

Policy Matters: Reflections on the Past and Future of Apprenticeship

Speaker Biographies

BIPARTISAN HILL DISCUSSION

Katie McClelland is a professional staff member for the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor.

Jake Middlebrooks is a professional staff member for the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor under ranking member Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. In addition to apprenticeships, his portfolio covers career and technical education, adult education, and broader workforce development within the committee's jurisdiction. He has been at the committee since 2017, covering issues related to child care policy, child abuse prevention, and the Older Americans Act. Before working for the committee, Middlebrooks worked in the office of Representative Lynn Jenkins of Kansas, covering health care and tax policy. Middlebrooks graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NATIONAL POLICY PANEL DISCUSSION

Gregory Chambers is the director of corporate compliance at Oberg Industries. He is responsible for the export control, environmental, health, and safety programs in the corporation. He currently serves on the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council and US Department of Commerce district export council of western Pennsylvania. He is board chairman of the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and New Century Careers, and he is past president of the American Apprenticeship Round Table. Chambers is a journeyman precision toolmaker and a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in chemical engineering.

Robert Lerman is an Institute fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute, a professor of economics at American University, and a research fellow at IZA in Bonn, Germany. A leading expert on apprenticeship, he recently established the American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeship. His current research focuses on skills, employer training, apprenticeship programs in the United States and abroad, and housing policies. Lerman's published research covers employment issues, earnings and income inequality, family structure, income support, and youth development, especially as they affect low-income populations. In the 1970s, he worked as staff economist for both the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the US Department of Labor. He was one of the first scholars to examine the patterns and economic determinants of unwed fatherhood and to propose a youth apprenticeship strategy in the United States. He served on the National Academy of Sciences panel on the US postsecondary education and training system and on the Maryland Task Force on Economic Development and Apprenticeship. He has testified before congressional committees on youth apprenticeship, child support policies, and the information technology labor market. Lerman earned his bachelor's

degree at Brandeis University and doctoral degree in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Brent Parton is the deputy director of the Center on Education and Labor at New America. The center is dedicated to building learning-based pathways to economic opportunity that can begin inside or outside formal higher education. His work focuses on federal and state policies to scale up those pathways and ensure their quality and relevance within an evolving economy. Before New America, Parton served as a senior policy advisor at the US Department of Labor. Before joining the department, Parton worked at the National Governors Association, where he led the development of a new portfolio focused on supporting state strategies to expand high-quality work-based learning. Parton also worked in the education sector of the World Bank, coauthoring a book on entrepreneurship education and training and supporting policy dialogue related to skills and youth employment. Before that, he led a start-up, nonprofit organization focused on engaging youth in health care policy and taught English in Shenzhen, China.

Eric M. Seleznow is a senior advisor and directs Jobs for the Future's Center for Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning. He works to further the organization's goals of advancing innovative workforce policy and programs, contributing to work on apprenticeship, reentry, and sector strategies. Before Jobs for the Future, Seleznow served as deputy assistant secretary for the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, under Secretary Tom Perez. During his tenure there, he focused on implementing the Obama administration's vision for workforce development, skills training, and registered apprenticeship. He has more than 30 years of experience managing a range of workforce development and correctional reentry programs at the federal, state, and local levels. Before the Department of Labor, he served as the state policy director with the National Skills Coalition, as executive director of the Maryland governor's Workforce Investment Board, and as the local workforce board director for the Montgomery County (MD) Department of Economic Development.

PROMISING APPRENTICESHIP PRACTICES PANEL DISCUSSION

Noel Ginsburg is an entrepreneur and nonprofit leader long committed to serving his community. In 1980, while attending the University of Denver, Ginsburg founded Intertech Plastics, a custom plastics business that manufactures products for the consumer, industrial, and medical device markets. The company employs nearly 200 people at two facilities in Denver. In 2016, Ginsburg created the nonprofit CareerWise Colorado to create opportunities for students and businesses across the state by developing an innovative, sustainable youth apprenticeship program. The program brings together public and private stakeholders to ensure students have access to the skills and knowledge they need for financial and academic success, and that businesses can access highly trained talent. Ginsburg was also a founding board member and former president of the Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation, which helps disadvantaged Denver students graduate from high school and supports them with college scholarships. In 2017, Ginsburg ran for governor of Colorado, giving him a unique perspective on issues ranging from education and workforce to health care.

Joshua Johnson is the state director of apprenticeship standards at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. He is the sixth director since 1911, when Wisconsin was the first state to

begin registered apprenticeships. Johnson participated in and completed a construction craft laborer apprenticeship and brings this experience to his current role. He seeks to change the landscape of Wisconsin apprenticeships by creating visible access points and a value-added proposition for employers. Johnson stepped into his role as the program curriculum for youth apprenticeship was modernized to ensure it adequately meets the current and future needs of the industries and workforce in Wisconsin; the modernization creates a seamless transition from youth apprenticeship to a related registered apprenticeship while increasing transferrable credits and credentials to prepare all youth apprenticeship students for success on their postsecondary pathways. Johnson's goal is to make Wisconsin apprenticeships accessible to all career seekers and more employers.

Diane Auer Jones serves as principal deputy undersecretary at the US Department of Education, performing the duties of undersecretary and assistant secretary for postsecondary education. Previously, Jones served as a program director at the National Science Foundation, as a professional staff member and acting staff director for the research subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on Science, and as the deputy to the associate director for science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In 2006, Jones was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate to serve as assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the Department of Education. While serving as assistant secretary, Jones became interested in expanding postsecondary education options, including through apprenticeship programs. She has authored several papers about the importance of apprenticeship opportunities and served for two years as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute. In that role, she co-lead a project to develop occupational frameworks for apprenticeships in health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, cybersecurity, transportation, and other areas. Jones returned to government service in 2017, serving as a senior policy adviser to the secretary of the Department of Labor before moving back to the Department of Education to serve as a senior policy advisor and later transitioning to her current role.

Nicholas Toth currently serves in the Governor Murphy Administration as the Director of the recently created New Jersey Office of Apprenticeship and has overseen the implementation of the New Jersey Apprenticeship Network. In addition to his work on apprenticeship, Nicholas has also been tasked with workforce projects relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to joining NJ Labor, Nicholas served in the Obama Administration as the Special Assistant to former United States Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, and subsequently worked as a Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Policy. Nicholas currently holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Labor Relations and a master's degree in Labor Market Policy and Dispute Resolution, both from Cornell University.