

Message

**From:** Karen Czarnecki [events@mercatus.gmu.edu]  
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**To:** Bolen, Brittany [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=31e872a691114372b5a6a88482a66e48-Bolen, Brit]  
**Subject:** Starting Soon: Debating Work Requirements, Work Availability, and Training

Join us in Rayburn 2237 to learn more about Farm Bill work requirements and why low labor force participation is problematic

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## Why Are There So Many Open Jobs and So Many Americans Without Jobs?

### Policy Solutions: Work Requirements, Work Availability, and Training

Please join us at **10am in Rayburn 2237** as experts discuss work requirements, work availability, training, and how these topics effect current policy debates such as the Farm Bill and Senator Sanders' guaranteed jobs proposal.

Each month, there are hundreds of thousands of open jobs in the U.S., and yet there are millions of Americans who do not have a job. Many have given up looking for work. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Event Details

**TODAY**, May 11, 2018

10AM – 12PM

**Duck Donuts will be provided.**

**Rayburn House Building Room 2237**

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## About the Event

### **Panel 1: Examining All Angles: Work Requirements, Work Availability, and Education**

What are the benefits and limitations of work requirements, training programs, and subsidized work? How can we test such policies?

- **Harry Holzer**, LaFarge SJ Professor Professor, Georgetown University and Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings
- **Jason Fichtner**, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center
- Moderated by: Nick Timiraos, *The Wall Street Journal*

### **Panel 2: What Can Help Americans Find Jobs?**

Expert panelists will share their experiences with local workforce development programs and the major barriers they encounter in helping the public get back to work.

- **Mason Bishop**, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Sharon Johnson**, CEO, Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board, Inc. and Chairperson, Virginia Association of Workforce Directors
- **Montez King**, Executive Director, NIMS and Appointee to the President's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion
- **Mardy Leathers**, Director, Missouri Division of Workforce Development
- Moderated by: Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center

Seating is limited, please RSVP [here](#). For questions, please contact Jen Campbell at [jcampbell@mercatus.gmu.edu](mailto:jcampbell@mercatus.gmu.edu) or Ex. 6

## About the Speakers



Mason Bishop is the Principal of WorkED Consulting, LLC, a provider of workforce development and higher education consulting and management services. Previously, Bishop was the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Employment and Training Administration for the US Department of Labor. He led national workforce policy efforts and initiatives, oversaw key workforce investment programs, and assisted with congressional relations and legislative issues.



Jason J. Fichtner is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. His research focuses on Social Security, federal tax policy, federal budget policy, retirement security, and policy proposals to increase saving and investment. Previously, he served in several positions at the Social Security Administration, including as deputy commissioner of Social Security (acting), chief economist, and associate commissioner for retirement policy.



Harry J. Holzer is a Nonresident Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution and the LaFarge SJ Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown. He previously served as Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Labor and professor of economics at Michigan State University. Prior to coming to Georgetown, Professor Holzer served as Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Labor and professor of economics at Michigan State University.



Sharon Johnson is CEO for the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board, Inc. and Chairperson for the Virginia Association of Workforce Directors. She has over 25 years of talent development experience working with the private sector, public workforce system, economic development, and community colleges. Sharon received her PhD in Human Capital Development from the University of Southern Mississippi and her MS in Adult Education and Human Resource Development from James Madison University.



Montez King is the Executive Director of NIMS, developing national standards and competency-based credentials in manufacturing trades. Montez is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization. In October 2017, Montez was appointed to the President's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion.



Mardy Leathers was appointed to serve as the Director of the Missouri Division of Workforce Development in October 2017. He most recently served as Executive Director of the Center for Workforce Development at East Central College in Union, Missouri. There, he played a key role in developing the statewide Community College Workforce Development Network and oversaw the college's business and industry training efforts, community education, healthcare career certification and WIOA programs.



Nick Timiraos (moderator) is a national economics correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* in Washington, DC. He has covered the housing bust and the government's response to the mortgage crisis, including the bailout of finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In 2008, he contributed to the *Journal's* coverage of the presidential election. He joined the *Journal* in 2006 and graduated from Georgetown University, where he studied government and American studies.



Veronique de Rugy (moderator) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a nationally syndicated columnist. Her primary research interests include the US economy, the federal budget, homeland security, taxation, tax competition, and financial privacy. Her popular weekly charts address economic issues ranging from lessons on creating sustainable economic growth to the implications of government tax and fiscal policies. She has testified numerous times in front of Congress on the effects of fiscal stimulus, debt and deficits, and regulation on the economy. She received her PhD in economics from the Pantheon-Sorbonne University.

*This event is free and open to the general public. This event has been planned in accordance with the widely-attended event exception to congressional gift rules and government ethics memoranda. Breakfast will be provided.*

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