



"I think the future of work is all about *data*."

Jake Schwartz, CEO and Co-Founder, General Assembly

Happy Spring*!

Evidence of [Jake's observation](#) might be found in the surfeit of recently published papers and reports on jobs, skills, workforce and the future! Our favorites are right here for you to peruse and share, together with our top podcast pics for the month and a fascinating (video) conversation between Thomas Friedman and James Manyike. [Friedman](#) is the more household name of the two, a result of his prolific tenure with the New York Times and Pulitzer prize [trifecta](#). [Manyike](#) heads the McKinsey Global Institute where he has directed McKinsey's major labor market research and groundbreaking studies on the future of work. Get yourself a headset and your beverage of choice, and settle in.

Perhaps it will inspire you to plan your next data adventure! Here are a few options:

- **ASU/GVS Summit** will [convene next week](#) (April 8-10) in San Diego. Luminaries from all over the world and all corners of the economy are on the docket. We'll follow on [Twitter](#), but if you attend, let us know and we'll invite you to share your takeaways during an upcoming webinar! [Late breaking news! The conference is sold out! Get on the waitlist [here!](#)]
- **C2ER** will host its [59th Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, June 3-7](#). Turning numbers into knowledge and building research partnerships are key areas of focus for the event.
- **NCES STATS-DC Data 2019 Conference**, "Providing Evidence to Drive Education" will convene [July 24-26, in Washington, DC](#). Send in proposals for panel sessions through **April 19**. Conference registration opens in May.

Take note! **WDQI Round VII Grants** were just announced. [Applications are due April 24](#). Current grantees, tell your neighbors!

Finally, during our February convening, Jenna Leventoff spoke about non-degree credentials, citing [National Skills Coalition's 50-state scan](#) and emphasizing the idea of "Credentials of Value." Some 96 million Google results and a [convening of major foundations](#) says the idea is taking root. Stay tuned.

Yours in data,
Kristin & Maureen

*For those of you who have not yet welcomed your first blooms, [hang on, it'll soon be divine!](#)

Have a Look



Thomas Friedman and James Manyika: The world's gone from flat, to fast, to deep

Go ahead and press play. You'll be glad you did.

 mckinsey.com



Automation and a Changing Economy - The Aspen Institute

Last month we shared Aspen's **Future of Work Initiative** [State Policy Agenda](#).

Improving state labor market data was among the top-ten recommendations. This month, we point you to *Automation and a Changing Economy*, a report on the impact of automation on the economic security of American workers. It offers twenty-two



A Governor's Policy Playbook to Address Disruptions from Automation and AI

Brookings released a set of policy recommendation for Governors stemming from the [Muro, Maxim, and Whiton research](#) we shared last month. Making these recommendations real requires targeting resources. And that requires data. How might

recommendations in four categories. Data is one of these categories and includes three specific recommendations for action. Take a look and let us know whether you'd like to compare notes – say on a late spring webinar!

 [aspeninstitute.org](https://www.aspeninstitute.org)

the data longitudinal systems steward usefully inform these policies in your state?

 [brookings.edu](https://www.brookings.edu)



Automation and the Role of Cities

Cities too are struggling to get their arms around the future of work. The National League of Cities' Center for City Solutions analyzed occupations at three levels of automatability as well as the highest-ranking skills associated with those occupations. The resulting report identifies key occupations and their susceptibility to automation.

