



**Business Leaders United**  
for Workforce Partnerships

# Employer & Community College Fly-In

November 9-10, 2015

Washington, DC



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for Workforce Partnerships

# Federal Policy Update

*Business Leaders United/National  
Council for Workforce Education*

November 9, 2015

# Who is BLU

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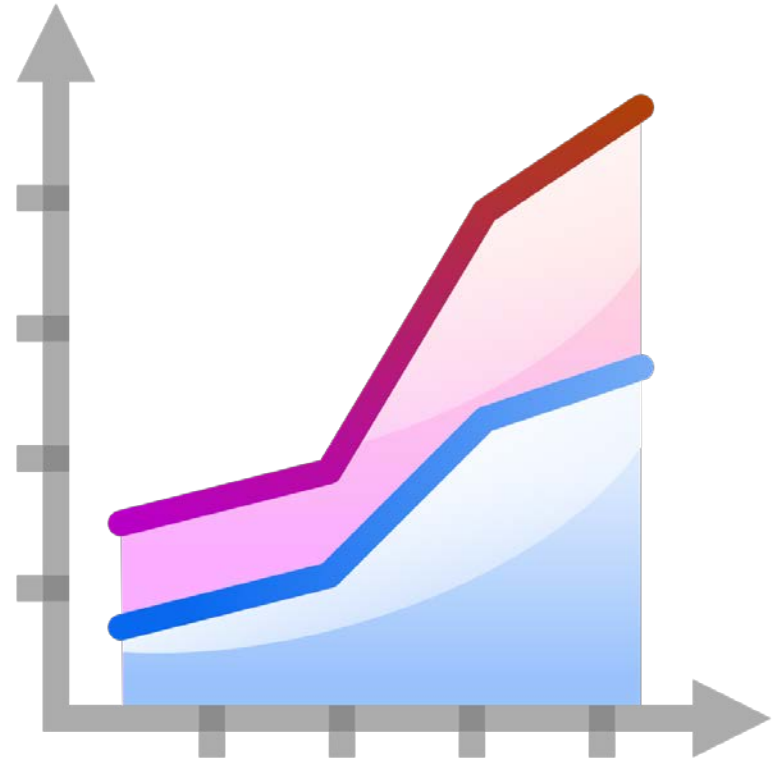
Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships (BLU) is the national voice of small and medium sized employers who are concerned about filling skilled positions at their companies, and who are developing public-private partnerships in their communities to better meet those skilled workforce needs.



# The Big Picture

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- 5.1% unemployment – down from 10% in October 2009
- Budget deal through 2017
- Final year of Obama administration
- 2016 elections



# Washington Taking a Fresh Look at Skills

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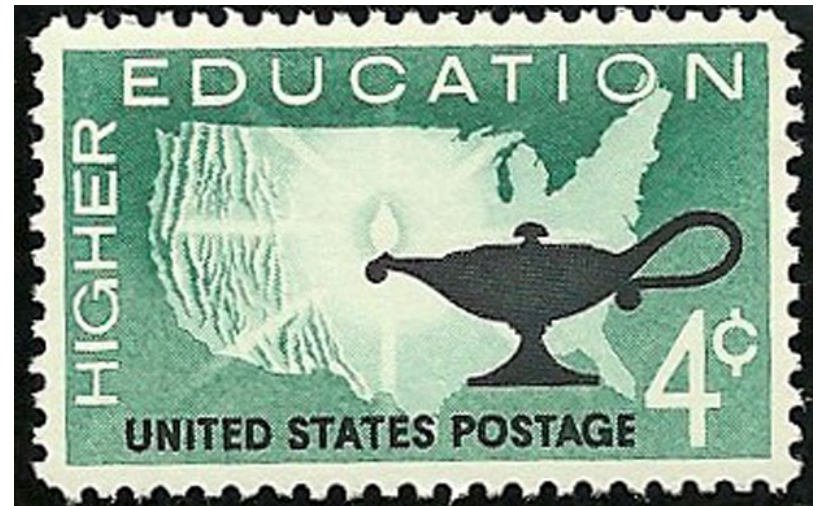
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Administration:
  - Upskilling initiative
  - American Apprenticeship Initiative
  - Pell experiments
- Congress - HEA/Perkins reauthorization



# Higher Education Act

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- Strong interest in reauthorization, esp. of Senate side
- Major focus on affordability, student debt
- Some interest in innovation, data and outcomes





