



September 13, 2019

Labor Day Round-Up

We took an extra week this month so we could peruse the Labor Day media and share our favorites. Here's hoping you enjoyed time out, time in or [time away](#) before the start of the new school year and the return of apple season ([#SnapDragon](#)).

In looking over our September collection, a few themes stood out:

- Credentials – moving mainstream?
- The lines between education, workforce development, and training continue to blur (see Varying Degrees').
- The Future is ... complicated.

Nowhere is the latter more evident than in the *American Factory* film and subsequent [commentary](#). Workforce is serious business. Data plays a critical role. Let us know how we can help you bring your best game.

Happy Workforce Development Month!

Yours in data,

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

Have a Look



American Factory 美国工厂 — The Film

As [Bryan Urstadt](#) observed, "*American Factory* doesn't sound like a barn burner." It's the story of a glass manufacturing plant in Dayton, Ohio that was shuttered and then relaunched by Chinese company [Fuyao](#). The story arc is familiar. Its treatment is not. The film is layered and textured. It provides a rare glimpse into the personal and business successes and struggles of American and Chinese workers as they try to bring new life into the plant and into the community. Spoiler alert: there are no neat, tidy packages here, just the real-life consequences of economic and workforce policy (public and private) in the context of changing demand.

 americanfactoryfilm.com

The Work of the Future: Shaping Technology and Institutions

The Work of the Future | MIT Task Force Report

It's another #FutureofWork report! We think you'll like this one. It starts with a wider view of work than most, emphasizes the importance of job quality (not just quantity), and speaks to the contributions public institutions can make in helping workers transition (see Chapter 6). One news outlet summarized its findings: "[R]obots aren't going to take all our jobs, but people have a right to be worried." A forthcoming final report of the Work of the Future Task Force will take a more comprehensive look. Stay tuned.

 workofthefuture.mit.edu



Learning and Leading the #FutureofWork

Couldn't make [Aspen's Roundtable](#)? We've got you covered, thanks to Rapporteur [David Gibson](#). Focused on the context and application of learning, the report reimagines institutions and workplaces with skills at the center, upending gentler approaches to lifelong learning and revealing new and exciting institutional and data challenges.

 csreports.aspeninstit...



What kind of future of work will we choose for America's working families?

Speaking of Aspen, [Vice President for Policy Programs \(and Economic Opportunities Program Executive Director\) Maureen Conway](#) authored one of our favorite Labor Day reflections here on Quartz. It emphasizes our power to choose how we respond to the Future of Work. (Be sure and enlarge those tree maps!)

QZ qz.com



Varying Degrees 2019

New America published the results of its third annual survey of Americans' attitudes about education after high school and its contribution to economic mobility. A key finding? 91% want better data and more accountability from colleges and universities. Go ahead and have a look! (And Happy 20th Birthday New America!)

 newamerica.org



Racial Differences on the Future of Work: A [Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies](#) Survey

Technological change increases opportunities for some American workers, and undermines security for others. Race is an important factor in how people experience the change. How do we use our data to advance equity and inclusion in labor market policy?

 jointcenter.org



Online Education in 2019: A Synthesis of the Data

Back in April, we shared Northeastern University's [Credentials Coming of Age](#), a project of the Center for the Future of Education and Talent Strategy. The newest report in the series is this overview of the online education market – including its size and character, the characteristics of online students, and what is known about the quality of online educational outcomes. Happy reading to those looking to expand [ETPLs](#) and report cards to include on-line providers.

 northeastern.edu

Have a Future of Work Tour



The 101 people, ideas and things changing how we work today

The world of work is in transition. Here's a tour through this changing landscape and lingo, courtesy of the [Beeb](#).

 bbc.com

Have A Listen



Carl Benedikt Frey: "The Technology Trap" | Talks at Google - YouTube

We're reading [The Technology Trap](#) now. And we're also glad there's this video version.

 youtube.com

Have a Tool(kit)

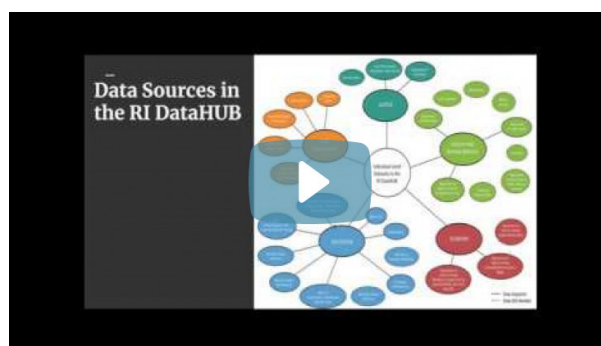
From time to time, we receive inquiries about the tools and resources states are developing to help their colleagues in government better understand and use LDS. Here are examples of tools from two states.



"New Windows of Insight"

An introduction to the system, complete with links to agency-specific research agendas.

 vlds.virginia.gov



Rhode Island's DataHUB

 youtube.com

Have Some #DataViz



America's Future of Work In Eight Interactive Charts

Like [Mark Muro's \(Brookings\) report](#) we shared in February, the one from McKinsey also considers the impact of automation on people and places. Take a look at the (interactive) [#dataviz](#) in particular. (See? We knew you'd like it.)



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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

Making Better Work is 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 policymakers, 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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