

MAKING BETTER WORK



November 4, 2021

A New Moon & Darker Days

We hope your pumpkins remain intact and your ofrendas continue to glow as you ready your spirits for the New Moon on the 5th—coinciding with Diwali—and an extra hour of sleep on Sunday the 7th as daylight savings time comes to an end.

A huge thanks to all of you for your thoughtful engagement during our October 28 convening. We loved sharing highlights of the progress you've all made—under extraordinarily unforgiving circumstances 🤖—and hearing from you about specific governance priorities and preferred technical assistance tools, topics, and approaches. Your guidance and insights will be hugely important as we recalibrate our technical assistance plans for 2022(!).

Podcast Adventuring

Who has taken to walking vast distances during the pandemic? 🧑🏻 We'd like to recommend a podcast for you to listen to while you ramble: [Making Better Work!](#) Specifically, the last three episodes—all of which speak to issues raised during our small group convenings last week!

- [Michelle Skoor](#) (Bitwise) points to new kinds of partnerships between civic tech organizations and government.
- [Annelies Goger](#) (Brookings) provides a wealth of insight about what better data systems could look like and how to get there. ([This fantastic paper](#), to which the WDQI community contributed, provides excellent context.)
- (Our own) [Sean Simone](#) (New Jersey WDQI Team) on data collaboratives as an architecture we need if we are to respond effectively to the next crisis.

Goings-On in Workforce & Data

Our highly curated collection includes in-person, remote, and hybrid events. Be sure to also check your state and local listings! (November is chock-full of state workforce association conferences.)

- **SLDS/WDQI Annual Best Practice Conference**, November 8-10, 2021. If you missed the registration deadline, all is not lost. Contact [Maureen](#) for a secret key. The conference will convene remotely.
- **Gender & the Economy Conference**, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, November 8, 2021. [Register here](#).
- **November WDQI/SLDS joint webinar**, "The COVID-19 Education and Workforce Data Challenge," featuring CO, IL, and MI WDQI Teams. [November 16, 2021, 1:30pm ET/10:30am PT](#).
- **CAEL Annual Conference** (in person), San Diego, CA, November 16-19, 2021. [More...](#)
- **NASWA Summit**, Austin, TX, December 7-8, 2021. [More...](#)

- **WDQI December (Holiday) Gathering**, featuring JFF Labs' Josh Copus & Eshwar Eswaran who will demo the new [O4O data platform](#), December 16, 2021.
- **US Department of Commerce's Good Jobs Challenge**—\$500 million to support collaborative skills training systems and programs that advance equity. [Applications due January 26, 2022](#) (Still plenty of time to develop the data strategies these efforts will need!).
- **National Skills Coalition Skills Summit** (in person), Washington, DC, February 15-17, 2022. [More...](#)

Now Hiring!

(You too? Send us your best openings and we'll share them!)

- **Credential Engine** needs a Project Manager to support state and regional partnerships. Remote applicants welcome. [Refer someone great.](#)
- **Data & Society** still seeks a Senior Researcher in the area of technology and precarious work. [Refer someone great.](#)
- **GovLab** needs a Research Fellow for the Data Program (other positions available too). Going back to school? Know someone who is? [Send them here.](#)
- **JFF** is looking for talent across the board. [Refer great people.](#)
- **Luminary Labs** needs a Director for its Future of Work and Education portfolio (I know!). [Refer someone great.](#)
- **Mathematica** is looking for researchers in multiple domains to work in locations ranging from Princeton to Ann Arbor to Oakland to Seattle. [Refer great people.](#)
- **National Fund for Workforce Solutions** is hiring a Director of Systems Change. [Refer someone great.](#)
- **Upjohn Institute** seeks a Senior Director of Regional Economic and Community Development. [Refer someone great.](#)

#ICYMI

- **New on O*Net!** A living [Future of Work bibliography](#), [updated BLS tools and projections](#) through 2030, and [updated O*Net](#) database (including updated military information and data crosswalk tools) are all newly available to you.
- **Degree TV?** [Netflix has partnered with 2U, Inc., and a group of Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCUs\) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions \(HSIs\)](#) to offer programs that teach in-demand tech skills to eligible participants.

We opened the aperture this month. Our collection is wide-ranging and a little provocative. [Tell us what you think!](#) Again, we say congrats to all of you for surviving (and even thriving) in 2021. We are honored to support you in helping each other succeed.

Keep taking care of each other out there.

