

Youth Resource Connections

NEWSLETTER

Youth Resource Connections

is a monthly newsletter that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults.

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Headlines

ETA Announces WIOA Youth TA Series. The Division of Youth Services (DYS) within the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is launching "Our Journey Together: The WIOA Youth Program Technical Assistance (TA) Series" to support the workforce system in their programming efforts to improve outcomes for youth. To kick off the TA Series, DYS is hosting four webinars over two days on October 24-25. For additional information and to register for all four events, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2017/09/19/17/02/Our-Journey-Together-The-WIOA-Youth-Program-Technical-Assistance-TA-Series-Kick-off>.

DOL Seeks Comments for the Evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Chief Evaluation Office, has published a request in the [September 13 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) seeking comments concerning the collection of data on the Evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative. The program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents is properly assessed.
Comments due: November 13.

Looking for more information and resources to support your youth program?



Visit the [Youth Connections Community of Practice](#) for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

Headlines

(continued)

DOL Announces National Disability Employment Awareness Month Theme. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy [announced](#) that "Inclusion Drives Innovation" will be the theme of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October 2017. Every October, NDEAM celebrates individuals with disabilities and their contributions and achievements to the American workforce. For additional information, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>.

DOL Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million for Women in Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations. The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded \$1,492,095 to support the recruitment, training, and retention of women in skilled occupations. The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grant program funds community-based organizations that provide employers and labor unions with one or more types of technical assistance. Women are severely underrepresented in apprenticeship programs, and in high-growth, high-wage occupations generally. While women make up nearly half of the U.S. labor force, they comprise less than 10 percent of apprentices. Apprenticeships offer workers a pathway to the middle class and helps companies recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled workforce. In addition to their long history in skilled trades such as construction, apprenticeships are also increasingly found in emerging and high-growth industries like energy, health care, and information technology. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20170921>.

NSF Investments to Enhance U.S. Leadership in STEM Discoveries and Innovations through Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recently issued 27 new awards through its NSF INCLUDES program, aimed at enhancing U.S. leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) discoveries and innovations through a commitment to diversity and inclusion. U.S. industries, universities and research centers face 21st-century challenges. They need skilled STEM workers to grow the economy, secure the national defense and advance other national priorities. NSF INCLUDES (Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science) is designed to create paths to STEM for underrepresented populations, expanding the nation's leadership and talent pools. Like other programs in NSF's [Broadening Participation](#) portfolio, NSF INCLUDES seeks to improve the U.S. STEM enterprise by leveraging the benefits of diversity. To view the press release, visit: https://nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=243055.

Headlines

(continued)

ED Seeks Comments on their Integrated Partner Management System. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid has published a request in the [September 18 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) seeking comments on addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. **Comments due: October 18.**

President Trump Signs Presidential Memo to Increase Access to STEM and Computer Science Education. President Donald Trump signed a [Presidential Memorandum on Creating Pathways to Jobs by Increasing Access to Jobs by Increasing Access to High-Quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education](#), affirming his Administration's strong commitment to enabling and encouraging students across the country to engage in high-quality STEM education, including computer science. This Presidential Memorandum (PM) directs the U.S. Secretary of Education to make promoting high-quality STEM and computer science education one of the Department of Education's top priorities, and beginning in fiscal year 2018, to take this priority into account when awarding competitive grant funds. Specifically, the PM sets a goal of devoting at least \$200 million per year within the Department of Education toward advancing this effort. This action helps American students without incurring new government spending, and instead utilizes existing funds appropriated by Congress. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/09/26/president-trump-signs-presidential-memo-increase-access-stem-and-computer-science>.

Lumina Foundation Designates 17 Cities as Talent Hubs. Lumina Foundation has announced the [designation of 17 communities across the country as Talent Hubs](#). These cities earned this new designation by meeting rigorous standards for creating environments that attract, retain, and cultivate talent, particularly among [today's students](#), many of whom are people of color, the first in their families to go to college, and from low-income households. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/lumina-foundation-designates-17-cities-as-talent-hubs>.

