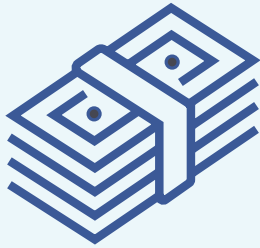


# Business leaders need the higher education system to work for students and business

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of small and mid-sized business leaders say it is difficult to find skilled workers. America's community and technical colleges play a critical role in ensuring workers and employers have the skills to compete. But our federal policies are not structured to support these institutions or the businesses they serve. New national polling shows that small and mid-sized business owners — the engines of local economies — support policy solutions that would modernize the Higher Education Act.

## Make Pell grants job driven



**64%**  
**WANT PELL GRANTS  
FOR SKILLS TRAINING**

**Problem:** Our 40-year-old federal financial aid system doesn't support workers seeking high quality, short-term credentials – credentials employers look for when they hire.

**What business leaders want:** 64% say it will help their business to make federal financial aid available to anyone seeking skills training, not just those seeking college degrees.

**What Congress can do:** The JOBS Act makes Pell grants available for high-quality, short-term training programs that lead to in-demand jobs.

## Make data transparent for informed decision making



**66%**  
**WANT  
TRANSPARENT  
DATA**

**Problem:** Business leaders don't have access to the data that shows which education and training programs are preparing prospective employees to meet the needs of their industry.

**What business leaders want:** 66% say it will help their business to make user-friendly data available so that everyone can see which postsecondary programs are giving people the skills they need for existing jobs.

**What Congress can do:** The College Transparency Act ensures employers, students, and policymakers have the data they need.

## Help businesses partner with community colleges



**77%**  
**WANT INVESTMENTS  
IN PARTNERSHIPS**

**Problem:** Businesses partner with community colleges to provide high-quality training. But there is no dedicated federal support to sustain these partnerships.

**What business leaders want:** 77% say it would help to create closer links between community colleges and businesses to train people for the jobs businesses are hiring for.

**What Congress can do:** The Community College to Career Fund Act invests in partnerships at a scale that would sustain economic competitiveness.

## Help workers complete their training



**64%**  
**WANT SUPPORT  
SERVICES FOR  
WORKER TRAINING**

**Problem:** Many workers struggle to complete training without supports like career counseling, childcare, or transportation.

**What business leaders want:** 64% say increased government funding for support services to help people finish skills training programs will help their business.

**What Congress can do:** The Gateway to Careers Act would fund supports that students need (like career counseling, childcare, and transportation assistance) to complete in-demand credentials.

*On behalf of National Skills Coalition, ALG Research conducted a national online survey of 405 business leaders from small (under 100 employees) and medium (101-499 employees) companies, February 25 - March 5, 2019.*



**Business Leaders United**  
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