

Message

From: Karen Czarnecki [events@mercatus.gmu.edu]
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Subject: You're Invited: Debating Solutions to Declining Labor Force Participation

Experienced experts discuss real solutions for getting more non-working Americans into the labor force.

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A Wakeup Call for Today's Modern Workforce

Event Details

[Register](#)

Friday, May 11, 2018
Breakfast/Check-in: 9:30AM – 10AM
Event Discussion: 10AM – 12PM

Rayburn House Office Building
Room TBD
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

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About the Event

Despite low unemployment numbers, the US still faces low labor force participation rates. There are millions of Americans who do not have a job but are not counted as unemployed since they are no longer looking for work. Who are these people, why are they not working, and how can policymakers help?

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

What policy solutions can address low labor force participation? What are the benefits and limitations of work requirements and how can we test such policies? This panel will cover how to make work more available and attractive to workers, including topics such as subsidized jobs, training, and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- **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 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.



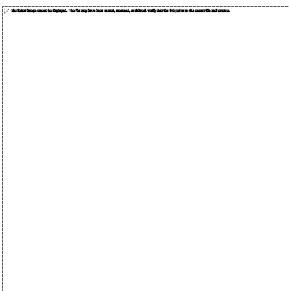
Jason J. Fichtner is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. His research focuses on Social Security, federal tax policy, federal budget policy, retirement security, and policy proposals to increase saving and investment. Previously, he served in several positions 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.

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