



Feb 7, 2020

Fast Forward to February

It's official, at least according to the world's [most famous rodent](#), there is no shadow – Spring is just around the corner. Bring on the [bubble-gum](#)! We've got some exciting things to share this month including more global content than usual because of the [World Economic Forum's](#) (WEF) launch of the [Reskilling Revolution](#) initiative in January. We include these WEF resources because they offer good context for data work within and across states, provide examples of messaging and framing similar to what many of you are working toward, and feature methods and types of analyses that might be scaled to your states or regions. We hope you ♥ these and all the other resources as much as we do, beyond February 14th all the way through the [leaping](#) 29th.

Coming WDQI Attractions & Updates

- **WDQI Community Chat:** Save the date! Caught off guard because we didn't say webinar? This gathering is the first of what we've been referring to as 'informal convenings.' We've heard from you about the topics you'd most like to discuss with peers and plan to host conversations around them every other month. The first topic? **Data Matching**. Clear your calendar for Monday, February 24, 2020, 2:00 pm ET, and watch your email for details.
- **Annual Check-ins & Onboarding Calls:** We have almost completed calls with each state team. We can't wait to share what we're learning. Several of you indicated you were bringing on new team members. Please let us know as they join you so we can add them to the distribution list. Also, be sure to share **Making Better Work** with data champions in your state who may not be receiving it.
- **Missed [National Skills Coalition's #SkillsSummit2020](#)?** Luckily, they are good sharers. You can see a lot [on Twitter](#) and by signing up for their [newsletter](#). It looks like many of you already know this because you joined [SkillsSpan](#) – now 20 states, 11 of which are also current WDQI grantees!
- **#MakingBetterWork Podcasts:** New ones! (This means you, [Joshua Mallett](#)) Right [here](#).

Radar

Let us know whether you will be attending any of the convenings that follow (or any others not yet on our radar)! Our monthly poll indicates that C2ER and STATS-DC are the top contenders for mini WDQI convenings since quite a few of you plan to attend. Stay tuned.

- **National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)** [Winter Forum](#), February 12, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)** [Annual Forum](#), March 21-24, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)** and the Labor Market Information ([LMI](#)) Institute Annual Conference and Forum, [June 3-5, 2020](#) (Columbus, OH)
- **Association of Public Data Users (APDU)** [Annual Conference](#), July 9-10, 2020 (Arlington, VA)
- **National Center for Educational Statistics** [STATS-DC](#) Conference (Washington, DC, dates TBD)
- **Community Indicators Consortium** Conference, August 6-7, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **National Center for Workforce Education** (NCWE) Annual Conference (October 7-8, 2020 (Baltimore, MD)
- **State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)** [Higher Education Policy Conference](#), August 5-9, 2020, Boston, MA
- **Data for Good** [Exchange](#) (New York, NY, dates TBD)