Success Story

Metro YouthBuild



Kevin (not his real name) came to Metro YouthBuild in Chicago, IL as a homeless youth trying to obtain a high school diploma. He had re-enrolled into an alternative high school where he was introduced to the YouthBuild program. Kevin faced a lot of barriers that prevented him from securing his high school diploma such as a cognitive disability and homelessness. At the age of 18 his family discontinued their support, which forced Kevin to seek shelter in Chicago's subway trains and station for 5 months. Kevin was tired of living in these conditions and decided to join the YouthBuild program.

Throughout the 5 months of homelessness, Kevin felt helpless and searched for different organizations that could help him secure housing with no success. Kevin was ashamed to say that he was homeless until he came to Metro YouthBuild and felt comfortable enough to share with staff members and one of his peers during mental-toughness. Kevin's peer provided him temporary shelter until adequate housing was found by the case manager.

Kevin was placed with a housing organization that will provide him with shelter for 18 months and additional support with his goal of becoming a chef. Since joining the program, Kevin has successfully completed his high school requirements, passed his OSHA certification, and has begun exploring post-secondary options for employment while preparing for his National Center for Construction Education and Research certification. For additional information about YouthBuild, visit: <https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/>.

Interested in sharing a new practice or innovative approach that you're trying in your area?

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is interested in sharing strategies from across the country to promote peer learning and replication. If you would like to be considered for featuring in an upcoming newsletter, please email your organization, program name and brief description of the practice or approach to the ETA Division of Youth Services at: youth.services@dol.gov.

Funding & Other Opportunities

State Farm Companies Foundation Invites Applications for 2018 Grants Program. The [State Farm Companies Foundation](#) is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for its Good Neighbor Citizenship Company Grants program. The program supports safety, education, and community-development programs around the country. **Deadline: October 31.** [read more...](#)

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Accepting Applications for Higher Education Program. The [Arthur Vining Davis Foundations](#) is accepting applications for its Private Higher Education program. The program supports private colleges and universities with a primary academic mission in the liberal arts and sciences, rather than career or vocational studies. These institutions should exemplify academic quality and financial stability. **Deadline: November 1.** [read more...](#)

ACS Accepting Nominations for Award Recognizing Individuals Encouraging Women into Chemical Science Careers. The [American Chemical Society](#) (ACS) is accepting nominations for its ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. The annual award recognizes significant accomplishments by individuals who have stimulated or fostered the interest of women in chemistry by promoting their professional developments as chemists or chemical engineers. **Deadline: November 1.** [read more...](#)

AAHD Invites Applications for 2017-2018 Scholarship. The [American Association on Health and Disability](#) (AAHD) is accepting applications for its Scholarship Program. The program is designed to support students with disabilities pursuing higher education. Preference is given to students who plan to pursue undergraduate/graduate studies in the field of public health, health promotion, and disability studies or research. **Deadline: November 15.** [read more...](#)

Crotched Mountain Foundation Invites Applications for Grants for Disabled in New Hampshire. The [Crotched Mountain Foundation](#) will provide small grants to low- and moderate-income residents of New Hampshire with disabilities for the purchase of products and services not funded by other sources. **Deadline: Rolling.** [read more...](#)

NSF Invites Proposals for its Technology Frontier Program. The National Science Foundation is accepting proposals for its Cyberlearning for Work at the Human-Technology Frontier program. The program is designed to support transformative advances of technologies for learning to educate a new generation of students, teachers, and workers to excel or re-engage in highly technological and collaborative environments that require foundational STEM content knowledge. An important direction of this program is to foster lifelong learning with and through technology, particularly in preparation for and within the context of the work setting. **Deadline: January 8, 2018.** [read more...](#)

Resources

Designing Professional Development for Youth Workforce Development. This [brief](#) published by the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth, describes strategies and considerations for designing and delivering professional development for youth service professionals at the state and local levels. By highlighting strategies, required resources, and lessons learned from three different professional development initiatives, this brief aims to inform the decisions of organizations, agencies, and funders as they consider how to invest in professional development efforts within the workforce development system as well as other youth service systems and program contexts.

