



August 5, 2019

Dog Days

This month, we're cheering for [Sirius](#) (minus the occasional accompanying turbulence). We wish you a long, hot, slow day (or two) next to a swimming hole or the coastline of your choice, with sweet-tea and a page-turner. (We've got your back on that last one.)

#ICYMI

1. [Round VII WDQI Award Winners](#) have been announced!

Congrats to:

- [Maine](#), [Michigan](#), and [New Jersey](#), all active participants in the WDQI community for the duration – grant or no grant!
- [California](#), [Colorado](#), and [Wisconsin](#) – all first-time WDQI grantees with high-level leadership behind them!
- [Illinois](#) and [North Carolina](#), both prior award winners, innovators, and providers of these timely and important reports!
- Idaho, which [pioneered the use of DMV data](#) to help link individual records across education and workforce programs; and
- Texas, an early leader in LDS, which joins Rhode Island and Mississippi as "supergrantees" with a vision for modernizing its [CREWS](#) system and integrating performance and tracking systems to generate real insight and intelligence.

2. [SLDS Request for Applications](#) (RFA) is live!

That's right! Our sister US Department of Education longitudinal data program is accepting applications now! A webinar with more information will occur in August. Additional program details will be posted on the [SLDS website](#). Priorities include:

- Infrastructure (because it's been nearly two decades since we started building these systems). The RFA is clear about supporting infrastructure improvements not supplanting existing investment in them.
- Education choice for students and families.
- Equity – both revealing and addressing equity gaps.

An additional award of \$250K is available for states interested in testing a new school-level poverty measure.

This is a rare opportunity to build bridges across education and workforce data systems and collaborate on data applications and business intelligence/analytics. Find out whether your state is applying ASAP and offer to help. There has never been more interest from education in topical areas like apprenticeships, employment outcomes (including wage gains and advancement), and research and analysis to inform policy.

This is your moment! *Carpe datum*.

3. Reporting from [STATS DC](#)

So many takeaways...we'll be sure to share them over the coming months. Let's start with these:

- Kentucky has launched its brand new [Post-Secondary Feedback Report](#)! Thanks a million to the [Kentucky Team](#), especially Scott Secamiglio, Kris Stevens, and Jessica Cunningham for making sure everyone at the conference knew about it! And check out this [Sankey](#) (second tab)! The audience loved it (even before we cheered out-loud).
- Colorado is building a [Data Trust](#) and an innovative new decision-support tool for youth and adults with the help of state education leaders, philanthropists, and our very own subject matter expert [Matt Gee](#) (BrightHive). You'll be meeting him in a coming webinar very soon.
- CTE, apprenticeship, credentials, and employment outcome measures commanded considerable airtime, including during US Department of Education Secretary [Scott Stump's](#) opening keynote. Again, we refer you to the SLDS RFA.

Here's the [full agenda](#).

We took an extra weekend this month to pull content together, owing to travel ✈️, illness 🤒, and Swiss National Day 🇨🇭. You might also notice that we've curated more *collections* of resources this month and fewer individual items. Let us know what you like (and what you don't). If you do find yourself enjoying an August dog day, send us a selfie or post with #WDQI #DogDays and we'll share.

Yours in data,

Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff) &
Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver)

Have a Look



The Best Hans Rosling Talks You've Ever Seen

Hans Rosling would have celebrated his 71st birthday last week. We're honoring him by sharing his most memorable contributions to data science. Watch numbers come alive. Feel your mental model shift. Relish the good news and double-down on the bad. This kind of clarity and engagement is what we're aiming for through WDQI. You are welcome.

TED ted.com



One Region. Many Economies. Special Report on Workforce Development

The Atlanta Fed's newly released special report about why workforce development concerns the Fed and how it matters to everyone. This particular report is aimed at the southeast US. Similar work is ongoing in other regions. More [here](#).

 frbatlanta.org



What Does Effective Use of Data in Education Really Look Like?

An in-depth interview with Data Quality Campaign President and CEO Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger about data-driven decision making. Her insights are topically relevant to our LDS work and offer some nice examples of how to communicate the importance of data.

 edtechdigest.com



The Way We Were: US Manufacturing 1940–2016

This report (and [micro-site](#)) makes creative use of brief narratives and #dataviz to display large-scale changes in the nature and location of the US manufacturing industry over seven decades. Summaries of changes in key states are included in the [full report](#).

