



February 12, 2021

Happy New Year! And 身体健康 (shēntǐ jiànkāng) which my native-tongued niece assures me translates as "[enjoy good health](#)"—a greeting suited to the times and to the symbol of work and progress that is the [Ox](#).

Speaking of Progress

We just spoke with Round 6 WDQI states who are all completing their key deliverables. Next month we'll be sharing samples of their remarkable work—some of it planned and some COVID-inspired. We hope it provokes collaborative work sessions in every state in preparation for the coming **WDQI Round 8 grant application process**. No release date yet, but you'll be the first to know. The importance of these data systems in guiding COVID recovery efforts goes without saying (almost).

Goings-On in Workforce & Data

Happenings

- **Data on Purpose, Feb 17-18, 2021**, hosted by Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR). Register [here](#).
- **Data for Public Good Symposium**, Feb 25-26, 2021, hosted by University of Michigan's Institute for Data Science. Register [here](#).
- **Data for Evidence-Based Policy Collaboration Workshop**, Mar 2-5, 2021: Cosponsored by the [Coleridge Initiative](#), the [Ohio State University](#), and [NASWA](#), the event will host state, federal, and philanthropic data leaders sharing strategies for advancing solutions to the COVID19 jobs crisis and beyond. Register [here](#).
- **Good Tech Fest**, May 18-19, 2021. Apply to present [here](#). Register [here](#).
- **Data for Policy**, Sept 14-16, 2021, hosted by University College London (remote conferencing has its benefits!). Register [here](#).

Hirings

- **Mercy Corps' Responsible Data Program** is looking for a Data Protection Specialist. (I can vouch for Mercy Corps personally since they also call Portland (OR) home.) More [here](#).

- **Heartland Alliance** is recruiting a Senior Project Manager of Data Strategy based in Chicago (IL). More [here](#).
- **State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)** seeks a Senior Policy Analyst (with key data responsibilities) based in Washington, DC. More [here](#).
- The **Michigan WDQI** team seeks to recruit an Associate Director of Research and Analytics to the team. Surely you know someone amazing who could apply—share [this link](#)!

Well wishes & Congrats!

- Our own Brighthive Co-Founder, Beeck Center Fellow, and subject matter expert **Natalie Evans Harris** has been appointed as [Senior Advisor to US Department of Commerce Secretary](#) and former Governor of Rhode Island, [Gina Raimondo](#)—a key advocate of the data innovations [Amelia Roberts and her team](#) have shared with the WDQI community.
- **Caitlin Grey**, SPR colleague and fellow data geek who has so ably supported the work of the WDQI community and our team, has accepted a new position with a Bay Area nonprofit organization in which she will be building data, research, and evaluation capacity from scratch! We will miss her! And we know we're all on the same data teams even when we shift positions. 🐼

#ICYMI

- A new [Researchers Exploring Avenues for Data Sharing discussion group](#) intended to support collaboration between researchers and state data system owners launches later this month. If you'd like to join, email the [CEDS team](#) "Please include me."
- **University of Washington's Data Science for Social Good Summer Program** is accepting Proposals through Feb 22, 2021. More [here](#).
- Miss the [National Skills Coalitions Skills Summit](#)? Us too. But they have a fancy new website, new reports, and the best summaries of pending legislation around. Make sure you're signed up for the newsletter so we can meet at the *next* Skills Summit!
- The **Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's** own [#COVID19 response resources and FAQs](#) is available and continually updated just for you.

Last But Not Least

You need this. Wait until this afternoon, get yourself some tea, and [blopera](#). You can even send your creation to your valentine. (You are welcome 🐼 .)

We've got a short and wide-ranging collection this month. Enjoy. And take care of each other out there.



Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver) & the **SPR/BrightHive Support Team**

One Thing

State Roadmap for WORKFORCE RECOVERY

JANUARY 2021

A Framework for Organizing Workforce Response & Recovery

A follow-up to [Creating an Agenda for Workforce Recovery](#) (Fall 2020), the Roadmap aims to help states accomplish four critical objectives necessary for a stronger and more equitable post-pandemic future: expand access to essential support services; rapidly connect jobseekers to work; advance digital access and skill development; and enhance job quality for all. Data is one of eight elements comprising the foundation for action.



Two More Things



Workforce Training Plays a Critical Role in Labor Market Recovery

Researchers examine the impacts of the pandemic recession across different dimensions, including employment, labor force participation, and the need for workers to pivot to new industries.



How Finding a Job Will Be Different in 2021

2021 may bring some normalcy back to the workplace, but some changes are going to stick. Here's what you need to know (and track?) to help workers and firms thrive.



Resources for the New Now



The Pandemic is Replacing People with Tech — Threatening the Jobs Rebound

You knew the automation narrative would return: 43% percent of businesses anticipate reducing the size of their workforce by integrating new technology.

 politico.com



COVID-19 has Made Reskilling Workers More Urgent

Randstad's VP of global learning and development says rapid pandemic-driven workplace changes are leaving many behind, and offers four ways to reskill and upskill employees.

FC fastcompany.com



How is the Middle Class Really Doing?

Use this interactive to find out for yourself. Access data across five domains: money, time, relationships, health, and respect. #DataViz

B brookings.edu

Have a Look: ND & Estonia(!)

