

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Program on Skills, Credentials & Workforce Policy. **PSCWP-NEWS** will come out quarterly with news of developments at the [PSCWP](#) and the [faculty affiliates](#). Suggestion for topics are welcome!

PSCWP's revised mission

- To advance useful knowledge about the U.S. labor market and how it is changing, with special attention to the production and use of skills and credentials and to their implications for racial/ethnic and gender equity and broadly shared prosperity.
- To promote and facilitate the use of research and expertise by students, education and training providers, incumbent workers, employers, and those who influence, make, and implement education and workforce policy and practice.
- To provide courses, work-based learning experiences, and information resources that help to prepare students for careers in postsecondary education and workforce development – careers in research, policy analysis, consulting, communications management, and related fields.

The growing team

George Lorenzo, publisher and editor of the weekly newsletter [Workforce Monitor](#), is joining PSCWP in a communications partnership. Together, we will co-publish [Workforce Monitor](#) to summarize, categorize, and provide links to the best of the previous week's publications and reports on career education, workforce development, and related topics. George will maintain all journalistic rights (he determines the topics, writes the content) while PSCWP helps get the word out.

Jontae Burton joined PSCWP as a Communications Assistant. [Jontae](#) is a second-year Political Science major and Public Policy minor at GW.

Grants

In May, Lumina Foundation awarded a \$507,000, two-year grant to GWIPP to expand the work of the [Non-degree Credentials Research Network](#). **Kyle Albert** will serve as PI. More news on the expanding work of NCRN will be shared soon. PSCWP affiliates are welcome to join as researchers or stakeholders.

Faculty affiliate at the [University of Zurich](#), **Inez von Weitershausen**, and two of her colleagues received a major grant to create a Virtual Reality Lab for the Future of Work. They will work closely with academic and industry partners to launch new projects examining how VR can improve work and learning

Publications

Kyle Albert authored two versions of the report, [New Directions for Non-Degree Credentialing Research](#) and co-authored with Steve Crawford [Coming Together to Understand Non-degree Credentials in Evollution](#).

Steve Crawford organized and led the Better Employment and Training Strategies (BETS) Taskforce, a group of more than 50 of the country's leading workforce experts and practitioners. During the past six months, BETS work groups published six policy briefs on modernizing unemployment insurance and workforce development, improving job quality and youth employment, and creating good jobs. They are available at the websites of several participating organizations, including the Atlanta Fed's [Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity](#), [Aspen Institute](#), [National Fund for Workforce Solutions](#), [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#), [Heldrich Center for Workforce Development](#) at Rutgers, UT-Austin's [Ray Marshall Center](#), and New America's [Center for Education and Labor](#). Only New America and the Aspen Institute have posted the latest brief – on youth employment policy -- but the others will soon.

Andrew Reamer authored [Education and Training Expenditures in the U.S.](#) and co-authored [Counting U.S. Postsecondary and Secondary Credentials - 2021 Report](#) for Credential Engine.

Bob Sheets co-authored with Steve Saxton – and **Andrew Reamer** contributed to – [Developing and Using Public-Private Data Standards for Employment and Earnings Records](#), and co-authored with Jason Tyszko and Peter Beard [Talent Finance](#), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Center for Education and Workforce.

Holly Zanville authored [The Unmudl Report: Community Colleges Powering the Skills-to-Jobs Marketplace](#); [Non-degree Credentialing: A Global Issue, a Report from the Nondegree Credential Research Network](#); blogs in *Evolution* – [WorkRise: New Initiative to Transform the Labor Market](#), and [Prior Learning Assessments: 2010, 2020, 2030](#); blogs at *Medium* on the national Credential As You Go Initiative ([What do transformer action figures and credentialing have in common?](#)) and co-authored with Nan Travers and Larry Good, [It’s Time for an Incremental Credentialing System](#); co-authored blog with Kyle Albert and Steve Crawford, [To Understand the Non-degree Credentialing World, Go Global](#), in *Evolution*; and co-authored [More Employers Are Awarding Credentials: Is a Parallel Higher Education System Emerging](#), with Sean Gallagher in *EdSurge*.

Presentations

Kyle Albert

- **January 14:** Provided research findings on effect of credential duration on youth employment outcomes at the “Pop-Up Panel” on youth employment hosted by the University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty.

Dan Marschall

- **May 24:** Moderated roundtable discussion at 2021 virtual conference of United Association for Labor Education (UALE), covering [case study](#) Marschall wrote on an apprenticeship program at Electrolux Products in 2018-19.

Holly Zanville

- **May 14:** At [webinar](#) attended by 160+, provided highlights on [The Unmudl Report](#) covering the planning, design, operationalization, and future development of skills-to-jobs marketplace operated by the Unmudl Community College Network. The next webinar, [DynamicPathsSM Integrating Non-Credit & Credit Courses](#) is **June 17**.
- **May 12:** Moderated [panel](#) on importance of incremental credentialing to employers, state systems of higher education philanthropy, and state policymakers at kick-off the National Advisory Board of Credential As You Go Round #2 initiative.
- **March 22:** IMS Global Learning Consortium Roundtable panel, [Aligning Credentials to Learning Outcomes](#), shared strategies in developing incremental, verifiable credentials and aligning them to program outcomes, industry certifications, and other frameworks.

Upcoming Events

June 3: NCRN webinar on Thursday, June 3 at 1 pm EDT will feature **Jason Tyszko**, VP of the U.S. Chamber Foundation and director of its Center for Education and Workforce. He will present on his team’s efforts to modernize workforce data and its enabling infrastructure, providing special attention to just-launched T3 Network of Networks, its Jobs and Employment Data Exchange (JEDx), and the potential of high-tech Learning and Employment Records (LERs). **Bob Sheets** will join this presentation.

July 15: NCRN discussion on July 15 at 1 pm EDT on what research is underway/planned in the nondegree credentialing arena. **Every participant** will be provided the opportunity to present; group will discuss ways to inform one another about important developments in the next year.

Colloquium (in planning): PSCWP Colloquium Series launches in the fall for faculty affiliates to share their research and solicit ideas for new work. Please volunteer to present at the first or second of these. Affiliates are encouraged to bring interested colleagues and students to these 1-hour discussions.

Graduate course (in planning): Trachtenberg School’s curriculum committee approved our proposal for a spring term 2022 course, **Workforce Development – Issues, Practices & Policies**, to be team-taught by GWIPP professors and/or affiliates. Audience: Trachtenberg master’s students, Graduate School of Education and Human Development and business graduate students, and advanced students in economics, political science and social policy.

Provide comments & requests for further info to: kalbert@email.gwu.edu