♡ + Data

Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

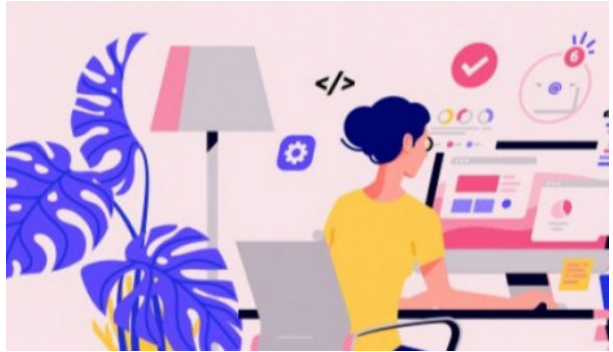
Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver) **Dallas Oberlee** & the **SPR Support Team**

Better Workforce Data & Systems



Outcomes for Opportunity

JFF's Outcomes for Opportunity (O4O) pilot aims to create easy-to-use data tools that workforce boards and training providers can use to align efforts, achieve shared goals, and communicate impact. The new platform is in the (soft) launch phase. Local regions in CA, CO, and TX are partners in the effort.



New Data on Women's Participation in the Remote Gig Economy | Oxford, UK

The Online Labor Observatory is a digital data hub for researchers, policy makers, journalists, and the public interested in the development of online labor markets. New demographic data is available with methods for estimating gender described. See also "Related Posts."



Establishing the Business Case for Data Collaboration

The Open Data Policy Lab employs the "9R Framework" a method for describing and identifying the business case for sharing data. Published at the end of October, this post provides an overview of the model. Subsequent posts will cover each of the nine elements. You

can also ask our own Bryan Huebsch (WI WDQI Team) about it since he is a member of the Data Stewards Network sponsoring the post!



medium.com



[Keeping Labor Market Data Flowing During COVID-19](#)

Curious about labor market data collection during the pandemic? This global survey highlights the impact of COVID-19 on the production of labor statistics and describes how researchers and analysts in different contexts responded to user needs for data.



ilostat.ilo.org



[The Government IT Self-Harm Playbook](#)

An oldie-but-goodie (and UK-centered but you'll hardly notice). We are including it as a response to the more long-standing challenges you described in recent weeks. It includes 26 concepts (e.g., Agile)—many speak to problems that are solved somewhere even if not everywhere. It also includes a strategy mad-lib. 🤖



medium.com

Labor Markets, (Good) Work & Equity



Does 'The Great Resignation' Miss the Point?

The phrase has come to describe record levels of job turnover. Kathryn Hymes argues this framing overlooks the bigger story: a radical rethinking of our relationship to work.



wired.com



How Much Could US States Gain by Closing Racial and Gender Labor Market Gaps?

Imagine that racial and gender gaps no longer exist in the labor market. Would economic benefits extend beyond people no longer facing disparities? The Fed crunched the numbers for 15 years of data spanning 2005-2019 to see how much gross domestic product (GDP) would have increased each year by eliminating gaps in earnings, hours worked, educational attainment, and employment. Huge gains could be made in every state. Find yours.



fedcommunities.org



Supporting Black Workers in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Informed by a 2021 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies roundtable, this issue brief identifies five principles to boost WIOA's power to advance equity in the labor market and beyond. As the brief makes clear, data is an important part of the story.



jointcenter.org



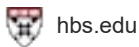
Transform Organization Design and Work Design
Transition into a more simple and agile structure, moving away from traditional multi-layered organizations

Cultivate Health and Well-being
Support employees with dedicated and targeted programmes for physical, social, financial and mental well-being



Hidden Workers, Untapped Talent

Hiring processes are designed to recruit perfect candidates, often systematically excluding whole categories of qualified workers such as caregivers, veterans, and people with disabilities. This is an equity problem. What does your data suggest about the scope and scale of this problem and how it might be addressed? What additional data could be brought to bear?

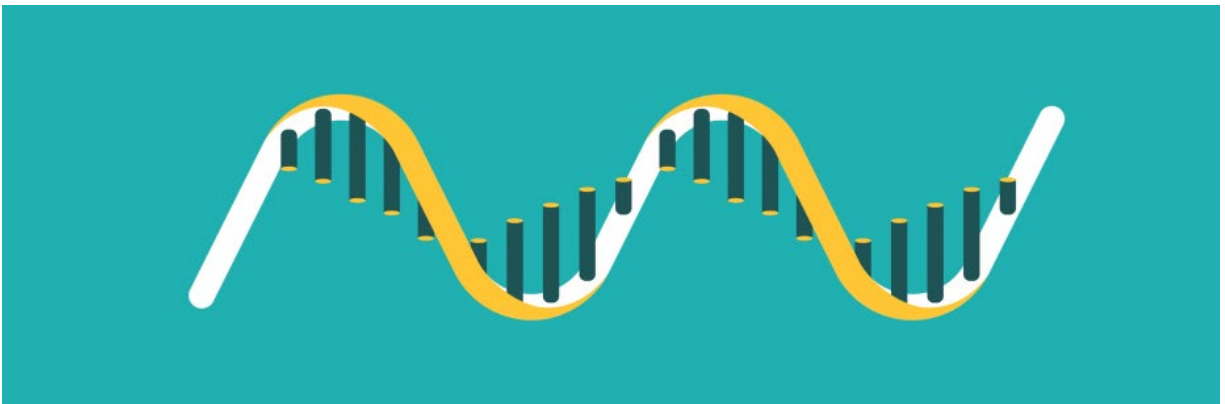


How to Make Decent Work a Reality for Everyone

In order to mark World Day for Decent Work (October 7, 2021), the World Economic Forum asked nine leaders in global organizations for their take on what is needed to make good work a reality for everyone. their responses are accompanied by a terrific list of resources on the subject.

