

MAKING BETTER WORK



July 5, 2019

Happy Birthday (United States of) America!

Yes, we celebrate the day we declared our independence and [pledged our lives and fortunes to each other](#) on July 4th, but a 243rd birthday justifies more than a day's celebration, don't you think? And for the sticklers for holiday precision among you, *today* is [Fishermen's Day](#) for our [Marshallese](#) friends. We wish them calm seas and a weighty catch.

Conferences, Events & Grant Opportunities

- Just a quick reminder that the **STATS-DC Data Conference** will convene July 24-26, 2019, in Washington, DC. This year's theme is [Providing Evidence to Drive Education](#). There is no cost to register, but do it now! *Today* is the online registration deadline. Contact [Patrick Keaton](#) with questions.
- The FY **2019 SLDS request for grant applications** is out! The full application package is [here](#). The SLDS team will hold webinars in July and August to answer questions about the grant competition. If you can't wait until then, please reach out to any member of the SLDS program team: [Nancy Sharkey](#), [Charles McGrew](#), or [Kristen King](#).
- **Lumina Foundation's State Quality Assurance Grant Fund** (RFP) seeks projects and partners working on quality in the higher education space and is accepting applications July 15 – September 25, 2019, for design-phase projects (\$50-\$100K) and project implementation (\$100-\$200K).
- **Webinar: [Maximizing WIOA and non-WIOA Performance Data](#)**, Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Hosted by ETA (DOL), OCTAE (ED), and Maher, and featuring [Cynthia Forland](#), longtime workforce data expert and former WA WDQI lead. Participating states: Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Virginia.
- **Live and streamed event: [Progress Together: Becoming Data Driven](#)**, Thursday, July 11, 2019. Mathematica is hosting the event, which will feature federal and state leaders and foundations in conversation about putting data to use and building evidence-based practice.
- **Our own WDQI Webinar, Thursday, August 1, 2019**. We will finish up the remaining state presentations and host [Dr. Josh Hawley](#), WDQI alum, subject matter expert, and Ohio State University and Coleridge Applied Data Analytics faculty, researcher (whose current portfolio features apprenticeship), and all-around smart person who has improved the lives of workers from central Ohio to Uganda. (Contact [Maureen Sarver](#) with questions.)

Whew!

News

Are you receiving the SLDS Update newsletter? It last arrived on June 27 and was filled with topical and timely resources including:

- A data use [case study](#) on [Kentucky's Future Skills Report](#) (Yay [Jessica Cunningham](#)!);
- An [SLDS Issue Brief](#) on how education agencies can address employment outcomes; and
- Two data governance templates—one for [single agencies](#), and one to support [interagency partnerships](#).

Thanks to the SLDS Team for giving our own #MakingBetterWork a mention as well.

(If you are not receiving it and would like to, Contact [Amanda Musick](#) with a request to subscribe.)

A New Addition to #MakingBetterWork

We just assembled a package of materials for our friends at the US Department Labor, which gave us a good opportunity to peruse the tools, products, and reports WDQI teams are creating. We have highlighted these resources regularly in the shownotes of the [Making Better Work podcast](#). We will begin to feature them in the newsletter too, in our new *Have a Lesson* column. Since we've already cited an accompanying case study and a produced a related [podcast interview](#) recorded this spring, Kentucky, you are up first!

Finally, we hope you enjoy this month's collection—and little downtime over the weekend to take it in.

As ever, yours in data.

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

Have a Look



Learning to Love Learning: A Future of Work Documentary

"Was bleibt uns ohne Arbeit?" ("What remains without work?" And don't be intimidated by the German, the video itself is in English.) *Learn to Love Learning*, the most recent short-film in the **New Work** series, provides a glimpse into three learning environments (for youth and adults) that break the mold. [Brightworks](#) (San Francisco) [Kaospilot](#) (Aarhus), and [Hellerup Skole](#) (Copenhagen) prepare kids and professionals alike for a lifetime of job and career reinvention. [Here](#) we share the series, which includes a feature on the remaking of the local economy in [Detroit](#), for its focus on solutions to future-of-work challenges, the interesting data challenges posed, and the visual and narrative clarity with which the topics are framed (a virtue of films designed for translation). Go and get your popcorn.

futureofworkdocumenta...



The Future Of Work

Yes, it's another future-of-work report—[Forrester's](#) this time. It's short (and accompanied by a brief video if that suits your fancy). We'd like to draw your attention to part three—a nice analytical framework in a single page. We use these kinds of tools to help focus discussion and identify data needs. We hope you find them handy, too.

F go.forrester.com



Darrell M. West on The Future of Work: Robots, AI, and Automation

As future-of-work books go, [Darrell West's](#) covers a lot of ground. [Here's Darrell](#) in conversation with [Susan Moffitt](#) at Brown University's Taubman Center on April 10, 2019. As much as we love podcasts, it's also nice to see someone talk now and then. Student questions begin 44 minutes in.

