

WDQI Monthly Resources: September

1. Updates to Decade-Old Federal Standards for Race, Ethnicity Data Will Change How Students are Counted

Higher education leaders and institutions need accurate data disaggregated by race and ethnicity to support today's diverse student population. This information is essential for identifying needs and developing targeted programs for historically underrepresented students. In March 2024, the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** revised Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, introducing new standards that include a combined race and ethnicity question, a new Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) category, and more detailed breakdowns within racial and ethnic groups.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

2. Education Research and Development Bill Introduced in Congress

The bipartisan New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act was introduced in the Senate by Senators Michael Bennet and John Cornyn. This act aims to establish the **National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE)** to advance high-risk education research and enhance the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) for tracking student outcomes. The NEED Act builds momentum for education research following the Senate's passage of the Advancing Research in Education Act (AREA).

Click [here](#) to learn more.

3. Disaggregation Nation: A Landscape Review of State Race & Ethnicity Data Collection

The report examines inconsistencies in how states collect race and ethnicity data, noting that while federal law sets minimum standards, states can collect additional subgroup data. This flexibility is crucial for identifying and addressing health inequities and structural racism. The review highlights which states go beyond federal standards for data disaggregation, as of September 2023.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

4. A Playbook for Ethical Technology Governance

The playbook helps governments navigate the unintended consequences of rapidly evolving technology. It offers strategies for anticipatory governance, ethical decision-making, and mitigating risks while maximizing positive outcomes. The guide has been used by various government agencies and aims to improve foresight in policy development.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



5. Trendlines

The newsletter from the **Department of Labor, Employment and Training Services** provides monthly insights into labor market trends and workforce development. It features articles from DOL staff and contributors, aiming to raise awareness of key data and resources. The content is tailored for the labor and workforce community.

Click [here](#) to learn more

6. Unlocking the Power of Data

The article discusses the rapid transformation in the U.S. higher education and workforce landscapes, driven by technological advancements and economic shifts. It emphasizes the need for effective policies that align workforce needs with educational outcomes, as employers struggle to find skilled workers while many Americans face barriers to education and training. The **Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018** provides a framework to enhance data collection, sharing, and usage to address these challenges.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

7. Responsible Tech Guide

This flagship resource from **All Tech Is Human** aims to foster involvement in the Responsible Tech ecosystem. It offers insights into tackling complex tech and society issues, along with information on key individuals, organizations, and ideas within the Responsible Tech movement. The guide serves as a valuable tool for anyone looking to engage in this important dialogue.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

8. Skills Based Hiring: Why states & employers must act now to build a stronger more diverse workforce

The latest jobs report indicates a slight rebound in the U.S. labor market, with 142,000 jobs added in August and an unemployment rate of 4.2%. In this tight labor market, employers are competing for talent and are increasingly turning to skills-based hiring to expand their talent pipelines, which historically have been narrowed by degree requirements. However, for skills-based hiring to be effective in creating diverse talent pipelines, **National Skills Coalition** urges states to implement comprehensive policies, including frameworks for assessing non-degree credentials and data systems that enhance transparency and inform decision-making.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



9. Recommending Career Transitions to Job Seekers Using Earnings Estimates, Skills Similarity, and Occupational Demand

This paper presents a career recommendation algorithm designed to assist job seekers in discovering new career paths based on government administrative data. Developed in response to the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and the decline of certain industries, the algorithm addresses the uncertainty of transitioning to new occupations by utilizing causal machine learning techniques. By analyzing individual employment histories, skills similarity from job descriptions, and current job demand, the algorithm offers tailored recommendations that increase the likelihood of higher earnings and successful employment, and it has been implemented in workforce development systems across five U.S. states.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

10. Education and Workforce Data Legislation Review: What Happened in 2024?

In 2024, state legislators introduced numerous bills impacting data collection, access, and usage across early education, K–12, postsecondary, and workforce sectors. These legislative efforts focus on improving cross-agency data systems, enhancing the accessibility and utility of statewide longitudinal data systems for decision-making. As a result, states are making significant progress in supporting seamless transitions between education and workforce sectors through robust data governance and usage.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

