

Policy Talking Points

Washington DC Fly-In

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As business leaders, we know a skilled workforce is the key to our continued competitiveness in the global economy. We have demonstrated our commitment on the ground by working with community partners to build talent pipelines.

But we can't do this alone. We need our federal policymakers to make smart investments that allow us to take these strategies to scale, and ensure that our industries – and our workers – have the skills to compete.

We want the next Administration and Congress to focus on two key areas: 1) expanding apprenticeship and work-based learning to help us skill-up new hires; and 2) supporting job-driven higher education policies that enable our current and future workforce to get the skills and credentials they need to keep pace with changing technologies and practices.

Work-based learning

Apprenticeship and work-based learning help small and medium sized businesses on-board and train new hires. But we are well behind our international competitors in using these models. We need to do three things to strengthen our nation's work-based learning policies:

- **Invest in sector partnerships to help more local employers establish work-based learning programs at their companies**
 - **Cosponsor the bipartisan BUILDS Act (S. 1599), which would support workforce needs within the infrastructure industry**
 - **Become the introducing Republican cosponsor of the PARTNERS Act, which would support workforce needs within regionally identified in-demand industries**
- Provide targeted subsidies and tax credits to offset company costs of training new apprentices and learning workers
- Invest in ongoing worker supports – both before and after hire – to diversify the pipeline of new apprentices able to achieve long-term success both on the job and in the classroom

Job-driven Higher Education

80 percent of jobs in today's economy require some form of postsecondary education and training, and we work closely with our community and technical colleges to make sure our workers are getting the right skills. But our current higher education policy is mostly focused



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on traditional students at four-year institutions – which isn't fully meeting the needs of small to mid-sized businesses and working learners. One key way we need to address this is:

- **Expand financial aid to cover short-term occupational credentials**
 - **Cosponsor the bipartisan JOBS Act (S. 206), which would expand Pell grants to be used to attain job-driven short-term credentials**



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