

**From:** Barker, Sonia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:35 PM  
**To:** Hudson, Mark  
**Subject:** Recommendations for Task Force Meeting/ Senator English

Senator English,

I truly regret that my first semester teaching kept me from so many of the Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence meetings. Though I was not able to attend as many meetings as I would have liked, I have been in contact with industry employers and employees as well as with leadership within the higher education from our area. The following recommendations are a result of the input they have provided.

For brevity's sake, I will list these recommendations/desires in bullet points that could be elaborated upon at a later date.

- \* **A statewide common workforce/career programs website which has links to public or private college programs, explanation of costs of programs, as well as information on real time job demands, wages, and position availability.**
- \* **Career/Workforce programs on ACTS in order to allow transferability among colleges and assurance of common information covered**
- \* **Incentives such as tax credits or reimbursements per students employed for industry with "work and learn" programs like apprenticeships or FAME model programs**
- \* **Incentives to increase high school students' perception of and participation in CTE such as "academies" for sectors - i.e., Health Career Academy - where students must apply and be accepted**
- \* **Also to incentivize high school student participation in CTE, use 5.0 scale for high demand fields such as Healthcare and Engineering Tech**
- \* **Perform a study of community colleges related to workforce programs to identify gaps and needs in both credit and non-credit programs**
- \* **Use industry and college input to determine quality programs and what makes up a "Center of Excellence"**

Thank you for calling for input for those of us who are unable to attend tomorrow's meeting, and thank you for all you are doing for the Arkansas workforce education.

Sincerely,  
Sonia

**From:** Melissa Johnson  
**Sent:** Friday, October 5, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** English2, Jane  
**Cc:** Hudson, Mark  
**Subject:** Thank you and follow up from National Skills Coalition

Hello Senator English,

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Little Rock last week. Thank you so much for your invitation to speak to the Task Force of Workforce Education Excellence.

I know we talked about a number of ideas from the Building a Skilled Workforce for a Stronger Southern Economy Report, so I'm writing to follow up with some concrete ideas from the report to consider for your recommendations. There seemed to be a lot of need and energy around three ideas in particular: (1) data systems and data sharing agreements among state agencies so that they can produce studies like the one done on Arkansas Career Pathways, (2) Sector Partnerships, and (3) Apprenticeship Carolina. Here are some possible recommendations in those areas:

- (1) To facilitate evaluation of the full range of workforce programs offered by the state, expand current workforce data and reporting legislation (e.g., A.C.A. § 6-69-105) to include a broader array of institutions and programs. These programs should include those run by the Department of Workforce Services and special programs like the Career Pathways Initiative. Complying with this recommendation may require more data sharing agreements between various state agencies operating training programs and collecting earnings information.
- (2) Allocate either governor's reserve WIOA funds or state funds to set up regional competitive grants to establish or expand sector partnerships (I know that Arkansas passed the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015 to support sector partnerships. This still looks to be valid law in Arkansas, but I'm not sure if the state legislature or the governor has allocated funding to this initiative recently.)
- (3) Inventory apprenticeship programs in the state and conducting a feasibility study with community colleges and any other appropriate entities around customizing the Apprenticeship Carolina model for Arkansas.

I am happy to discuss these in more detail or help draft more specific language for the recommendations in the Task Force report. We can also loop in our data experts – the Workforce Data Quality Campaign - if you would like to talk about the data systems and reporting recommendation further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,  
Melissa

**Melissa Johnson**, Senior State Policy Analyst

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**From:** Rogers, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, October 5, 2018 2:20 PM  
**To:** Hudson, Mark  
**Cc:** English2, Jane  
**Subject:** RE: Email from Senator English

Besides the suggestions from the State Chamber, which I am in agreement, the piece I would like addressed is that part of the higher education funding formula include graduate placement in career.

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