



November 13, 2020

"What if today we were just grateful for everything?" Charlie Brown

Giving Thanks

Gratitude (and cranberries?) are on the menu during 2020's next socially-distant, outdoor or otherwise non-traditional holiday. Colleagues and friends in Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and the southern half of California may have the overall weather advantage, but the northerners among us will happily don sweaters and wellies so we can jump into piles of golden-red maple leaves. We hope you all find ways to connect with loved ones through masks, screens, or written word during the Thanksgiving holiday, and enjoy some welcome downtime after what has been a difficult eight months.

Goings-On in Workforce & Data

We've received positive feedback about our efforts to team up with other initiatives to host joint events in the workforce data space as time has become increasingly precious. At the same time, activities can be challenging to track since you may be receiving invitations or notifications from multiple organizations. We'll make every effort to use our **Making Better Work** newsletter to keep you informed about what's coming and provide access to materials and recordings of activities you may have missed.

So little time, so many convenings(!), including all the upcoming December association events. So we're focusing narrowly this month. Here's what's on the horizon for WDQI stakeholders specifically:

- As a part of the [2020 SLDS Best Practices Conference](#), a state panel on **Leveraging SLDS and WDQI Data to Evaluate Workforce Outcomes**, will take place on **Thursday, November 19th, 11:00am to 12:30pm Eastern**. (If you were not able to register by the deadline, contact Amanda.Musick@aemcorp.com.)

Presenters will include:

- **Connecticut:** Lily Hoffman and Katie Breslin, [Office of Policy Management](#)
- **Illinois:** Patricia Schnoor, [Office of Employment and Training](#) and George Putnam, [Department of Employment Security](#)
- **Kentucky:** Jessica Cunningham, Scott Secamiglio, Brian Mudrak and Barrett Ross, [KY STATS](#)

- **December WDQI Holiday Pair & Share Event** (Date TBD). After the last two webinars, we received a couple of requests for state-to-state conversations on specific topics. We're planning a 60-minute event comprising two 30-minute peer-to-peer conversations, likely on **data matching** and **structures and schemas**. No presentation, just sharing. [Pajamas](#) and [holiday sweaters](#) welcome. We will not judge you. BYO [hot chocolate](#).

#ICYMI

- The recording, transcript, and slidedeck from our October webinar, **Apples, Oranges & Employment Data: Toward Standardization and Better Quality**, is up on the [WDQI Community of Practice](#).
- If you missed the joint **WDQI-Office of Disability Employment Policy Series**, we've got you covered. Recordings and materials are on the LEAD Center website, [here](#) (September 24, #PIRLDeepDive) and [here](#) (September 17, #DataViz)
- Can't get your colleagues to review **responsible data use policies**? Try a [graphic novel](#). HT [@Brighthiveio](#) & [@STOYANOJ](#)
- Did we mention the [WDQI Community of Practice on WorkforceGPS](#)?
- The Employment and Training Administration's own [#COVID19 response resources and FAQs](#) is available and continually updated just for you.

There's a lot to share this month, so brevity took some effort! We hope you enjoy the collection.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, we are so grateful to be working with you on a mission to solve some of our nation's most important economic, workforce, and education challenges.

Take care of each other out there.



Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

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

Eight+ Resources for the New Now



5 Lessons from Last Decade's Employment Recovery

How do we recover? That's the question on the mind of every governor across the country. Here are five Great-Recession



5 Post-COVID Workforce Strategies

WestEd Senior Program Associate Manny Lamarre foresees resource constraints and a

lessons (one speaks directly to data) for decision makers to consider as they face the employment crisis created by Covid-19. How can WDQI data inform a way forward in your state?



need for robust strategies as states seek to boost health and economic recovery. The first two strategies he advocates are in the WDQI data wheelhouse.



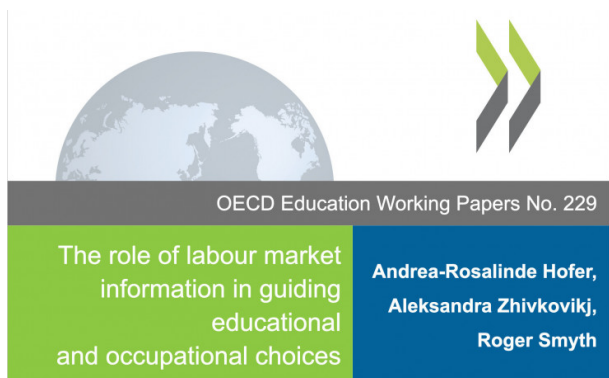
Unpacking Inequities in Unemployment Insurance

The COVID-19 crisis provided an up-close look at the nation's Unemployment Insurance system. While many state agencies adopted an all-hands-on-deck approach to meeting unprecedented need with the tools they had, shortcomings and inequities were revealed. Here's a look at some important ones.



Tracking the Mounting Challenges Among Those Who Have Lost Their Jobs

In this analysis, Aaronson and Edelberg find evidence of structural damage in the monthly employment data. Early in the pandemic, most workers who lost jobs were laid off temporarily, as businesses expected to reopen. It's different now.



The Role of Labor Market information in Guiding Educational and Occupational Choices

We can benefit from comparing approaches across countries as well as states. This paper cites US examples but focuses primarily on what data is needed, by whom, and how it is



Multi-state Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE)

The [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education](#) (WICHE) supported the first example of a multi-state workforce data collaborative we knew about—MLDE. Together with [Rutgers Education and](#)

used in choice-making by young people—who will almost certainly require new tools and high-quality interventions to help them make up for lost ground coming out of the crisis.



oecd.org

[Employment Research Center](#), WICHE has just released three topical briefs: [Building a Multi-State Governing System](#), [Diffusion of an Innovation](#), and [Building Trust for Inter-Organizational Data Sharing](#). It's a three-fer. You are welcome.



wiche.edu

Career Navigation Technology 2020 | JFFLabs

A complement to the OECD report and a treasure trove for agencies developing career navigation and decision support tools. JFF Labs has done a great service [mapping the career information and technology landscape](#), providing a [robust framework](#) for understanding the space, and offering a [list of innovators to watch](#). WDQI data could inform these or similar tools. Hats off.



jff.org

Time-Out Treasures

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

You knew this was coming. Enjoy.



vimeo.com

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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 21st 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.

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