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Business Leaders United
for Workforce Partnerships

MARCH 2015

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH
BLU DIRECTOR SCOTT
ELLSWORTH**

NFWS/BLU peer-to-peer day

June 18, 2015
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
[Draft Agenda](#)

April 10 Austin, TX
May 12 Grand Rapids, MI
June 25 Dayton, OH

For employer registration information contact
scotte@businessleadersunited.org.

BLU EMPLOYERS IN THE NEWS

[Nautique](#)
named employer of the year

[Holder Construction and MetroPower, Inc.](#)

BLU fly-in recap

In January, BLU hosted more than 60 employers in Washington, DC for the [2015 BLU Fly-In](#).



We discussed the business community's efforts to close the skills gap with the administration and Congress. [Officials](#) from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, the Department of Education, the White House National Economic Council, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Commerce met with employers to gain a real world perspective on training and skills.

Employers held more than 75 meetings on Capitol Hill and shared their message on the importance of training and skills. Many of the meetings were with new members of Congress, so employers had a unique opportunity to get their workforce priorities in at the ground level. You can see a recap of the event through [photos](#) or [tweets](#).

BLU joins with National Fund for Workforce Solutions to present effective practices in June



On June 18, BLU will be co-sponsoring a day of peer-to-peer

discuss efforts to reduce skills shortage

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sharing on practices that are working around the country. This will be a terrific opportunity to learn from some of the most creative and successful employers that are making the workforce system work for them. The target is to get 150 employers in the room for [breakout sessions](#) with open discussion on a number of topics, including: apprenticeships, employer roles in public policy, credentials, and making time for workforce development.

This event promises to be a great opportunity to learn from peers about ideas and practices that are working for employers today. Hopefully we'll see you in Baltimore in June.

[Register](#) early to assure your spot.

BLU Employer Profile

This month we profiled BLU employer Mike Kenig of Holder Construction in Atlanta, Georgia. Below is an excerpt from our interview. To read the entire interview, [click here](#).



BLU: Why should other employers get involved in advocating for employer led workforce partnerships?

Mike: Advocacy is critical at all levels - national, state and local. We can't do this alone and we as employers have a much stronger voice when we come together to advocate . As a matter of fact when I came back to Georgia after my first Fly-In, I was looking for our local BLU. Since we didn't have one, I've been partnering with my local industry association and looking to expand to our chambers to work on these issues at a local level and to see if we can organize businesses around workforce issues.

BLU partners with national organizations to form UpSkill America

Catalyzed by  the President's State of the Union address, BLU has recently joined with several national organizations to form [UpSkill America](#). UpSkill America is an initiative focused on the upskilling of our country's frontline workers, an effort consistent with BLU's policy platform and the on-the-ground endeavors of our employer partners.

In January, two BLU employers, CN Hotels and Mercy Health, were featured in a [document](#) on the White House website recognizing their upskilling efforts. These are just two of many BLU employers have been leading the charge on this issue for years, and it just makes sense – for workers and employers – that so many more companies are doing the same.

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