those who began working 15 years ago. Notably, 20% of U.S. workers now hold job titles that didn't exist in 2020. Since 2022, LinkedIn has recorded a 140% surge in the rate at which users are adding new skills to their profiles. Among these, communication emerged as the most in-demand skill in 2024.



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

usmayors.org | [friend on Facebook](#)

WDC Staff: [Kathy Amoroso](#), [Megan Judge](#), and [Kevin Verge](#)

Copyright © 2025 The U.S. Conference of Mayors, All rights reserved.



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

Funding Talks Continue as Concerns Grow Over Spending Freeze



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 3, 2025

Please Visit our Website at: www.uscmwdc.org

Washington Update

Appropriations

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins (ME) remains optimistic that a "top-line" deal on overall funding totals can be reached despite slow progress in negotiations. Collins acknowledged that while there is no agreement yet, the talks are ongoing. However, Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Patty Murray (WA) warned that President Trump's funding freeze could undermine bipartisan efforts to keep the government funded beyond March 14, and expressed concern that future administrations could disregard funding agreements. Meanwhile, nonprofits and public health groups are challenging Trump's freeze on federal aid programs, which could affect more than 400 health programs, transportation projects, and various other initiatives. However, programs such as Pell Grants and direct loans remain unaffected.

Department of Labor Secretary Nominee

Senate Republicans are divided over Lori Chavez-DeRemer's support for the Democrats' pro-union legislation, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which aims to strengthen workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain by making significant changes to labor law, including restrictions on right-to-work laws. Senator Rand Paul (KY) criticized Chavez-DeRemer's backing of the PRO Act, arguing it opposes national right-to-work laws and preempts state laws. Paul, a lead author of the right-to-work bill, plans to vote against her confirmation and suggested she could lose over a dozen GOP votes, requiring her to rely on Democrats for confirmation. However, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Chair Bill Cassidy (LA) said he found his conversation with Chavez-DeRemer reassuring despite his colleagues' concerns.

Department of Labor Return to Work

On Wednesday, January 29, House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman Tim Walberg (MI) sent a letter to Department of Labor (DOL) Acting Secretary Vince Micone

urging DOL to return to in-person work, following President Trump's January 20 memorandum requiring federal employees to end remote work. Walberg commended the memo and called for immediate implementation, highlighting the slow return to normal operations since DOL ceased regular work due to COVID-19.

[Click here](#) to read the full letter.

Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act

On Monday, January 27, Senators Amy Klobuchar (MN) and Dan Sullivan (AK) reintroduced the Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act to combat the nationwide shortage of affordable child care. The bipartisan legislation aims to provide competitive grants to states to train child care workers and build or renovate child care facilities, particularly in rural areas. It addresses the rising cost of child care, which is becoming a barrier to children's development and parents' ability to enter the workforce. The bill would offer grants to improve workforce development, expand facilities, and increase the availability and affordability of quality child care. It aims to enhance retention and compensation for child care professionals and address shortages, especially in rural communities and child care deserts. Companion legislation is also being led in the House by Congressmen Josh Harder (CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA).

[Click here](#) to access the press release.

Head Start

On Thursday, January 30, Representatives John Garamendi (CA), Don Beyer (VA), Suzanne Bonamici (OR), and 30 other House Democrats sent a letter highlighting payment delays faced by Head Start providers. Despite a White House budget office memo that initially froze federal financial assistance, which was later clarified not to affect Head Start grants and rescinded after a federal judge's ruling, program directors remain uncertain. The letter noted that providers who submitted funding requests between January 23 and January 27 have not received payments, which are typically approved within 24 hours. Additionally, providers with February 1 grant renewals have not received notices. Lawmakers warned that without timely payments, programs may be forced to rely on external funding or credit lines to cover essential expenses.

[Click here](#) to access the letter.

Initial Jobless Rate

In the week ending January 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 207,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 223,000. The 4-week moving average was 212,500, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 213,500. The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent for the week ending January 18, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate.

[Click here](#) to access the report.

New from DOL/ETA

State Employment and Unemployment Report

On Tuesday, January 28, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the State Employment and Unemployment monthly report which indicated that in December 2024, unemployment rates were higher in 6 states, lower in 2 states, and stable in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 2 states and was essentially unchanged in 48 states and the District.

[Click here](#) to access the full report.

WDC In The News

Mayor Woodards Secures Grant for Workforce Development and Childcare Hub on Tacoma's East Side

The project, led by the Pierce County Labor Community Services Agency in partnership with the Mayor's Office, focuses on addressing two critical community needs: affordable and accessible childcare for working families and expanded access to workforce training for skilled trades. The initiative proposes converting the former Willard Elementary School into a dual-purpose center offering 24-hour childcare services alongside registered apprenticeship training programs. "This project is a game-changer for Tacoma and Pierce County," said Woodards. "By investing in our community and providing critical resources like childcare and training, we are creating opportunities for everyone to thrive. This funding will help us meet our commitment to workforce development and equitable access to resources."

