



NAPE OCTOBER 2014 PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

NAPE

NAPE Addresses Equity and Access Issues at OCTAE's STEM Symposium

On September 29-30, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) hosted a 2-day symposium on Moving STEM Forward in Career, Technical, and Adult Education in Washington, D.C. NAPE's Director of Public Policy, **Lisa R. Ransom** addressed issues around equity, access, opportunity, and achievement in the STEM, CTE, and adult education by serving as a panelist for a session titled, "*STEM Innovations in Equity.*"



The panel, moderated by **Frances Colon**, Acting Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State with the U.S. Department of State, shared information and perspectives on measuring the effectiveness and success of STEM education for underserved populations; identifying programs or strategies making real gains for underserved populations in CTE/adult education; and pinpointing strategies through government, academia, and business to increase college completion rates for careers in STEM industry sectors for underserved populations in CTE and

adult education particularly through internships, apprenticeships, and life-long learning programs. Other panelists for the STEM Equity session included **Donna Milgram**, Executive Director of the National Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science (IWITTS), and **Sally Waldron**, Vice President of World Education, Inc.

The opening session of the symposium, "*Socioeconomic Imperative for Moving STEM Forward in Career, Technical, and Adult Education,*" was moderated by **Johan E. Uvin**, Acting Assistant Secretary of OCTAE. The panelists were **Annette Favorite**, Vice President for Talent Management with IBM, **Elliott Masie**, Chair of the Learning Consortium, **Carl Montoya**, Superintendent of Brownsville, Texas Independent School District, and **Linda Rosen**, Chief Executive Officer with Change the Equation. The session focused on the need to forge and strengthen skills-driven alliances between state and local agencies, school districts, and the business community.

Presenters **Kumar Garg**, Assistant Director for Learning and Innovation Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House, and **Camsie McAdams**, Deputy Director of STEM with USDOE, rounded out the discussion by giving an update of the Administration's efforts to strengthen expanding career pathways through STEM and CTE in academic institutions.

The symposium focused its discussion on key issues in STEM education, employment, and the economy to improve and advance teaching and learning strategies in career, technical, and adult

education. During the discussions, representatives from each of these stakeholder groups examined the state of STEM education in America as well as the roles employers, educators, administrators, parents, industries, organizations, government, and other stakeholders have in educating students.

Participants shared suggestions on how best to meet the demand for STEM skills in the U.S. population. Following this symposium OCTAE will produce an overview that includes the outcomes of the meeting and the next steps to move STEM education forward in career, technical, and adult education.

The second day's agenda consisted of small working sessions where recommendations and strategies were suggested on a variety of key issues. One is that many STEM job vacancies are currently unfilled, despite some analyses that suggest that the United States has a surplus of STEM-trained workers. Depending on how STEM is defined by analysts, STEM and STEM-related occupations make up between 5 and 20 percent of the U.S. workforce, and that percentage is expected to grow. A number of participants emphasized that, in order to respond to low STEM employment, both short- and long-term realistic solutions are needed. One participant suggested that students and parents are being misled about the competencies needed to compete successfully for and be retained in higher-level STEM-intensive occupations. Another warned that students, parents, and employers must be aware of “faux competencies,” that is, competencies or credentials that ostensibly but falsely certify STEM competency. Another attendee insisted on the need for “deep” literacy as a prerequisite for the numeracy and other skills needed to succeed in STEM-intensive occupations. And another participant advocated for STEM early education. Permeating the discussions were comments about the need for an emphasis on equity and on urgency in addressing this issue.

Johan Uvin commented, “When we think about a strategy to give all our students—and when I say all, I do mean all—opportunities to develop STEM foundation skills, we need to make it real. We need our business partners to make that happen. We also need to make it count. That is why dual credit opportunities for both high school and adult education students are essential. We need that adult, secondary, and postsecondary compact for success. Finally, we need to make it happen now. Our businesses don't have time to wait. They have thousands of good unfilled jobs now. This need requires us to rethink preparation, recruitment and on-boarding not for, but with, the private sector. New forms of work and learn options need to be high on our list of priority considerations.”