# JOBs Act

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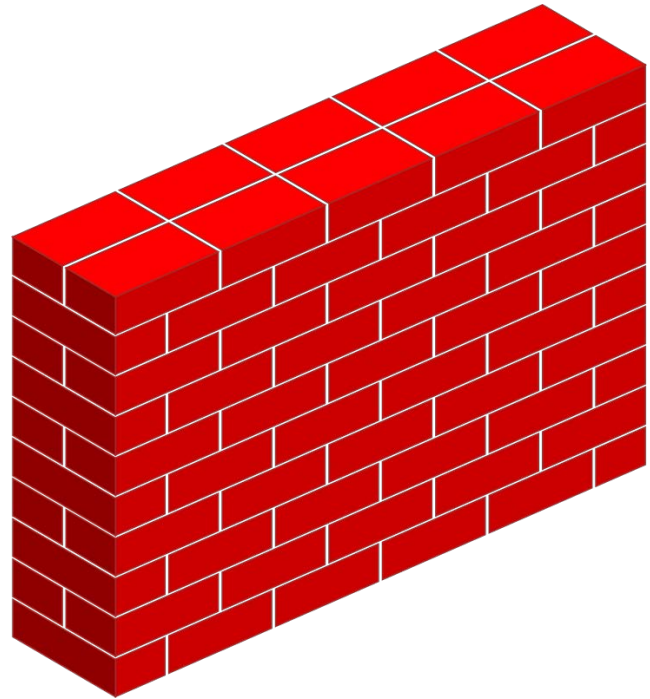
- Introduced by Sens. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH); Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA)
- Expands Pell Grant eligibility to short-term training programs with industry recognition



# Where's the Resistance?

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- Competing priorities – maintaining max award, year-round Pell, etc.
- Quality assurance – concerns that short-term training aren't "college" level
- Public v. private costs





# Carl D. Perkins Act (CTE)

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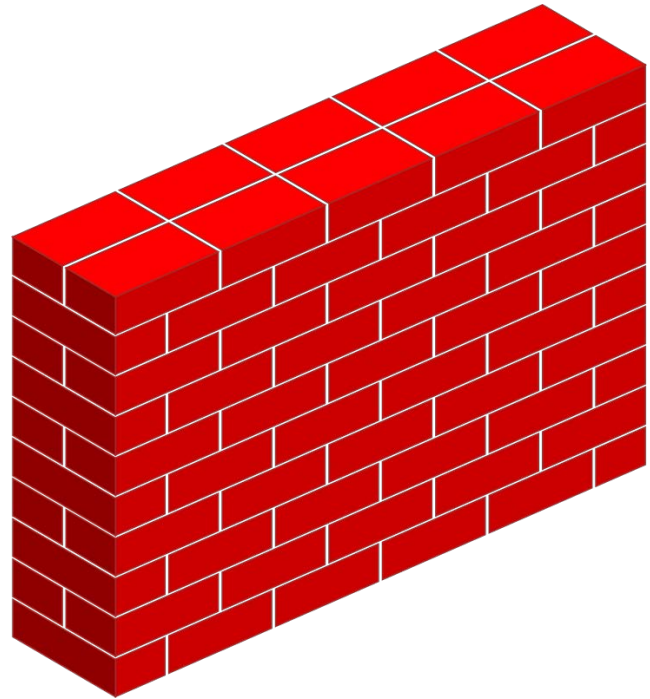
- Reauthorization efforts just launched in House, Senate
- Key issues
  - Alignment with industry
  - Expanding work-based learning
  - Job-driven performance outcomes



# Where's the Resistance?

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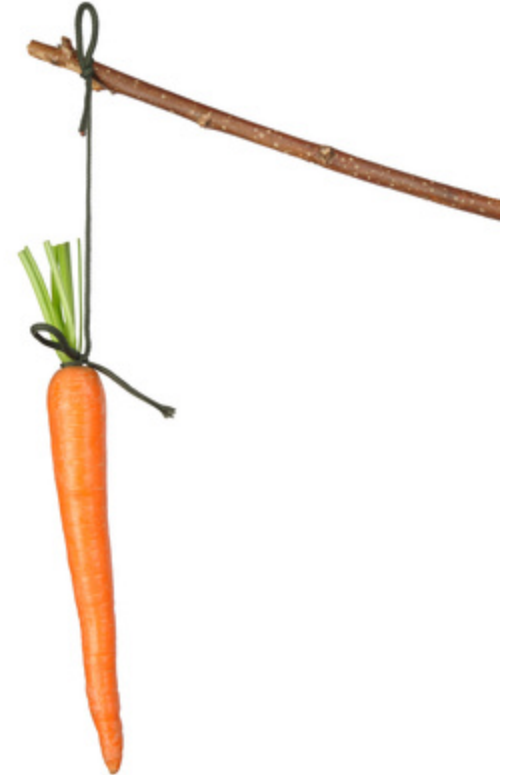
- Secondary v. postsecondary focus
- Education v. workforce outcomes
- Desire for quick action may limit opportunity for changes



# Employer Incentives

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- Lots of interest in employer engagement, work-based learning
- What's useful for you?
  - Tax credits
  - Wage subsidies
  - Other strategies?



# What We're Asking For

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- Make it easier for workers to access financial aid for postsecondary training
- Invest in employer-driven partnerships
- Strengthen incentives for employers



# Stay Connected

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- [Visit](#) our website.
- [Sign up](#) for our email list.
- Follow us on:





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# Employer Survey

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Please take a moment to fill out a very brief survey to help us make BLU even more relevant to your needs.

[www.nationalskillscoalition.org/blusurvey](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/blusurvey)





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