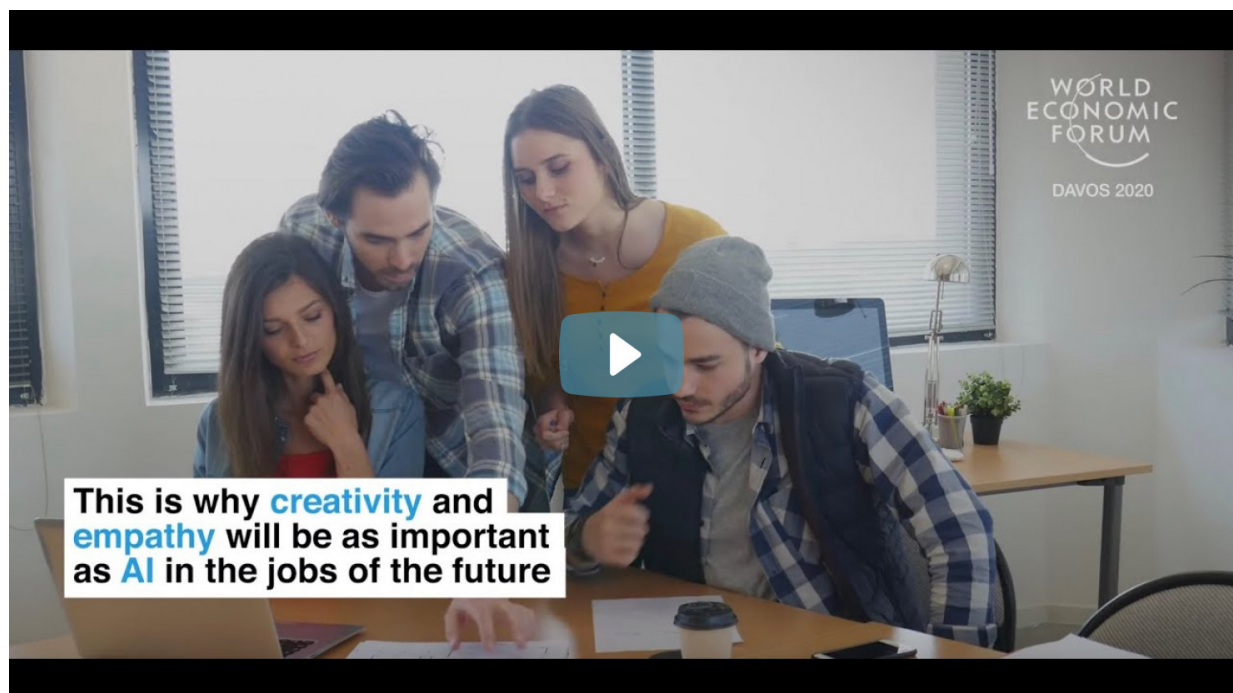
New Feature

As we shared with you during our recent webinar, we've added a new section of the newsletter called **Help A Colleague**. Scroll down and give it a go!

Yours in data and all things chocolate 🍫,

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

Have a Look



The Future is Human (!)

All of you data scientists and programmers looking wearily at your bots can breathe a sigh of relief. Turns out all those collaboration skills you've been practicing all this time are the ones that matter most. This is why.

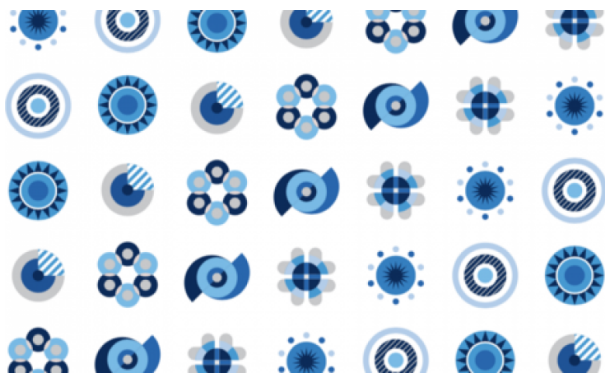
 youtube.com



The Reskilling Revolution: Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Education by 2030

At its annual January convening, the World Economic Forum launched [Reskilling Revolution](#) to provide one billion people with better education, skills, and jobs by 2030. The initiative includes programs, a new platform, and a commitments to upskilling by partner firms, including American companies represented on workforce boards, and councils and Future of Work commissions.

 weforum.org



Jobs of Tomorrow: Mapping Opportunity

This new report provides insights into emerging opportunities for employment in seven occupational clusters (96 jobs) and skill sets needed to leverage them. The analysis is the result of collaboration between WEF's New Metrics CoLab and data scientists at Burning Glass Technologies, Coursera and LinkedIn. Effective #DataViz makes information easy to digest.

 weforum.org

Have A Think



Sharing Data for Social Impact: Guidebook to Establishing Responsible Governance Practices

Here it is! Hot off the presses. The data sharing Guidebook penned by [Brighthive](#) co-founder and WDQI subject matter expert [Natalie Evans Harris](#) for the [Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation](#). It lays out a robust three-part framework for data governance and data sharing and includes resources, case studies, and best practices. Share with your data-minded friends, collaborators, and co-conspirators.