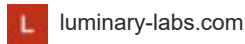


Innovation: Luminary Labs



[How Open Innovation Can Help Solve 21st-Century Public Problems | Luminary Labs](#)

Regular readers of Making Better Work will know Luminary Labs, a collaborator (with government agencies) on important problems like the [Future of Work](#). In this piece, Sara Holoubek, Dr. Megan Ranney, and Kumar Garg call for cross-sector collaboration on new, comprehensive public health solutions that work for everyone. Replace health with "workforce" and see what happens.

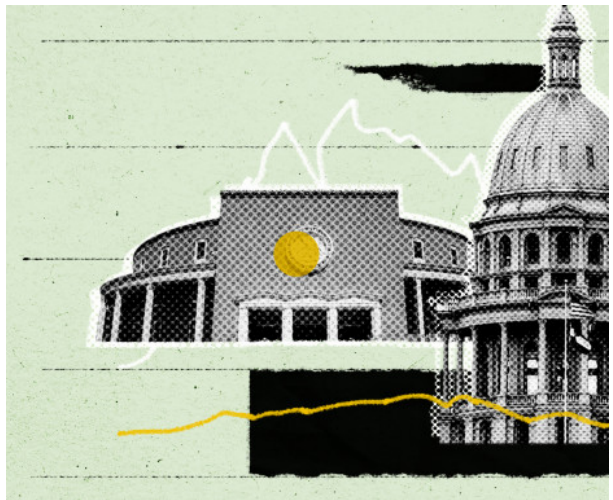


Data, Research & Policy



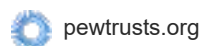
[Partnerships Help Build Capacity for Evidence-Based Approaches](#)

The Pew Charitable Trusts' evidence project and Results First initiative help state and local leaders access and use evidence in policymaking. This post describes these efforts and provides examples of research partnerships at work—including one in North Carolina—and speaks to the role philanthropy can play in supporting them.



[States Bolster Program Evaluation Work With American Rescue Plan Funds](#)

A complement to the prior post, this one summarizes the efforts of Colorado (WDQI Round 7) and New Mexico (WDQI Round 8) grantee) to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to boost their capacity for evaluation and evidence-based programming and policymaking to help their economies recover in the short term and prosper sustainably over time.





A Guide for Using Administrative Data in Program Evaluation

This hot-off-the-presses guide was developed to help researchers assess the feasibility and value of using administrative data to examine long-term program outcomes and describes steps for linking program data and research. The specific context is the Moving to Opportunity Demonstration project. The insights and strategies apply more broadly.

 mdrc.org



The Value of Qualitative Data for Advancing Equity in Policy

You collectively identified equity—in data, policy, and programs—as a priority during our recent check-in calls. Achieving it requires taking qualitative data seriously. Tiffany N. Ford and Annelies Goger explain why. This thoughtful and informative report requires sustained attention (e.g., turn off notifications before reading), but it's worth it, and offers a critical complement to our more typical (quantitative) fare.

 brookings.edu

Strategy & Evidence-Building



[NSF and Stanford Kick Off a New 'Science of Working Learners'](#)

The country doesn't know enough about which non-degree programs pay off for students and which ones don't. The market for non-degree programs has sped ahead of experts' understanding of which credentials actually help people land good, well-paying jobs. A new national research collaborative aims to catch up. Their mission? Building a 'science infrastructure for employability.' (Trust us when we say you'll want to read this.)



workshift.opencampusm...

Just for You



[The 21 Best Free Virtual Field Trips of 2021](#)

Whether it's COVID, darkness, or blustery weather that keeps you indoors in the coming weeks, here's a list of virtual tours to keep you engaged and inspired, and remind you what an incredible world we live in. No ticket purchase required.



lifewire.com

The #MBW Podcast

***Our Very Own #WDQI
#MakingBetterWork
Podcast Now Has 24
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 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 28th 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
 - Data Equity

- #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

This project has been funded, either wholly or in part, with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration under Task Order Number 1630DC-19-F-00057. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement of same by the U.S. Government. More information about [WDQI](#).

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

Created in  publicate