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

How Workforce Development Boosts Career and Economic Growth

This week American businesses were scrambling to reassess their workforce development strategies as the current administration proposed halting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) grants. The shift comes as 46% of workers believe they have adequate opportunities to learn new skills, according to a 2024 PricewaterhouseCoopers survey. This highlights a gap between workforce needs and current development initiatives. Workforce development stands out as a key benefit, often provided by DEI, HR and philanthropic departments, that have economic impacts in society and within businesses.

Workforce development programs range from training, certifications, job search and advancement support, mentoring, coaching, and overall career development. This type of support is not limited to diverse communities, yet underrepresented communities often are the communities that lack the resources, skills, and access to career advancement. This skills gap is particularly evident in sectors like technology, where demographic disparities persist. For instance, as noted by the Hispanic Federation, Latinos make up one-fifth of the U.S. workforce, they represent only 8% of STEM workers.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

How Emerging Technologies are Transforming the Job Market and Workforce Development

Technology is transforming the job market at an unprecedented pace. As tech titans, AI, automation, and blockchain rewrite the rulebook, fresh occupations arise, and traditional ones get left in the dust. It's not just the economy that's going digital – our approach to workforce development is too, with new strategies emerging to equip workers with the skills they need to succeed. As the job market undergoes a profound shift, a fresh set of skills is emerging. This article sifts through the noise to uncover the most in-demand abilities and examines how forward-thinking workforce development programs are helping bridge the skills gap.

Emerging technologies are poised to bend traditional employment as we know it. As new technologies take hold, they're not just streamlining processes – they're reconfiguring the very DNA of organizations and the skills they demand from their people.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Reports & Articles

New from Brookings

Apprenticeships Can Supercharge Career Opportunities for Youth

At a recent Brookings event on youth apprenticeships, 20-year-old former apprentice Frankie Mansaray interviewed Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) in a fireside chat. Mansaray (who also co-authored this piece) pointed out that youth apprenticeships represent a rare opportunity for bipartisan cooperation, and asked the senator what it is about youth apprenticeships that gets support from both political parties.

“Apprenticeships are really just a larger reflection of our kids, which is a larger reflection of our future,” Sen. Hickenlooper noted. “It’s not Republican or Democrat, how we make sure we have more opportunities for more of our kids. It’s not Republican or Democrat, how we make sure that we have a workforce to continue to lead the world in innovation and new ideas. This is something that Republicans, Democrats alike can support.”

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Trump’s Dramatic Plan to Cut the Federal Workforce

In his second week in office, President Trump offered federal workers a deal: Resign by Feb. 6 and receive full pay and benefits through Sept. 30 while on administrative leave. The move, aimed at sharply reducing the workforce, poses challenges for employees, the government, and Trump’s own presidency. Here’s why.

First, the workers. There is no guarantee that this offer is legal. The federal government was first granted buyout authority during the Bush administration as part of the so-called “Cold War dividend.” When the Clinton administration came in, they had big plans to reinvent government. Getting buyout authority for the domestic side of the government was a high priority for them, and in March 1994, Congress passed, and Clinton signed, a bill permitting buyouts of up to \$25,000.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

New from Aspen Institute

Webinar: Re-Entry and Good Jobs: Building the Second Chances We All Believe In

On Wednesday, February 26, the Aspen Institute will host the webinar “Re-Entry and Good Jobs: Building the Second Chances We All Believe In.” In this part two of our series “Work Behind and Beyond Bars: Improving Job Quality During and After Incarceration,” the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program will explore the opportunities and challenges accessing good jobs for people after incarceration.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

New from Center for American Progress

Early Childhood Education: Setting a Foundation for All Children to Thrive

Children are born ready to learn. The first five years of life are a critical period in which the brain develops more rapidly than at any other stage, providing the building blocks for learning, health, and behavior. Early learning happens in any setting where young children are, whether at home or in a variety of child care settings with a trusted and qualified early childhood professional. Yet, the United States does not provide the resources needed to support this period of rapid brain development through an accessible, publicly funded early childhood education (ECE) system. Waiting to begin access to free and public education until kindergarten goes against what is known about brain development, how children learn, and the economic realities of young families.

Early childhood education is a public good and should be funded as such. Achieving a system that works better for young children, their families, and early educators will require robust public investment, system reform, and inclusion of early childhood education in policy discussions about creating a comprehensive continuum of high-quality public education for all Americans. This chapter of the Center for American Progress report “A Progressive Vision for Education in the 21st Century” examines how policymakers can do so.

[Click here](#) to access the full report.

Fast Fact

According to Lightcast, one-third of the skills required for U.S. jobs have changed in the last three years, driven by demand for skills in generative AI, green technology, and cybersecurity. STEM roles are leading the shift, which is compounded by an upcoming labor shortage.



THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

usmayors.org | [friend on Facebook](#)

WDC Staff: [Kathy Amoroso](#), [Megan Judge](#), and [Kevin Verge](#)

Copyright © 2025 The U.S. Conference of Mayors, All rights reserved.



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)