



Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUTURE OF WORK TASK FORCE MEETS AUG. 8 IN SPOKANE

Task Force will discuss new ideas to meet state's tech changes, challenges

OLYMPIA_ The state's Future of Work Task Force will meet Thursday, Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Spokane Workforce Council Event Center, 140 S. Arthur St., Ste. 300C, to discuss, among other things, potential policies to recommend to the Legislature to help ensure Washington's workers and businesses thrive in the face of automation and change.

Made up of legislators, business and labor leaders, the 16-member Task Force is the first of its kind in the nation and is part of a larger Future of Work project funded by the Legislature in 2018. The project puts Washington in the spotlight as a thought leader and asks how the state's workforce and employers can prosper together. The Task Force was formed as artificial intelligence and automation are speeding up business transformation and reshaping skilled work, all while an increasing number of workers earn a living doing temporary "gig" work, often without the safety net of health insurance and retirement plans.

The state's Workforce Board is managing the project and helping facilitate Task Force discussions and recommendations. The Task Force is focused on creating policy ideas that can help employers in all parts of Washington leverage new technology and innovation to grow their bottom line, while equipping valued employees and new workers with the tools needed to keep pace with emerging trends.

"This Task Force brings together vital perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing employers and workers in Washington as technology accelerates and the nature of work changes," said Lewis McMurrin, who co-manages the Workforce Board's Future of Work project and will help facilitate the meeting in Spokane. "We want to move this conversation forward as the Task Force shapes key priorities that the Legislature can take action on as early as 2020."

The Spokane meeting is the second of four public meetings that will be held this year before the Task Force delivers a set of policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature at the beginning of December. The Task Force is also required to establish a set of success indicators and a measurement tracking system to go along with policy recommendations.

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The Workforce Board is a state agency that monitors and evaluates the state's key workforce programs and provides leadership on policies that help all Washington residents get the education and training they need to obtain living-wage jobs.