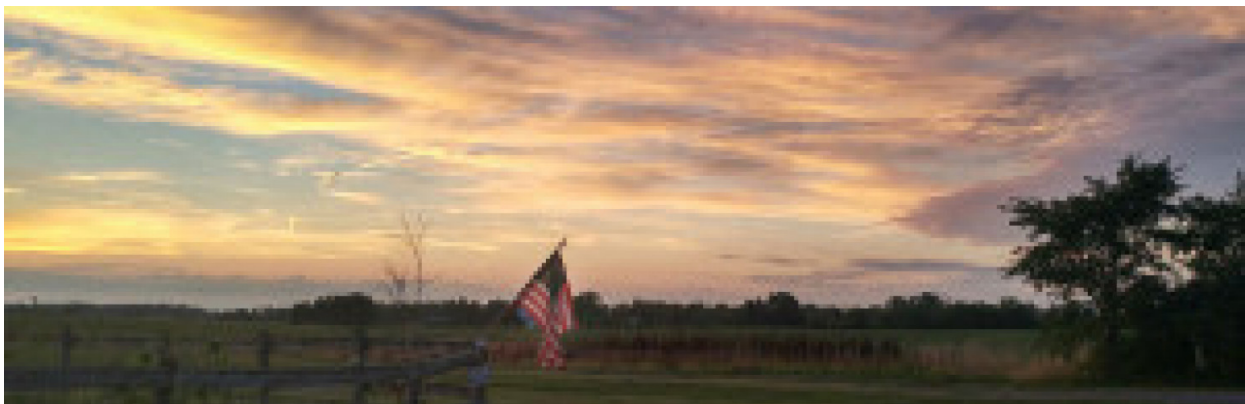
 [nlc.org](https://www.nlc.org)



The Growing Profile of Non-Degree Credentials

The world of credentialing is changing fast. This interview with Sean Gallagher, Executive Director of the [Center for the Future of Higher Education and Talent Strategy at Northeastern University](#), provides context for change and highlights key findings from [Educational Credentials Come of Age](#) – a report summarizing the results of a survey on the use and value of credentials published by the Center.

 [evolution.com](https://www.evolution.com)



Why We Do What We Do

Last month, Pew [Research Center](#) released a [report](#) indicating a rise in pessimism about the future among Americans. Of particular interest to us? Fear of economic insecurity due to

automation. Americans know the workplace is changing rapidly, as technology transforms the nature of work. Even with the economy at or near full employment, half predicted less job security in the future. Elected officials and corporate and community leaders are eager to increase security, economic mobility, and prosperity. Data can help. Keep reading for ideas about how.

 pewsocialtrends.org

Connected Data Yields Real-World Results

A must read, this hot-off-the-presses [JFF](#) report for the [US Department of Labor](#) features our own WDQI Round VI Grantees Massachusetts and Missouri, along with Kansas (a WDQI alum twice over), in a collection of case studies about linking data in support of shared goals under the [TAACCCT](#) (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training) initiative.

 [irp-cdn.multiscreensi...](#)

How Data Can Drive Performance for Social Services

Sometimes analogs from outside our own domains can help us get unstuck. Here is one. A state-level human services agency in Colorado took a page from New York City: it's using data to align the efforts of service-delivery partners. The story includes a link to the full IBM case study if you'd like to learn more.

 [governing.com](#)

What is work?

Such a simple question, such a slippery answer! The introduction may be too abstract for some readers, but the piece moves quickly into skills and occupations territory – exactly the spaces states looking to increase the impact of their emergent data systems are beginning to explore. (This means you **Indiana** and **Rhode Island**!). A list of related, high-value resources about the future of work is also provided.

 [www2.deloitte.com](#)

New Frontiers?

Spend any time in the world of labor market economics and you can't help but encounter [David Autor](#) – [The Economist calls him](#) the "academic voice of the American worker." He helped us understand and begin to account for the fact that worker vulnerability to automation is linked to what workers do (tasks) rather than just the skills (or degrees) they hold. This idea is behind many future-of-

Speaking of David Autor...

This past January, the Ford Professor of Economics professor gave the distinguished Richard T. Ely lecture at the American Economics Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA: *Work of the Past, Work of the Future*. Lucky for us it was recorded – with slides and speaker featured side-by-side! (Thanks [AEA](#)!) Autor is an experienced [TED-talker](#), occasional media expert, and former

work [studies that disaggregate "jobs" into tasks](#), and assess the former's vulnerability based on the degree to which the tasks a job entails are at risk of automation. Here he introduces a frame for categorizing jobs that may stick around awhile. (Spoiler alert: jobs will exist outside of cities).

 npr.org

teacher of computer skills to disadvantaged children – he knows how to keep your attention. This journey through work and how it's changed is Netflix-worthy.

 aeaweb.org

Have a Lesson

Statistical Significance

You're in a meeting. Your team struggles to determine [how to communicate complex information](#), simply (☹️). You think, "I wish I knew more about how people *outside* our systems share data about jobs and skills..."