 cew.georgetown.edu

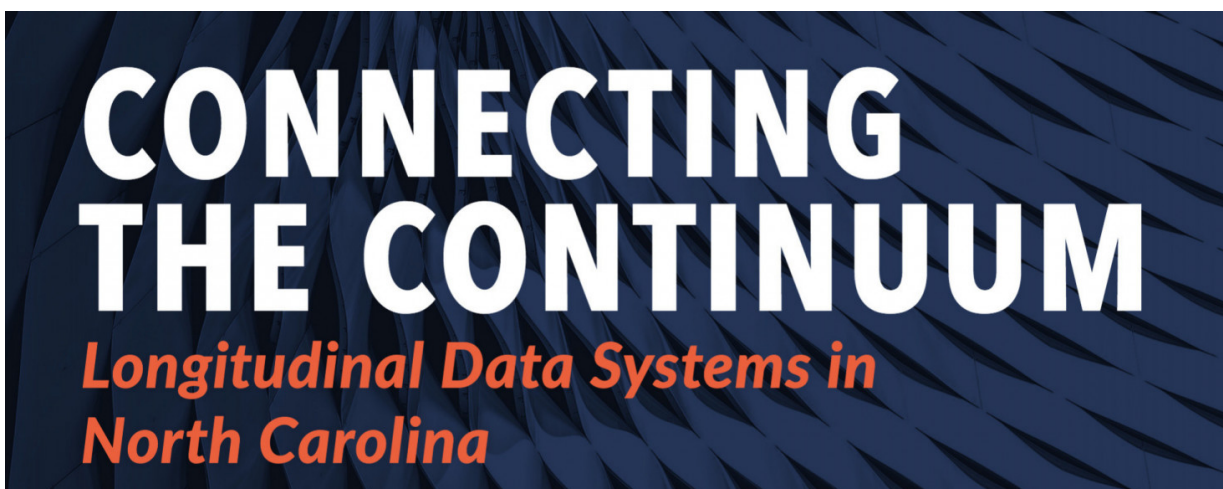


Books About Bots: Your Summer #FOW Reading List

So many books about AI, Automation, robots, and all things tech! (We're midway through [The Technology Trap](#), right now...). Here's a curated list focused on jobs and the role of higher education, courtesy of our friends at [Inside Higher Ed](#) (hat-tip [@joshmkim](#)!).

 insidehighered.com

Have a Longitudinal Study



The Opportunity LDS Presents and How to Make the Most of It

Written for North Carolina policy makers (and citing the experiences of Kentucky and Washington State in case studies), this report explores the history, purpose and future of statewide longitudinal data systems. Thank you [Hunt Institute](#) and [Gates Foundation](#), and authors [Javaid Siddiqi](#), [Patrick Sims](#), and [Allison Goff](#). This is a gift to all states pursuing LDS and the advocates, researchers, policy makers, funders, and data-loving stakeholders who support them.

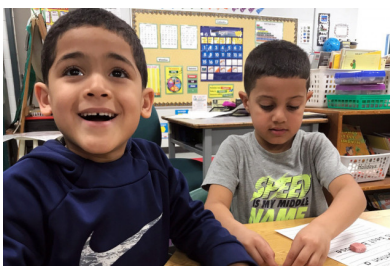
 hunt-institute.org



Quality Learning Environments Can Change the Odds for Kids – From Toddlers to Teens

We're not summarizing this one because it's a master class on the importance of longitudinal data. Read and keep it handy for the next time you are asked what we can learn from longitudinal data. And do mention the Nobel-Prize winning researcher!

 youthtoday.org



Does kindergarten behavior predict adult earning power?

According the Quebec Longitudinal Study of Kindergarten Children, yes. Using longitudinal data from 2,850 children, researchers draw a direct link between behaviors like attentiveness, aggression and friendliness in school, and and their income as adults ages 33-35.

 hechingerreport.org



Fordham Institute Report Highlights Value of CTE

The 2016 study employs longitudinal data to examine the relationship between Career and Technical Education (CTE) and student outcomes – a topic of increasing relevance to workforce and education stakeholders in states where CTE, apprenticeship, and work-based learning (WBL) is a policy priority.

 ctepolicywatch.acteon...

Have (a) Trust



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Improving Pathways to Opportunity with a Statewide Data Trust in Colorado

The State of Colorado, in partnership with BrightHive, is building a next-generation platform for career navigation and guidance in Colorado on a **multi-agency data trust**. We're as excited about the service as about the partnership model that enables it. This case study provides more information about Colorado's approach to data and evidence based policy making.



Connecticut Data Collaborative

One state's approach to empowering data users and improving decision-making, the Connecticut Data Collaborative offers access to data and training and technical assistance, and manages its own data projects, including working with Connecticut's Chief Data Officer to engage stakeholders in the development of



the State Data Plan. Here's the [July Newsletter](#) where you can learn more.



Have a Tool(kit)



The California Health and Human Services Agency's Guide to Using Data

Sometimes it's useful to see how a government agency in a different domain approaches a common problem – managing data, for instance. This guide (on GitHub!) offers process tools, success stories ([video](#)), and a [resource library](#) intended for peer agency staff. Users can dive deep into this rich collection of links and resources for the hows and whys of sharing data and methodologies for working, coding, and conducting research.



Checklists and Templates for Engaging with Stakeholders

The [Future of Privacy Forum](#) helps integrated data systems (IDS) builders and leaders engage stakeholders and increase communities' trust in the value of data. This new toolkit provides guides and templates for planning and mapping projects, hosting meetings and convenings, and talking about data and data systems. Go ahead and thank them [@FutureofPrivacy](#).



Have a Listen



Making The Case For 'Workforce Development'

Kansas City PBS explores the term workforce development and what it means to the future health and prosperity of the region. Our own WDQI subject matter expert, [Dr. Josh Hawley](#) (*The Ohio State University*) is the star of the show. The video is part of a series supported in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [American Graduate: Getting to Work initiative](#), which is a partner in the [Building a Grad Nation](#) partnership.

 flatlandkc.org

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Again, we hope these new communication channels will bring work happening behind the scenes 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 the WDQI community?



Information Wants to Be Shared

This is the seventh edition of *Making Better Work*, the perpetual beta newsletter of the longitudinal workforce data community.

We'd love your continued 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 themes 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?)

- **Themes that run through WDQI events and activities:**

- 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 policymakers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it

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

Just in case you've received this from a friend or colleague and don't know how to find us, we've provided our contact information below.

Kristin Wolff (Editor-in-Chief): Kristin_Wolff@spra.com

Maureen Sarver (Chief WDQI TA Architect): Maureen_Sarver@spra.com

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