



## NAPE PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE—AUGUST 2014

### Administration

#### **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—One-Year Anniversary**

*(Courtesy of U.S. Department of Education)*

Late July marked 1 year since the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)* was signed into law by President Obama. OCTAE sent a special anniversary message to State Directors. That message included a [video message](#) from Secretaries Duncan and Perez who jointly commemorated the anniversary of WIOA's passage.

#### **A Look at Economic Inequality in the United States**

*(Courtesy of U.S. Department of Education)*

Among the hot topics in U.S. policy discussions over the last several years has been the issue of economic inequality between the highest and lowest earners. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) periodically looks at inequality from a variety of angles in its "spotlight" reports. This column reviews the recent BLS "[Spotlight on Statistics](#)" report that puts some of the economic inequality issues into perspective.

### Congress

#### **Congress Pivots to Higher Ed**

*(Courtesy of NASDCTE)*

As shared previously, both education committees in the House and the Senate have prioritized the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) in this Congress. Due for reauthorization since 2013 and extended to this year for further consideration, the law governs nearly all federal financial aid programs for postsecondary education. Issues such as institutional accreditation, supporting innovation in postsecondary education, financial aid risk sharing, the role of consumer information and data, and campus sexual assault have all been the subject of hearings and discussions in both Chambers as lawmakers gear up for the law's renewal.

#### **House and Senate Appropriations Proposes Funding Reductions for Perkins**

*(Courtesy in part by NASDCTE and the Coalition on Human Needs)*

While House and Senate appropriations committees successfully passed the 12 necessary funding bills to fund federal programs, these funding bills all adhere to the Budget Control Act of 2011 statutorily mandated sequester caps that significantly reduce funding for many domestic programs, including education and relatedly [the Carl D. Perkins Act \(Perkins\), which would receive approximately \\$3.6 million in reduced funding for national activities while providing level funding for the law's state grant program.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Women's Bureau: The Road to Jobs for Women in Construction: How States Secure Federal Highway Funds**

*August 20, 2015, 1:00 pm EDT*

This webinar is the third in a series hosted by the Women's Bureau exploring key policies and programs for working women. This installment will focus on federal highway funds that can be used to train women, people of color, and disadvantaged individuals in construction trades, with examples from Oregon and Maryland.

States have access to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to train women, but only a few states have used these funds recently to prepare women for careers in highway construction. Oregon and Maryland have passed laws to permanently commit one-half of 1 percent of the FHWA funds to train and support women and people of color. During the webinar, Martha Kenley, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Director for the Federal Highway Administration, will describe the federal funds available and provide an overview of activities in states across the country. Stephen Simms, Administrator of the Oregon Apprenticeship and Training Division, will discuss how and why Oregon passed legislation and the results of the initiative. David Pinckney, Deputy Director, Office of Equal Opportunity in the Maryland State Highway Administration, will describe Maryland's program. To register for the webinar, please [click here](#) and use password: Welcome!23

### **The Alliance for Excellent Education and the National Commission on Teaching & America's Future: Technology, Training, and Teaming to Ensure Great Teaching for All Students**

*August 25, 2015, 1:00 pm ET*

This webinar will focus on the potential of technology to transform the teaching profession, increase opportunities for collaboration and professional learning, and improve student learning. The panelists will be:

- Matthew Baker, Literacy Coach, Manheim Central Middle School (PA), and Pennsylvania's Keystones to Opportunity Literacy Initiative
- Julie Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Project Tomorrow
- Patrick Finn, Commissioner, NCTAF; Senior Vice President, Cisco Systems
- Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education

[Register Now](#)

## Other News

### **Applications Now Available for New OCTAE Awards for Improved Reentry Education**

*(Courtesy of U.S. Department of Education)*

Applications are now available for OCTAE's estimated nine [new awards](#) for its Improved Reentry Education (IRE) program authorized by the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*. The average size of each award is \$300,000. The IRE program supports demonstration projects in prisoner reentry education that show its effectiveness. According to the award notice, "IRE

seeks to demonstrate the critical need for high-quality, appropriately designed, integrated, and well-implemented educational and related services in institutional and community settings,” to support incarcerated individuals’ education goals and reentry success.

Interested parties are encouraged to review the Federal Register [notice](#) for full details on the new awards, including application requirements, eligibility, award information, and key deadlines.

Contact OCTAE’s Tammi Fergusson at [Tammi.Fergusson@ed.gov](mailto:Tammi.Fergusson@ed.gov) or at 202-245-7706 with any questions or issues about applying. Award applications are due on August 12, 2015.

### **Request for Comments on WIOA Performance Information Collection**

*(U.S. Department of Education)*

The departments of Labor and Education are soliciting comments concerning a collection of data that will be used to demonstrate that specified performance levels under the *WIOA* have been achieved. The *WIOA* Performance Management, Information, and Reporting System fulfills requirements in section 116(d) (1) of the act for the development of report templates for (1) the State Performance Report for *WIOA*’s six core programs; (2) the Local Area Performance Report for the three Title I programs; and (3) the Eligible Training Provider Report for the *Title I* Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

A copy of the proposed Information Collection Request with applicable supporting documentation may be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting Docket ID number [ETA-2015-0007](#). The comment period is open for 60 days and closes on September 21, 2015. Any comments not received through the processes outlined in the [Federal Register](#) will not be considered by the departments.