W watson.brown.edu



Women at Work: Transitions in the age of automation

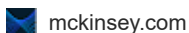
The age of automation and (on the near horizon) artificial intelligence (AI) technologies offer new job opportunities and avenues for economic advancement, but women face new challenges overlaid on long-established ones. What do your emerging LDS have to say about gender and workforce transitions?



These resources, like so many others, point to the essential role of government in helping firms, people, and communities navigate this unevenly-distributed terrain we call "the future." Stewarding data and partnering across agencies and jurisdictions are critical roles for WDQI teams. We've shared resources in these areas regularly and look forward to governance as a focus of summer podcasts and webinars.

Collaborating for the Common Good: Navigating public-private data partnerships

The critical role of data in solving complex problems is indisputable. But data is often distributed across multiple stakeholders, public and private, who lack an architecture and process for sharing it. This summary version of the [longer report](#), offers a set of recommendations about partnerships, data sharing, and governance that you will find familiar. We thought seeing your practices advocated by McKinsey for the [World Economic Forum](#) might be confidence-inspiring for you and your data partners.



How to Use Data for Good — Five priorities and a roadmap

Here is a simple, brief set of recommendations and a roadmap (along with additional resources and tools) for operating effectively in the data-for-good space. See especially #3 (go ahead, we'll wait...).

We thought you'd cheer for that one! It's come up many times in our podcasts, webinars, and conversations. It's what's driving new kinds of partnerships—like the data collaboratives we're so excited to speak with [Stefaan Verhulst](#) about this fall...



What Works in Workforce?

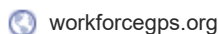
Released last month, this new White House [Council on Economic Advisors](#) report covers the history of policy and investments in job training and workforce development, and select evaluation findings. Someone may bring it to your next workforce policy meeting. We thought we'd give you a heads-up. You're welcome.

We meant the *other* SWIS—the State Wage Information System

WRIS and WRIS2 have given way to SWIS, the State Wage Information System (SWIS) agreement intended to facilitate (wage) data sharing between states. In this webcast, representatives from the US Departments of Labor and Education (Adult Education and



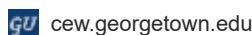
Rehabilitation Services) introduce SWIS and explain what it covers, how it works, and the potential benefits of using it. Need more? Here's [WDQC's take](#).



Credentials, skills, and the changing industry landscape. The (data) challenge continues.

Upskilling and Downsizing in American Manufacturing

Despite the manufacturing sector's shrinking percentage of employment and rising skill requirements, it is still the largest provider of good jobs that don't require a bachelor's degree in 35 states.



Wanted: Augmented Reality Journey Builder (or How AI Is Shaping Jobs of the Future)

Will [SOC](#) codes be upended? Big labor market changes are coming. Data will play a critical role in helping to track, shape, and react to those changes. This post summarizes and provides links to both [Cognizant](#) reports on future jobs and skills.



Credentials Matter: High School Attainment and Workforce Demand

No state has its industry credentials “highly aligned” with the job market and more than 20 states don’t collect critical data. You are the s/heroes solving this problem.



200+ newsletters: A crowdsourced list of must-read emails

Treasures to enhance your summer reading list courtesy of our friends at [Luminary Labs](#). They asked readers to share favorites from our collective inboxes. The result: hundreds of newsletters across a wide range of topics, all nicely organized and curated. Holy smokes and thank you luminaries [Jessica and Sara](#)!



Have a Lesson

KY and KLDS in the palm of your hand...

You know about the [KY Future Skills Report](#), and the [case study](#), and the [podcast](#) interview, but did you know that Kentucky's LDS agency, KYStats, made a video? Now you do.

 [youtube.com](#)

Have a Think

Learning in the Flow of Life

In an effort to bridge corporate speak and policy speak about training, we're sharing this nifty Deloitte report. As important as the report itself, the collection of resources a short scroll down the page will knock your socks off. Enjoy (especially those of you working on employer measures under WIOA).

 [www2.deloitte.com](#)

Have a Listen

Robot 'Duck' Keeps Weeds Out of Rice Paddies

Listening may be a little tough if you don't speak 日本語, but you'll get the picture: a Roomba-like robot that can prevent weeds from growing in between rice crops. Weed-management in rice fields is a good job for a robot.

 [engadget.com](#)

Getting To Grips With Reskilling The Workforce

Cognizant's Rob Brown (Cognizant [Center for the Future of Work](#)) and Sheila Narayanan (STEM and community outreach, North America) talk about skills, education, upskilling, and training—and the complexities of worker transitions in 2019.

 [soundcloud.com](#)

Our Very Own #WDQI #MakingBetterWork Podcast Now Has Eight Episodes!

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

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 6th 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 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.

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.

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