The Complex Universe of Alternative Postsecondary Credentials and Pathways. This new [report](#) commissioned by The Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, examines the landscape of non-degree postsecondary training. The report focused on five categories: certificate programs, work-based training, skills-based short programs, massive open online courses and other online microcredentials, and competency-based education programs, and provides in-depth analyses of each. While these types of trainings vary widely across sectors and states, the authors found that they all tended to be shorter, more flexible, and more directly aligned with employer-defined skills than traditional postsecondary degree programs.

Students Need More Information to Help Reduce Challenges in Transferring College Credits. This [report](#) released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that students may face challenges getting information or advice about transferring course credits. An estimated 62 percent of these transfers were between public schools. According to stakeholders GAO spoke with, students can face challenges transferring credits between schools that do not have statewide policies or articulation agreements, which are transfer agreements or partnerships between schools designating how credits earned at one school will transfer to another. Stakeholders also said that advising and information may not be adequate to help students navigate the transfer process.

Dos and Don'ts for Reducing Recidivism Among Young Adults in the Justice System. This [resource](#) prepared by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, presents a concrete list of dos and don'ts that policymakers and justice system leaders can use to guide policy and practice changes focused on young adults in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. Informed by both research and practice, the list outlines supervision and service strategies that states and localities should and should not implement in order to use resources more efficiently to improve outcomes for young adults in the justice system. The list draws on guidance gathered at a [2017 convening](#) of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners that was cohosted by the CSG Justice Center and Harvard Kennedy School's Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management.

Resources

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Preventing Dropout in Secondary School. This [practice guide](#) released by the What Works Clearinghouse, offers research-based recommendations to reduce dropping out in secondary school. The guide will help educators and administrators learn strategies for identifying at-risk students and addressing the challenges they face.

OJJDP Announces Availability of Tools for Strengthening Mentor-Mentee Matching. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in collaboration with the [National Mentoring Resource Center](#), has developed [tools](#) to help youth mentoring programs address the proper support and closure of mentor-mentee matches. These tools were informed by research and practitioner insights from the 2016 Summer Institute on Youth Mentoring, as well as early data from the OJJDP-supported Study to Analyze Relationships project.

Georgetown Center and JPMorgan Chase Announce the Release of Good Jobs without a BA Web site. The Georgetown Center and JPMorgan Chase began this project to investigate the impact overarching structural economic change has had and is having on workers who do not have a BA. The centerpiece of the collaboration will include an interactive online database that documents the concentration of these good jobs nationally, at the state level, by industry and occupation, and by wage. [GoodJobsData.org](#) launches this fall and will examine other characteristics that show the quality of these good jobs and the demographics of those who hold them.

Ability to Benefit: Connecting WIOA and Student Financial Aid to Educate Low-Skilled Students. This YouTube webcast by CLASP describes how Ability to Benefit (ATB) reduces barriers to accessing higher education for individuals without a high school credential. It also allows institutions to reach and serve these individuals by partnering with adult basic education, and better integrate their provision of financial aid with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) efforts the institution may already be undertaking. This session will explain when financial aid can be awarded to ATB students, show how ATB unites student aid (like Pell Grants), WIOA, and Perkins Act activities, and provide examples of how it is being leveraged in institutions and states. To view the webcast, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDaqwiwASxE>.

On September 21st, the Search Institute hosted a webinar entitled: [5 Effective Strategies to Increase Student Motivation](#). During the webinar, participants learned: why it's important to focus on improving student motivation; the five factors Search Institute has identified that build student motivation; what makes a relationship transformative for a young person's development and success; and the research behind relationships and motivation.

Upcoming Events

November 6-7. Washington, DC. [National Youth Employment Coalition's Annual Forum.](#)

November 9. Washington, DC. Jobs For the Future's [Celebrate Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning](#) Recognition Event.

November 27. Indianapolis, IN. The Indiana Youth Institute's [2017 Because KIDS COUNT Conference.](#)

November 29-December 1. San Diego, CA. Joysfields Institute for Evidence-Based Professionals' [Evidence-Based "PATHWAYS" Workshops & Conference for Case Management, Care Coordination & Supervision.](#)

January 30-February 2, 2018. New Orleans, LA. American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Development Institute, ["Exploring Intersections".](#)



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We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services at **(202) 693-3030** or e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.