



May 19, 2021

Wheels & Tunes

Last Saturday, an outdoor skate party erupted in the school playground across the street from my house. (Board, roller, and inline) skaters, pushbikes, striders, hoverboards, Razors, strollers, and even canines were quick to join. When a DJ hooked up a sound system that brought the [Jackson Five](#) into the mix, neighbors poured out of their houses and flats to have a look. Cyclists pulled up too. A perfectly ordinary event made remarkable by the 15 joyless months that preceded it. The [evergreens against the bright blue sky](#), blooms and blossoms of every description, and participation of our [chatterly avian friends](#) made it almost celebratory.

Although we are not out of woods—and are only beginning to get our arms around the pandemic's [inequitable health, economic, and social effects](#)—we welcome the opportunity to [come out of our shells](#), [get off the machine](#), or [insert [favorite metaphor](#) here], and [survey the changed \(workforce\) landscape](#).

Round 8 WDQI Grant Funding Opportunity

Congrats to those who submitted applications! We look forward to a new cohort (re)joining the WDQI TA community! We hope all states—those receiving grants and those not—will join us when they can, and make use of this newsletter along with the [Making Better Work podcast](#) and the [community of practice](#) on WorkforceGPS. If there's one thing we've learned since WDQI began, it's that as a community, we are on a journey. And there are more and more important [funders](#), [stakeholders](#), and [partners](#) joining in.

Goings-On in Workforce & Data

Happenings

- **WDQI May Convening!** May 21, 2021, 3:00pm ET. We're planning a semi-structured reflection activity coupled with a demo or two.
- **Good Tech Fest, Today!** May 19, 2021. Join [here](#).
- **Data Stewards Academy Training**, Applications due May 21, 2021. Apply [here](#).
- **US Chamber's Call to Action Summit**, June 2, 2021. Register [here](#).
- **JFF's Horizons**, June 15-16, 2021. Register [here](#).
- **NAWB Forum**, June 24-25, 2021. Register [here](#).

- **Data for Policy**, Sept 14-16, 2021, hosted by University College London (remote conferencing has its benefits). Register [here](#).

Hirings

- **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (WA)** needs a Senior Program Officer for Measurement Learning & Evaluation and Postsecondary Success and a Senior Program Officer for Leadership Voice and Economic Mobility & Opportunity Communications. [More...](#) (Follow the link.)
- **Future of Privacy Forum** seeks a Policy Fellow for Youth, Education & Privacy. Application due May 30, 2021. [More...](#)
- **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** seeks a Regional Workforce Development Management Analyst. [More...](#)

#ICYMI

- **TikTok Launches a Job Service for Gen Z**, via [Axios](#). (We knew that would get your attention.)
- The **Urban Institute** is seeking proposals from policy researchers to use PK–12 or higher education datasets in the Education Data Portal to support short, relevant analyses of policy issues with the possibility of a \$1,000 honorarium. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with a final deadline of May 31, 2021. [More...](#)
- **WorkRise** seeks Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for research projects that better define a challenge facing economically vulnerable workers and/or generate new evidence about potential solutions, meaning practices, policies, or programs that could increase the economic resilience and mobility of such workers. [More...](#)
- A new **Researchers Exploring Avenues for Data Sharing** discussion group intended to support collaboration between researchers and state data system owners is launching! If you'd like to join, email the [CEDS team](#) "Please include me."

Something for Everyone

We've been aiming for brevity in recent months. This month, we're a little more expansive, so we made an extra effort to cluster content. We plan to recenter, reprioritize and recalibrate in the coming months. We're excited to do this with you.

(Continue to) take care of each other out there.