In his closing remarks, **Uvin** emphasized that it is everybody's job to make adult STEM education and employment fair for all Americans. (*Summary contributed in part by OCTAE*)

ADMINISTRATION

Vice President Joe Biden Keynotes the U.S. Chamber's Foundation's Youth Employment Matters! High-Quality Solutions and the Role of Corporate Engagement

On October 3, 2014, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in conjunction with Urban Alliance held the *Youth Employment Matters! High-Quality Solutions and the Role of Corporate*

Engagement in Washington, D.C. **Vice President Joe Biden** delivered the program's keynote address with opening remarks from U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation President, **John R. McKerman, Jr.** and Urban Alliance CEO **Eshauna Smith** as well as complimentary remarks from U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO **Thomas J. Donahue**. This event featured discussions on the importance of youth workforce development, collaborative initiatives that are working to narrow the current skills gap, and ways for the business community to further support development of America's future workforce. Program speakers included corporate executives from Marriott International, Bank of America, Deloitte & Touché, LLP, the Urban Institute, Futures and Options, and distinguished government officials.

Executive speakers included:

- Melody Barnes, CEO, Melody Barnes Solutions, LLC
- Andrew Plepler, Global Corporate Social Responsibility and Consumer Policy Executive, Bank of America
- Kathleen Matthews, Chief Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Marriott International
- Thomas Nides, Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley
- Sarah Rosen Wartell, President, Urban Institute
- David Williams, CEO, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP

Leaders in business and policy addressed the importance of youth workforce development, what initiatives are working to narrow the opportunity gap, and what the business community can do to help. To open the session, attendees were introduced to [Grads of Life](#), a national PSA, TV, radio and print ad campaign designed to transform employer's perceptions of opportunity and call businesses to act. The campaign showcases young adults with atypical resumes and unique talent, who bring determination, resilience, and loyalty to forward-thinking employers. This comprehensive, integrated communications initiative will be distributed across a full range of tradition and digital media. *(Summary contributed by U.S. Chamber of Commerce)*



President Obama Names Megan Smith as U.S. CTO, Alexander Macgillivray as Deputy U.S. CTO

On September 25, the White House announced that it has named Google Vice President of New Business Development **Megan Smith** as its next Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Smith, has decades of experience in Silicon Valley. The Obama Administration also named as deputy U.S. CTO, **Alexander Macgillivray**, a former Twitter attorney known as a staunch defender of the free flow of information online.

With the announcement, President Obama gets a pair of widely respected technology world figures, both steeped in the workings of some of Silicon Valley's biggest and highest-profile

companies, but with different expertise—one an engineer with a record of executing upon ambitious, even fantastical ideas, the other a lawyer who has navigated some of the Internet's trickiest policy questions.

Obama will likely need the help, as the country attempts to stay on top of technological innovation while addressing the complications raised by an increasingly connected world. The U.S. CTO spot was conceived by Obama when he was a candidate. But its mission has been fuzzy at times. Under outgoing U.S. CTO Todd Park, the job became in part a hands-on one, as he helped salvage the troubled HealthCare.gov project. But under Smith the position is expected to re-focus on being agenda-setting and forward-looking—something of the technological equivalent of the President's Science Advisor.

President Obama said in a statement, “Megan has spent her career leading talented teams and taking cutting-edge technology and innovation initiatives from concept to design to deployment. I am confident that in her new role as America's Chief Technology Officer, she will put her long record of leadership and exceptional skills to work on behalf of the American people. I am grateful for her commitment to serve, and I look forward to working with her and with our new Deputy U.S. CTO, Alexander Macgillivray, in the weeks and months ahead.”

