LOCAL RESPONSES TO THE FUTURE OF WORK
An international policy exchange
Local responses to the future of work: an international policy exchange

■ What’s the issue?

The world of work is changing with artificial intelligence and digital technologies fundamentally altering workplaces and labour markets. Challenges associated with the future of work will diverge by regional economy, depending on the occupational profile of the local labour market, making the distributional impacts of these megatrends uneven across the United States. While OECD estimates show that 10% of jobs in the U.S are at high-risk of job destruction due to automation, this national number hides significant regional variations at the state and local level. Considering some U.S. metropolitan areas, OECD estimates show some places have lower risk of job destruction. For example, about 7% jobs in Midland and Cleveland are at high risk of destruction. Other regions show higher risk, such in Memphis and Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, where 12% of jobs are estimated to be vulnerable to destruction.

Workforce development and skills training programmes are under increasing pressure to create more adaptable people and places. While there are likely to be negative impacts, the new world of work also creates unprecedented opportunities to transform industry and promote inclusive growth. Apprenticeships have a clear role to play in better linking the education system with employer demand. It will also be important to look at how place-based policies can bring together a broad range of local partners to deliver interventions to disadvantaged groups who face multi-barriers to employment.

■ About the workshop

This workshop will bring together workforce development leaders from the U.S and other OECD countries to discuss the place-based challenges and opportunities that are emerging from automation and digitalisation. Participants will take away new insights on:

→ What are the challenges and opportunities from the future of work?

→ How should federal, state, and local workforce development policies be reconfigured to deliver stronger outcomes in terms of jobs and skills?

■ Venue

National Association of State Workforce Agencies – Hall of States – Room 285
444 North Capitol St. NW – Washington, D.C. 20001

Contact

Questions? Email us at jonathan.barr@oecd.org

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### Tuesday, 5 November 2019

**08.45-09.15**  
Registration & welcome coffee

**09.15-09.45**  
Opening Remarks

Scott Sanders, Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies  
John Pallasch, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration  
Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

**09.45-10.45**  
The future of work: How will it impact people and places?

The future is work is now and it is fundamentally transforming economies across the United States. This session will explore both domestic and international lessons for how local policy makers can help both people and places deal with the transition from an industrial to a digital economy.

*Moderator: Efrem Bycer, LinkedIn*

**Panelists:**
- Karen Maguire, Head of Local Employment, Skills, and Social Innovation Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities  
- Ron Painter, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Workforce Boards  
- Joe Barela, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment  
- Brad Markell, Executive Director, Industrial Union Council at AFL-CIO

**10.45 – 11.00**  
Coffee Break

**11.00-12.00**  
Local policy opportunities emerging from automation and digitalization

This session will explore how workforce development and training policies need to be reconfigured to be more responsive to changing in the workplace from automation and digitalisation. It would explore different policy options for promoting lifelong learning at the local level.

*Moderator: Swati Gosh, Senior Director for Research, International Economic Development Council (IEDC)*

**Panelists:**
- Liz Wilke, Tech Policy and Future of Work Researcher, LinkedIn  
- Jaime Cruz, Executive Director, Workforce Connections, Las Vegas  
- Laura Ripani, Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
- Jeffrey Brown, Manager, Future of Work & Artificial Intelligence, Bertelsmann Foundation, North America

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**  
Lunch
### Using apprenticeships to link young people to good jobs – what works and what doesn’t?

Apprenticeships are often viewed as an effective training program to better link young people to good jobs. Given that young people are most vulnerable to changes in the future of work, it is important to consider how apprenticeships can be used to promote local economic development opportunities and meet employer demands for skills. This session will explore how apprenticeship are being used the United States and internationally to engage employers in training opportunities.

**Moderator:** Jonathan Barr, Head of Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities

**Panelists:**
- Mr. Oliver Schärli, Head of the Labour Market/Unemployment Insurance Division, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland
- Candee Chambers, Executive Director, DirectEmployers Association
- Mardy Leathers, Director, Workforce Development, Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Jacob Maas, CEO, West Michigan Works (Grand Rapids)
- Stephen Dodd, IBM Public Partnerships

### Managing labour market changes through local partnerships

In the United States, partnerships are a key governance tool to better connect state and local workforce development policies to the needs of the economy. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was designed to improve coordination between and among agencies so that workers and job seekers have more seamless access to a system of high-quality career services, education, and training through the one-stop service delivery system. This session will examine workforce development governance best practices as well as international models of local partnerships that aim to better connect the employment and training system to key growth sectors of the regional economy.

**Moderator:** Randall Eberts, Upjohn Institute

**Panelists:**
- Tor Hatlevoll, Labour Market Economist, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- Tracey Carey, Executive Director, Midwest Consortium
- Scott Powell, Director of Research, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, Michigan
- Alejandra Montoya-Boyer, National Association of Counties
- Peter Creticos, President & Executive Director, Institute for Work & the Economy

### Closing and ways forward