♥ + May 🍷

Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

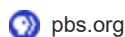
Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver) & the **SPR Support Team**

Post-Crisis Labor Markets & Work



PBS NewsHour: Jobs, Skills & the Production of 460 Million Tea Bags in CT

"I just want to be situated...and I know with this trade, I can make some type of living off of it," explains Khaila McClintock, aspiring apprentice. Manufacturing, childcare, college debt, economic mobility, demographics, the public workforce system, and data. It all comes together here. File under [#WDYDWYD](#)



The Future of Work After COVID-19

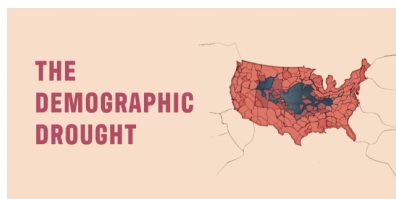
A key takeaway? *Many* more transitioning workers—25% more than prior to the COVID crisis. The full series includes charts that could be easily localized, along with video, blog posts, and stories to lend context to the strategies we're all working on now.



The Post-pandemic Economy: How We Work

Concerned foremost with the implications of lasting remote work, the full report points to the myriad of ways jobs (and workforce services) will need to be redesigned to accommodate the shift.

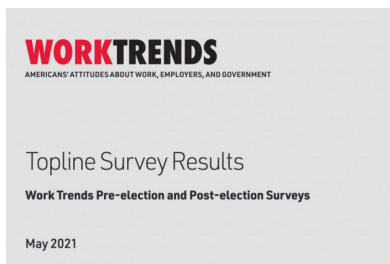




How Demographics Will Transform the Labor Market

Emsi argues we face a sansdemie—too few people and too much work. State data (and policy) will be central to improving work, building better work supports, and bridging skills and experience gaps to prevent the precarity described in the next report.

 economicmodeling.com



Heldrich Center Survey & the Bridge-building Work Ahead

The bridges of note here are not the kind we use to cross waterways, but they are arguably infrastructure. Without them, we'll struggle to solve critical economic and workforce challenges.

 heldrich.rutgers.edu

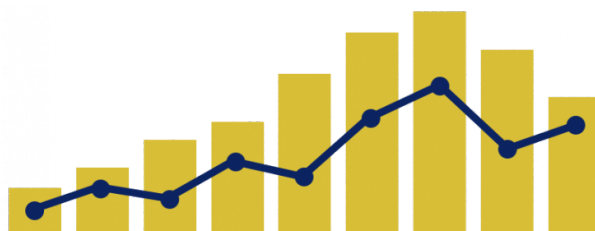


A Review of Worker Transitions

Even before the pandemic, ongoing structural changes in the US economy posed major challenges to the job stability of a large subset of workers in the country—especially those without college degrees. Let's fix this.

 pw.hks.harvard.edu

State Innovations: KY & RI!

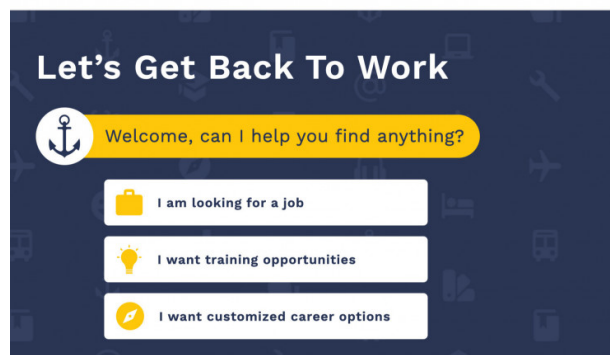


KYSTATS

Career Explorer: Kentucky's New Decision Support System for Students and Workers

Designed to allow individuals to explore their knowledge, skills, and abilities and see how they align with educational and workforce pathways (majors or certifications), key occupations and industries, and desired occupations and their salary ranges.

 kystats.ky.gov



Back to Work RI: Rhode Island's Remote Career Center

The Rhode Island WDQI team has launched a platform to connect job seekers with job coaches and workforce resources. The product of a partnership with AWS, Maven, Google, Skillful, state workforce partners including WDQI, the site learns about users from interacting with them and guides users to resources accordingly.