Smith is an MIT-trained mechanical engineer and entrepreneur with deep roots in the California tech world. She currently serves as a vice president at Google[x], the company's lab for ambitious next-generation projects, such as its delivery-by-drone Project Wing and its balloon-borne Internet connectivity program Project Loon. For 9 years, she led Google's team responsible for developing new business, where she led the acquisitions that would become Google Earth and Google Maps. And she is familiar to Washington's burgeoning “civic tech” community through her work with the Google Crisis Response project. *(Summary contributed by The Washington Post and White House Blog)*

USDOE Awards 12 New Grants Totaling More Than \$20 Million to Train, Support, and Retain Leaders of Turnaround Efforts in the Lowest-Performing Schools

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced the award of more than \$20 million for 12 new awards from the [Turnaround School Leaders Program](#), under the [School Improvement Grants \(SIG\)](#) program, to prepare leaders of reform efforts in the nation's lowest-performing schools.

“Effective leaders who are trained to lead turnaround efforts in the lowest-performing schools are essential to improving student outcomes,” said Secretary Duncan. “These grants will provide the resources for states and districts to select, train and place great leaders in the schools—and with the students—that need them the most.”

The Turnaround School Leaders Program supports projects to develop, or enhance, and implement a leadership pipeline that selects, prepares, places, supports, and retains school leaders—including leadership teams—for SIG schools.

Grantees will develop systems at the district level to recruit and select prospective and current school leaders with the skills necessary to turn around a SIG school or SIG-eligible school; to

provide high-quality training to selected school leaders to prepare them to successfully lead turnaround efforts; to place school leaders in SIG schools and provide them with ongoing professional development and other support that focuses on instructional leadership and school management based on individual needs; and to retain effective school leaders—using financial or other incentives—and replace ineffective school leaders.

Through the SIG program, USDOE provides grants to states to make competitive subgrants to districts that demonstrate the greatest need and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources to raise the achievement of students in the state’s lowest-performing schools. The SIG program requires districts and schools to implement rigorous intervention models that include comprehensive approaches to turning around schools. Click [here](#) to see list of 12 state grantees and amounts.

New Guidance from USDOE on Resource Equity

On October 1, USDOE, through its Office for Civil Rights (OCR), released guidance in the form of a *Dear Colleague Letter* to ensure that students have equal access to educational resources. The guidance provides detailed and concrete information to educators on the standards established by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The guidance is one part of President Obama’s larger equity agenda and takes into account the ongoing efforts of states, school districts, and schools to improve equity. All students—regardless of race, color, national origin, or zip code—deserve a high-quality education that includes resources such as academic and extracurricular programs, strong teaching, technology and instructional materials, and safe school facilities.

The guidance is directed to all federal fund recipients that oversee or operate elementary and secondary education programs, including state and local superintendents, school board members, principals, and other education officials. It will help educators, parents, students, and advocates understand how OCR addresses resource equity in our nation’s schools. Today’s guidance builds upon the resource equity guidance issued by the Department in 2001. Click [here](#) to read the new *Dear Colleague Letter* and related materials (including a *Resource Equity Fact Sheet*, the October 1 press release, and a list of available technical assistance). (*Summary contributed by USDOE OCR*)

Biden Announces \$450M in Job Training Grants

On September 29, Vice President Biden announced the [winners of \\$450 million in job training grants](#) for 270 community colleges across the country. The grants will enable schools “to partner with employers to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that will help job seekers get the skills they need for in-demand jobs in industries like information technology, health care, energy, and advanced manufacturing,” said a White House statement. Joining **Vice President Biden** for the announcement were Labor Secretary **Thomas E. Perez** and Education Secretary **Arne Duncan**. The White House said “the funding is part of the *Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT)* competitive grant program, which is co-administered by the Department of Labor and Department of Education.”

Many grantees will focus on information technology (IT) and cybersecurity, which are experiencing particularly high growth, according to the White House. Several community colleges in Kentucky will use the funds to develop five new IT degrees in the computer and medical fields, for example.

The Obama Administration has three additional goals for this round of funding that are in line with Biden's broader workforce education agenda: boosting partnerships between community colleges and employers in high-growth industries, expanding career pathways, and better integrating education and employment data.