We've got you covered.

Problem Spotlight: Upskilling and Reskilling America | Luminary Labs

[Sara Holoubek](#), [Jessica Hibbard](#) and [Christina Ward](#) offer a master class in how to bring a wealth of disparate resources together inside a narrative that is simple, compelling, and just plain inspired. How might you use a narrative like this for context in raising awareness of your own data systems and increasing capacity to conduct analysis? (We're also betting you have your own local versions of that "What's Happening?" list.

 luminary-labs.com

What About the Future of Work?

In this short video, corporate workforce professionals attending the [Adecco Group's FUSE](#) conference in Zürich, Switzerland earlier this year, share their thoughts on the future of work (this is where we found Jake). There are also some interesting insights and resources shared under the hashtag #FutureSeriesFuse via Twitter search. No heavy intellectual content here, just a quick glimpse of a global conference about work. But should you want more, you can find it [here](#).

 facebook.com

Field Guide to the Future of Work: Essay collection - RSA

In this essay collection, the RSA presents a bevy of perspectives on the future of work. Think of it as Sunday morning brunch.

 thersa.org

Have a Listen

IBM's Ginni Rometty on Reskilling Workers in the Age of AI

Artificial intelligence will change all of our jobs, according to IBM's Chief Executive. But will the technology augment workers or replace them?

We try to avoid too much Davos-speak, but this fast-paced interview reveals what it means to take learning and skills seriously at scale and points toward key elements of a social contract for the 21st Century.

 [wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com)

135 | The "Dashboard Conspiracy" with Lyn Bartram and Alper Sarikaya from Data Stories

Dashboards. They are everywhere. This eclectic interview might cause you to rethink your approach. What's that? You'd like to see the original paper? [Done](#). A dashboarder's paradise.

 [stitcher.com](https://www.stitcher.com)

Our collection is growing!

Episodes featuring state workforce data teams in IA, IN, KY, and RI are available now, as well as interviews with labor market expert, [Dr. Greg Weeks](#), and [Jobs for the Future](#) Innovator-in Residence, [Josh Copus](#).

If you have not subscribed already, pull out your mobile device and do it now!

[iTunes](#) * [Stitcher](#) * [GooglePlay](#)

Search for **Making Better Work** (or for **SPRA** on Google Play, a quirk of the platform).

We hope these new channels will bring work happening in server rooms or on GitHub into the public domain so that kindred spirits in different parts of the growing public data ecosystem can find each other! It's a big job but somebody's got to do it. Why not us?

Information Wants to Be Shared

This is the third (and still beta) version of our WDQI newsletter.

As ever, we'd love your help in making it great (and your generosity of spirit when we don't quite get there). Our interviews and conversations with you over the past few months, together with our observations and encounters with the field, have led us to the following theses which will guide our editorial choices this year.

- **Impact** (Products, legislation, key policy decisions and more – what difference is WDQI making in your state, community?)
- **Governance** (In the words of one of our subject matter experts, "It's everything.")
- **Ecosystem** (How do we better align public data efforts and work with nonprofit, foundation, university, and other partners more effectively to address critical workforce and education issues? How do we do this consistently, ethically, and responsibly?)
- **A few of the issue issues referenced above:**
 - Federal legislative mandates (WIOA – and evaluation, HEA, Perkins, etc.)
 - Non-degree credentials – such as certificates and industry-recognized credentials (increasingly called "[credentials of value](#)" and the main focus of our May newsletter)
 - Future of Work – using data to help policy makers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it

We've already amended this list based on your feedback, so keep it coming.

You know where to find us, but just in case you've received this from a friend or colleague, we've provided our contact information below.

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Know someone who needs this newsletter? Forward it or send them here.