



OCTOBER 2015

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[BLU employer profile: Molly Seals](#)

[Liza Alvarez speaks on Detroit panel](#)

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Tell us what BLU should focus on



Business Leaders United
for Workforce Partnerships

BLU has made a significant difference in the workforce policy debate over the past four years, thanks to your advocacy and engagement. With the passage a new workforce act in 2014, we have the opportunity to influence [additional legislation](#) over the next several years. We would like your help in prioritizing these issues by [completing this short survey](#) to give us guidance on BLU's future efforts.

BLU employer profile: Molly Seals

BLU employer Molly Seals, Senior VP of Human Resources and Learning at Mercy Health Partners, sheds light on the critical need to prioritize workforce development, and why other employers should get involved with BLU. [Click here](#) to read the profile.



Liza Alvarez speaks on "Career Advancement Perspectives and Practices" on Detroit panel.

Liza Alvarez, a member of BLU and the Human Resources Manager at Vi-Chem Corporation in Grand Rapids was invited to sit on an employer panel hosted by the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) (WKKF). WKKF champions the same kind of work Business Leaders United does. [Click here](#) to read her blog about the event.



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August 20, Webinar

[International Boatbuilders Exhibition & Conference](#)
September 14
Louisville KY

BLU Fly-In in Partnership with the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE)
November 9-10
Washington DC

LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESS LEADERS UNITED

Visit the [BLU Website](#)

GET INVOLVED 

You already know that BLU lets small and medium businesses have input on workforce policy; and that BLU connects you with your peers across the country. There's a [new tool](#) that can help you share BLU – whether you're working with your local chamber of commerce, regional trade association, or in a sector partnership. BLU's new pamphlet can connect people to our important shared work. [Download and print](#) it from BLU's website.



BLU Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships

Business leaders are challenging policymakers to make changes that impact SMEs

Government and the education system are not always responsive to employer needs. It is especially true for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who often lack the resources or ability to drive change in the system. BLU gives employers the opportunity to make the system work for them, and to have their voices heard that are already benefiting from engagement.

Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships (BLU) is the national voice of small and medium sized employers who are eager to develop public-private partnerships in their communities, and to better meet their skilled workforce needs.

BLU empowers small and medium sized and state policymakers to propose and implement government support and policies that will address their needs. Thanks to BLU's advocacy, state partnerships are now a requirement for certain grants from the Department of Labor, Education, and Commerce. And, BLU is instrumental in making business and state partnerships the top priority of the new labor administration and the Obama administration. BLU has also been instrumental in getting the Community College to Career Fund Act passed.

- Making government financial aid available to employers who want to invest in their workforce.
- Making the point that not all jobs require a Bachelor's degree but that most jobs will require some level of postsecondary education or training.

BLU empowers, informs, inspires, and influences the workforce development and the skills gap debate. With a growing number of partnerships, we are working to create a national network of public and private partnerships for workforce and for the new level.

Erick Ajax talks skills gap on CBS Minnesota

“There are multiple pathways to a successful career and a family sustaining wage, and it doesn't always have to be a four year degree.” That's what Erik Ajax from EJ Ajax Metal Forming Solutions told viewers on CBS Minnesota earlier this month in a news clip that talked about the skills gap and the Community College to Career Fund Act, introduced by Senator Al Franken. [Check out the video of the newscast here.](#)



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