Additionally, USDOE also issued a report with recommendations on improving adult learning, and the Department of Labor is announcing \$2 million in Pathways to Careers: Community College for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities Project grants. (*Summary contributed by USA Today, [Politico](#), and White House Blog*)

In Support of Paid Leave: 25 Million Stories

(Post by Latifa Lyles, Director of the USDOL Women's Bureau, on "Working Families, a Reality Series" blog)

Today, more than 30 million of America's working families have young children, and more than 25 million workers provide unpaid care for elderly relatives and loved ones every year. The needs that they tend to aren't always the kind that can be addressed in a day here or there. While caregiving roles in the United States are changing, with more fathers and sons taking up primary caregiving responsibilities, the majority of family caregivers are women. In 2011, BLS data documented more than 5 million working women with children under 3 years old, translating into more than 5 million births or adoptions in the preceding 3-year period—major life events that require absences from work.

On the other end of the age spectrum, approximately 66 percent of caregivers are women, particularly for aging family members, and many of them cannot afford to care for themselves or their loved ones in times of illness or medical emergency.

[Nearly 60 percent](#) of U.S. workers are eligible for leave under the [Family and Medical Leave Act](#), which guarantees unpaid, job-protected leave for men and women to care for their newborn or newly adopted children, seriously ill family members, or their own health needs. However, many workers and many women simply can't afford to take unpaid leave.

Because there is no comprehensive, national policy on paid leave, too many are forced to choose between taking time off from work provide that care and earning the money to help pay for it. Fortunately, a few states have stepped up, implementing, or at least exploring, the options around, state-operated paid leave programs. But for those without access, the impact of the loss of 2 months' or even 2 weeks' pay can set families back, with dramatic consequences. These consequences have a ripple effect on communities, businesses, and our economy as a whole. Research shows that offering [paid leave](#) and flexibility correlates with greater productivity, higher profits, employee recruitment and retention, and increased job satisfaction.

Furthermore, paid leave enables more women with family caregiving responsibilities to remain in the labor force, and a larger labor force helps increase the rate of [economic growth](#). Today, we were delighted [to announce that](#) the Department of Labor has awarded \$500,000 to assist *Massachusetts, Montana, Rhode Island*, and the *District of Columbia* in funding feasibility studies on paid leave. The studies will inform the development or implementation of paid family and medical leave programs at the state level—seeking solutions that work for their unique communities.

As **Secretary Perez** [has said](#), it's time for America to [lead on paid leave](#). It's time to make strides in our workplace policies to meet the long-standing realities of today's working women and families. It is critical to the nation's economic success, and these grants are an important step in the right direction.

OCTAE Provides a “One-Stop” Shop for Career Pathways Resources (CLASP)

The career pathways movement continues to gain steam, thanks to the enactment of the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) and several other efforts highlighted in the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services' recent [National Dialogue on Career Pathways](#).

As the career pathway approach starts to become codified in federal law, it is important to have a common understanding of quality career pathways and systems, such as the shared vision proposed by the [Alliance for Quality Career Pathways \(AQCP\)](#). OCTAE launched a new initiative earlier this year to provide numerous valuable resources that can benefit practitioners, policy makers, administrators, funders, and others develop career pathways.

OCTAE's [Moving Pathways Forward: Supporting Career Pathways Integration](#) will assist states in advancing career pathways systems to transition low-skilled adults to postsecondary education and employment. This month, this initiative will launch the [Career Pathways Exchange](#), which will consolidate and distribute career pathways-related tools, events, and information from federal and state agencies and partner organizations. CLASP will contribute to the Career Pathways Exchange by sharing our relevant resources with new audiences through the Exchange's network.

Members of the Exchange can elect to receive updates on topics of interest that include: building cross-agency partnerships; identifying industry sectors and engaging employers; designing education and training programs; identifying funding needs and sources; aligning policies and programs; and measuring system change and performance. We encourage those working to strengthen and improve career pathways and systems and looking for a central hub of resources for this work to [join the Exchange](#).

