



November 20

12:00 Welcome and Lunch

Dolley Madison Ballroom, 2nd Floor, The Madison

12:25 Opening Remarks

Rob Garcia, Manager, Business Leaders United

Mike Tamasi, Chair, BLU Executive Committee; President & CEO, AccuRounds

12:30 Politics to Policy

The 2020 election cycle is already here. More than a year from election day, policy makers attention is already on what's happening with presidential candidates and their party's chances to flip control of the House, Senate or White House. According to recent polling commissioned by National Skills Coalition, voters and business leaders overwhelming support policies to prepare a skilled workforce for jobs of the 21st century. Are campaigns leading with skills issues the way voters want them to? And what does this political environment and public support mean for moving skills policy in Congress?

Rachel Unruh, Chief of External Affairs, National Skills Coalition

Katie Spiker, Director of Government Affairs, National Skills Coalition

1:40 Policy Solutions Across Industries

Businesses across the country struggle to find workers with the skills they need to fill open positions today. The impending impact of technology, automation and AI on the workplace means that challenge will become even more acute in coming years. The Future of Work will look different in different industries, what does that mean for the policy solutions business leaders need? Hear from experts about how upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the budget and appropriations process, a continued focus on apprenticeship and other policies can address the needs of businesses in their industry.

2:40 Break

3:00 Business Leaders' Influence on Policy

The voice of small and midsize business is one of the most critical, and often one of the most underrepresented, in the development of skills policy—but they employ most of America's workers. In this session we'll walk through BLU's business-led policy platform and connect the dots on how these policy proposals can provide a framework for your conversations on the Hill, creating clear courses of action for federal policymakers to support the skill needs within your industry.

4:00 Taking It to the Hill

Office visits can be a powerful way to impact policy on the Hill, but successful advocacy does not end after the meeting. This discussion will present tools and strategize to be effective on the Hill, as well as ways to continue the discussion back home and among peer business leaders.

4:30 Individual and Group Hill Prep

5:30 Reception

Montpelier Room, 2nd Floor, The Madison

6:30 Adjourn

November 21

See you on the Hill!

8:00 Breakfast and Final Hill Prep

Hart Senate Office Building – Room 902
120 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

9:00 Depart for Hill Meetings

Lunch on Capitol Hill (as schedule allows, on your own)

- Senate: Dirksen Cafeteria (basement, Room SDB-R7)
- House: Longworth Cafeteria (basement, Room B-223)

2:00 Hill Briefing: Business Leaders and Apprenticeship Expansion: Policy Solutions to meet Business Demand

Nearly 2/3rds of leaders of small and mid-sized companies say it's difficult to find skilled workers. And our federal policies don't adequately support businesses with filling middle-skill job openings or empower workers ready to take their career to the next level. New national polling shows that business owners support policy solutions that would expand investments in work-based learning and in students and workers who need support as they earn critical skills. Hear from business leaders about how Congress can support their efforts to build a skilled workforce for jobs of the 21st century.

Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 430

4:00 Closing Reception (optional)

Lady Madison, 1st Floor, The Madison