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August E-News: Federal Data Policy Advances

Federal Action Highlights Data

On July 22, President Obama signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which reauthorized major federal job training programs. On the same day, the Administration [released an action plan](#) for improving federally-funded job training programs, including commitments to more effectively measure participants' employment outcomes and use data to align training with labor market demands.



These principles are central to the WDQC reform agenda, and *Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity* contains specific plans supported by [WDQC's recommendations](#) for administrative action.

Additionally, [data and accountability](#) are central in several parts of WIOA. The law establishes revised performance metrics, standardized performance reports and a new advisory council on labor market information.

WDQC Convenes Data Advocates

WDQC connected more than 40 national policy experts, advocates and state officials for a conversation about [Federal Data Policy: Successes and Opportunities](#) on July 29. WDQC assessed the alignment of its reform agenda with major policy events, such as bills recently introduced to amend the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and the Higher Education Act, and discussed strategy for future collective action.



In addition to federal policy activity, there has been a lot of [movement in state governments](#) to address data and accountability. In early July, WDQC held a conference call with state data representatives from across the country to discuss a roundup of pertinent laws and understand how the Campaign can more effectively work with state representatives to implement these laws.

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WDQC Takes Its Message on the Road

Director Rachel Zinn spoke at several conferences this summer. In June, she gave a presentation at the [National Benchmarking Conference](#) for community colleges in Kansas City, and earlier this month she served on a panel at a meeting of the [State Higher Education Executive Officers Association](#). At the U.S. Department of Education's 2014 National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) [STATS-DC Data Conference](#), Rachel joined partners from the Association of Career and Technical Education, CLASP and National Skills Coalition to discuss plans for more inclusive state data systems and provided examples of federal and state policies that support cross-program data linkages.



Rachel also attended a conference on building evidence about effective social policies hosted by the [White House Office of Science and Technology Policy](#) (OSTP) and the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, and was a [panelist on a workforce data webinar](#) sponsored by the College and Career Readiness and Success Center and the American Youth Policy Forum.

Partner Resources

Summer is upon us, but WDQC partners and advisors have not taken a break from releasing new publications to help advance conversations about education and workforce data. Among the highlights:



- CLASP, a WDQC partner, authored a report on implementing and measuring career pathways. [Shared Vision, Strong Systems: The Alliance for Quality Career Pathways Framework Version 1.0](#) and the report's executive summary explains a framework developed over the past two years by 10 states.
- National Governors Association (NGA) Chair Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin released her initiative's final report, [An Action Guide for Governors](#), which describes how gubernatorial leadership can help to prepare America's workforce to remain competitive. NGA serves in an advisory role to WDQC.
- The Data Quality Campaign, a WDQC partner, created a [Stoplight for Student Data Use](#) that provides a quick guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It's critical to comply with FERPA when linking student records with workforce data.

The WDQC website regularly posts updates from states on topics relevant to its policy agenda. Recently, the states of [Minnesota](#), [Maine](#) and [North Carolina](#) each released tools that show employment and earnings outcomes for graduates of public colleges and universities.

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