 [beeckcenter.georgetow...](https://beeckcenter.georgetown.edu)

Measuring College Performance

State higher education policymakers are a diverse group with a wide range of needs. Students also need data to help them make decisions about post-secondary education and training options. Urban Institute identifies key lessons about aligning data, stakeholders, and goals in this analysis of Virginia and Connecticut's approaches.

 urban.org

Realism about Reskilling

This November 2019 Brookings report reviews how to upgrade the career prospects of America's low-wage workers. It contains an excellent overview of the problem, brief descriptions of policy choices (with references for going deeper), and compelling #DataViz (yes, a Sankey – you knew that was coming 🙄). You'll want to spend some time with this one.

 brookings.edu

Have a Resource

NJ Labor Department and Partners Launch App-Building Project to Help Career Seekers Find Training

Speaking of colleagues, this Medium post was authored by our own [Lesley Hirsch](#) — Assistant Commissioner, Research and Information, New Jersey Department of Labor, and lead on the WDQI project in her state. The project, part of the [Data for the American Dream](#) (D4AD) initiative is supported by [Schmidt Futures](#) and the [Lumina Foundation](#). [Michigan](#) and [Colorado](#) (both Round VII WDQI grantees) are also partners in the D4AD initiative.

 medium.com

Professional Development in Applied Data Analytics

Professional Development: Ethics and Equity in AI

The Coleridge Initiative's Applied Data Analytics program is designed for government agency staff and provides training in core data analytics techniques through hands-on projects using real-world micro-data. The next one launches this spring and meets in Columbus, OH (March). [Apply now.](#)

 coleridgeinitiative.org

Mathematica has teamed up with and [Howard University](#) for the Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS). The program trains social and data scientists in using real-world data to address ethics and equity in artificial intelligence. It will convene June 14-17, 2020 (Washington, DC).

 mathematica.org

The Rockefeller Foundation Launches Data.org

Data.org is a platform for building the field of data science for social impact. It will focus on building capacity, providing training resources and sharing publicly available data with the aim of solving society's biggest challenges. \$10M Impact Challenge launches March 2020. [Video](#) and [newsletter](#) provide more information.

 rockefellerfounda...

Data Driven Partnerships

Published in 2019, the article explores emerging trends and summarizes research about data partnerships — their structures, functions, and areas of focus —and the language we use to describe them. More academic than most resources we share, this piece provides a meta-analysis and literature review that may be useful as your own governance structures grow and evolve.

 sciencedirect.com

Reminder: Becoming Data Driven is a Means not an End

"There's a risk in seeing data as an end goal; having data for the sake of it does not always lead to better decision making," says Lucy Hart. We know you know this, but sometimes a quick, common-sense reminder is a good thing.

 notbinary.co.uk

Help a Colleague!

During our recent annual and onboarding calls, a couple of you asked how we might use the newsletter to share grantee questions or challenges and invite community feedback. We liked this idea! Let's try it out. This month's challenge is:

You are in the data-matching business. [Name](#) a thorny problem you've encountered and your most ingenious solution.

Or respond via:

Twitter [#MakingBetterWork](#)
Email: Kristin_Wolff@spra.com

Have a Listen

Our Very Own #WDQI #MakingBetterWork Podcast Now Has a Full Dozen Episodes!

If you haven't subscribed, pull out your mobile device and do it now!

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

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

Again, we hope these new communication channels will bring your work further into the public domain so that kindred spirits in different parts of the 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 lucky 13th edition of *#MakingBetterWork*, 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 two months, together with our observations and encounters with the field, will guide our editorial choices in 2020. So far, the 2019 list below is holding pretty well. But we're open, so let us know.

- **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

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