 backtoworkri.com

Data, Systems & Tools



Data is Infrastructure

We are singing to the choir here, but should you need to convince stakeholders in your own states or local areas, here's a resource you can use. Thank the Data Coalition and sign up for the newsletter [here](https://datacoalition.org).

 datacoalition.org



The New Tools in Data Sharing

We're including this post as a gateway to any of the previous posts in the ten-part series. They do a nice job of simplifying the complexity inherent in communicating about data sharing with clear framing.

 bcg.com

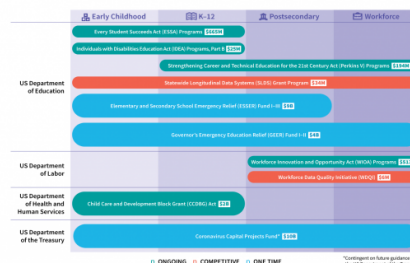


Unlock Data, Improve Public Policy

This new paper authored by RIPL's [Justine Hastings](https://ripl.org/people/justine-hastings) (et. al) includes a visual overview of the steps to secure, integrate, and conduct anonymized research with administrative data—an earlier version of which she shared during our WDQI webinar last fall.

 cacm.acm.org

State and Local Governments Can Use Federal Funding for Education Data



Federal Funding for Education and Workforce Data Systems

Federal funding streams that can be used to support state data systems or related data activities—mapped by Data Quality Campaign—because supporting shared data systems can be so hard.

 dataqualitycampaign.org

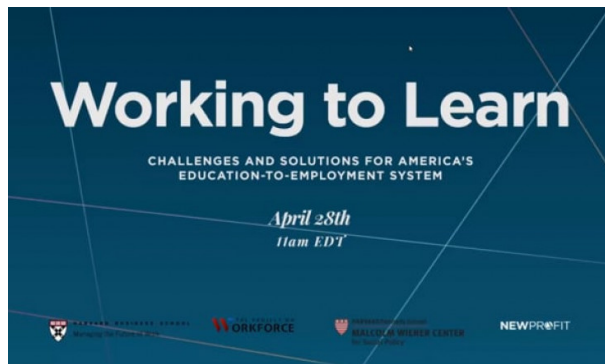


Data Responsibility Journey for Data Collaboratives

Data governance, data stewardship, rules of engagement, never mind the myriad of brass-tacks decisions about what data (records and fields) get shared (or linked or matched) for what purpose and how that occurs. We've shared a lot of frameworks over the past year. This one takes a user-journey approach structured around organizational types (e.g., public agency journey, small business journey, etc.). Ultimately, it is an assessment tool that outlines the opportunities and risks to consider at each stage of the data lifecycle when implementing a data collaborative. Courtesy of our friends at [@TheGovLab](#). Thank you [Stefaan & growing team](#).

 dataresponsibilityjou...

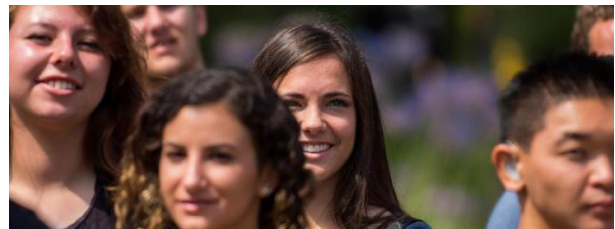
Research & Policy



Education-to-Employment in America

Two for one! This link takes you to the new report by [Harvard's Interdisciplinary Project on Workforce](#) and a complementary event on education-to-employment pathways hosted by Harvard and [New Profit](#). Fantastic insights gathered through a unique highly relevant data source.