CONGRESS

Session Highlights from the 44th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, Themed, “It Starts With You”, PLUS Launching of STEM4US & Tech and STEM Fest

The Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971 by 13 African American Members of Congress. By 1978, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) was born. The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy, research, and educational institute based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1976, CBCF advances the global black community through leadership cultivation, community education, and civic engagement. The Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) is the premier gathering of African Americans, cultivating engaging policy discussions on issues that impact black communities around the world. This 4-day conference featured more than 70 policy sessions, a national town hall, a job and contract procurement fair, the annual Prayer Breakfast, and the Phoenix Awards Dinner with keynote address by **President Barack Obama**.

Among the more than 20 [education and workforce workshops and plenaries](#) at this year’s ALC, 10 were equity and diversity standouts. To add to the excitement, incoming Ranking Member for the House Education & Workforce Committee, **Congressman Bobby Scott** (D-VA) along with **David Owens**, Executive Vice President of the Edison Electric Institute (the trade group for the nation's power utilities), joined the CBCF in hosting the first annual [STEM4US Festival and Soiree](#) at the 44th Annual CBCF-ALC. Attending the launch event were FCC and Department of Energy chief diversity officers and representatives from George Mason University's Mason Game & Technology Academy. Corporate investors for STEM4US included BET, RadioOne/TVOne, and the founder of XM Radio as well as some of the nation’s top law firms, along with 200 other innovators and STEM leaders at Pepco’s Edison Place Gallery dedicated to promoting innovation.

EVENTS

National Dialogue on Career Pathway’s National Conference

Did you miss the September 23 conference in Washington, D.C., hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services? You can watch it [here](#).

Center for Poverty and Inequality Takes the Lead on Attracting Minority and African American Girls to STEM

In January 2015, OCTAE, along with the Center for Poverty and Inequality and Georgetown University have brought together NAPE, NCGWE, AFT, and other education, STEM, and equity organizations will join together to hold a *CTE/STEM Conference on Marginalized Girls & Young Women*. The goal of the conference will be to examine current barriers to access, participation, and completion by marginalized girls and girls of color to CTE and STEM courses/careers, and to elevate promising policies and practices that can help improve enrollment, retention, and completion rates.

This convening will bring together thought leaders, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, advocates, and marginalized girls and young women for facilitated series of presentations and discussions on policy and program ideas to significantly increase access, participation, completion, and placement of marginalized girls and young women in programs that prepare them for high-skill, high-wage jobs including nontraditional occupations for women. The conference will convene at Georgetown University School of Law with the intention of ensuring that low income and girls of color have equal opportunities and preparation to enter the work of CTE and STEM. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

National Opportunities Summit

During the October 2014 “Youth Employment Matters!” event hosted by the US Chamber Foundation and Urban Alliance, the US Chamber announced that it was preparing to hold a *National Opportunities Summit* in February 2015. Look for more information on this as it becomes available.

PUBLICATIONS

The National Women’s Law Center’s new report, [Insecure & Unequal: Poverty and Income among Women and Families 2000-2013](#), provides a gender analysis of national and state poverty and income data for 2013, released by the Census Bureau earlier this month. In addition to the report, NWLC has created an [interactive, state-by-state map](#) of women and poverty. Several NWLC [graphics](#) are also available to view and share.

Accountability for College and Career Readiness: Developing a New Paradigm by Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Gene Wilhoit, addresses developing new standards on accountability that focuses on meaningful learning, professional capacity, and adequate resources. [Full Report Brief](#)

The National Women’s Law Center and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. released [Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls: A Call to Action for Educational Equity](#), which shines a spotlight on the barriers that restrict and limit the educational opportunities of many African American girls, the impact of those barriers on the lives of African American girls and women, and the available interventions that present opportunities to fundamentally improve life outcomes for young African American women.

GRANTS

On September 19, the Obama administration invited a new round of eligible applicants to compete for [promise zone](#) designations. While no grant funds come with the designation, [promise zones](#) receive preference for certain competitive federal programs, as well as technical assistance. “Promise zones are about giving folks who have been underserved for far too long the opportunity to build stronger neighborhoods and more prosperous lives,” said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro at the competition’s launch. Currently, there are 12 federal agencies working in close collaboration to provide resources and expertise to urban, rural, and tribal promise zones to expand economic mobility and opportunity. Applications are due on November 21, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information and application instructions.