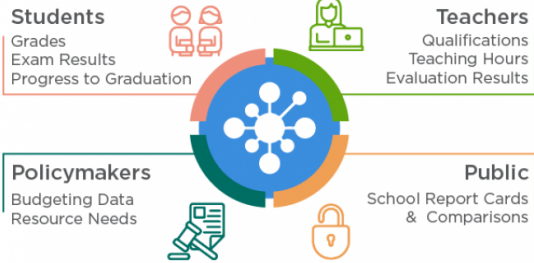


North Dakota's Integrated Data System: NDInsights

North Dakota! We saw the Sankey chart and were smitten. See what you fancy. We'll work on recruiting the ND team into the community in the coming weeks.

 insights.nd.gov

Estonia's Education Data System | Example Info for Key Audiences



Building an Integrated Data System: Lessons from Estonia

As one of the most digitized nations in the world, Estonia's education data system provides a model that others can learn from. Have a look.

 ncee.org

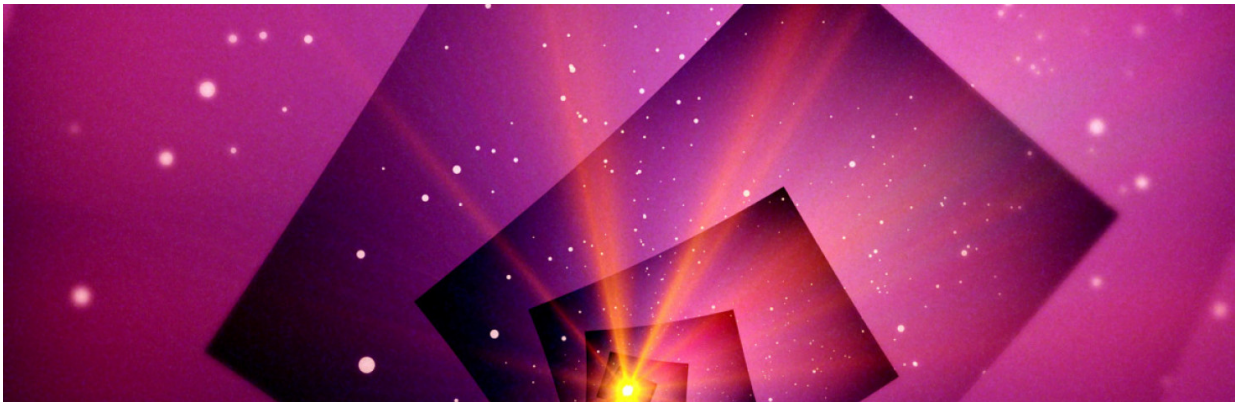


How to Design for Long Life Learning (Podcast w/ Michelle Weise)

As we end 2020, a lot of people are out of work. And even those who aren't, are looking at unprecedented uncertainty. It's likely that COVID-19 will accelerate preexisting future-of-work trends. Michelle Weise has ideas for how education and workforce systems could respond. Data is at the center.

 edsurge.com

Have a Think



Humanity is Stuck in Short-term thinking. Here’s How We Escape.

As stewards of *longitudinal* data systems, we thought you'd like this think-piece.

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



Entry-Level Work as a Stepping Stone, Not an End Point

How can young workers parlay their first job into better-paying jobs? Data says...

 [burning-glass.com](https://www.burning-glass.com)



Up to 30 Million in U.S. Have the Skills to Earn 70% More, Researchers Say

The findings point to the potential of upward mobility for people without a college degree.

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

For Moms & Those Who Love Them



The Primal Scream Line

Are you a parent on the edge? Call the number to scream after the beep. Then proceed.

 nytimes.com

We need a Marshall Plan for Moms—now.

#MarshallPlanforMoms

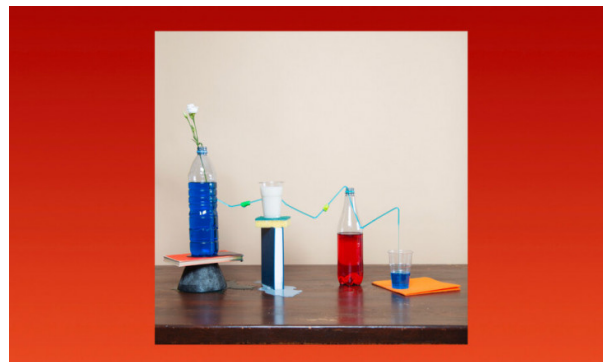
girlboss
code

www.marshallplanformoms.com

Marshall Plan for Moms

Other countries have social safety nets. America has moms (and women). Another 275,000 of them left the labor force in January.

 marshallplanformo...



Working Moms Are Struggling. Here's What Would Help.

What government, employers and the rest of us can do.

 nytimes.com

The #MBW Podcast

Our Very Own #WDQI

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

Again, we hope these 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 23rd 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). Here's our focus (always subject to change) going forward:

- **COVID-19** (until future notice)
- **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.)
 - Trends in training: non-degree credentials, work-based learning, apprenticeship, technology and distance learning, dual-systems, stackable credentials, etc.)
 - Future of Work – using data to help policymakers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it
 - #DataViz – so more people can understand, interact with, and use the data and tools we're all creating.

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.

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