 pw.hks.harvard.edu

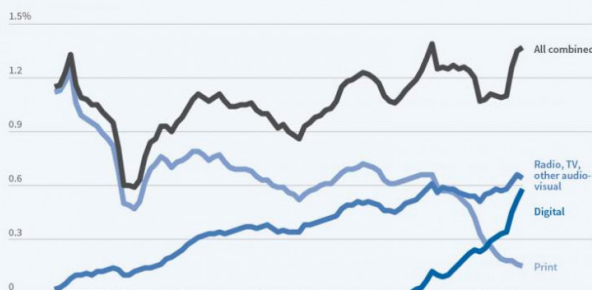


Redefining 'Value' in Higher Education

Gates Foundation and the Post-Secondary Value Commission issued a [115-page report](#) calling for a new definition of value—and for clearer ways for students to identify it. The report speaks to the challenge of measuring value more robustly than we have to date, and centering equity in the value calculus. Additional information and collateral (including recorded events) are available on the [Commission's website](#).

 insidehighered.com

Advertising as a Share of US GDP, 1929–2017



The Long-Term Effects of Universal Preschool in Boston

Founded in 1920, the NBER is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to conducting economic research and to disseminating research findings among academics, public policy makers, and business professionals.

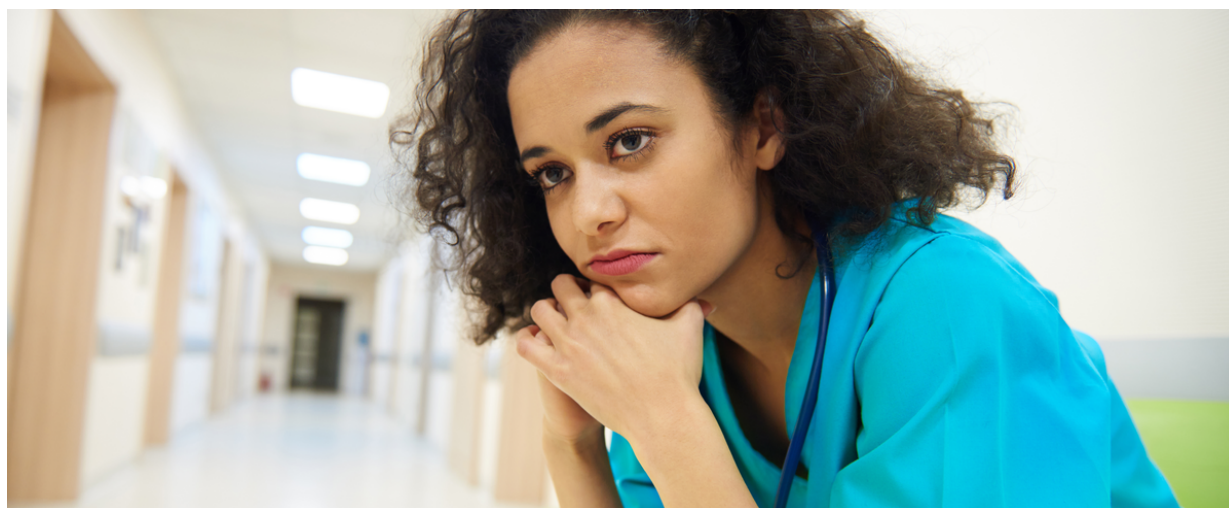
 nber.org



Repairing Labor Market Institutions to Deliver Opportunity

A Q&A with David Autor, Ford professor of economics at MIT and WorkRise board member, that spans key workforce challenges that have taken on new urgency in the wake of the pandemic—like the minimum wage, unemployment insurance, and ensuring workers gain from economic growth.

 workrisenetwork.org



Short-term Credentials: Do They Pay-off? Equitably?

Given the rapid growth in short-term programs, and policymakers' fast-growing interest to invest federal higher education dollars into very-short-term credentials, this paper explores what the research does—and does not—show us about such credentials' utility in the labor market. Applying an equity lens, the literature suggests caution, as a strong push for short-term certificates may run the risk of reifying socioeconomic stratification.

 newamerica.org

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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 25th 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 Recovery!** (Alas!)
- **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.

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.

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