



Seamless:

Soft Skills in the Classroom and Beyond

Susan Roberts, SCR Consulting LLC



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Mar 9

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! #MAGA



JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!

 11K

 18K

 72K



JOBS, JOBS,
JOBS!



Cabinet for Econ Dev
@ThinkKentucky

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Kentucky's growth continues to set records.
[#WeAreKy](#) [#KyMakes](#) [#ThinkKentucky](#)



10:58 AM - 13 Mar 2018



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“Unprecedented Jobs Growth Streak Continues as Wages Rise”





Unprecedented Jobs Growth Streak Continues as Wages Rise | The White Ho...
The United States economy continues to enjoy its longest, consecutive streak of positive monthly job numbers. The pace of job growth in 2018 averages 207,000 j...
whitehouse.gov

4:16 PM - 7 Sep 2018

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The GDP Rate (4.2%) is higher than the Unemployment Rate (3.9%) for the first time in over 100 years!

7:03 AM - 10 Sep 2018

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@realDonaldTrump Follow

Financial and jobs numbers are fantastic. There are plenty of new, high paying jobs available in our great and very vibrant economy. If you are not happy where you are, start looking - but also remember, our economy is only getting better. Vote in Midterms!

7:05 AM - 20 Sep 2018

Jobs, *jobs*, JOBS!

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!



John Bel Edwards  @LouisianaGov · Mar 11

More great news! Louisiana's economy created jobs and put people to work for the eleventh straight month. With the highest GDP in state history and continued job creation, our state is moving in the right direction. [#lagov](#) [#OurLouisiana](#) [#LouisianaWinning](#)

THE ADVOCATE

Louisiana adds 8,600 nonfarm jobs in January over the year

Louisiana added 8,600 nonfarm jobs in January compared to a year earlier, as employment rose to 1,961,600.

theadvocate.com

The other
reality

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ECONOMIC DATA

Jobs Go Unfilled as the Economy Expands

- U.S. job openings reached 6.7 million last quarter, a 17-year high, with demand for workers growing the most in transportation
-



A "Now Hiring" sign outside a restaurant in Louisville, Ky. The number of available jobs in June exceeded the number of unemployed Americans by nearly 100,000. PHOTO: LUKE SHARRETT/BLOOMBERG NEWS

By Eric Morath and Jennifer Smith

Updated Aug. 7, 2018 6:13 p.m. ET

Unfilled jobs are piling up in the transportation, retail and business-services sectors as workers become scarce in the fast-growing economy.

Associations Contractors National News

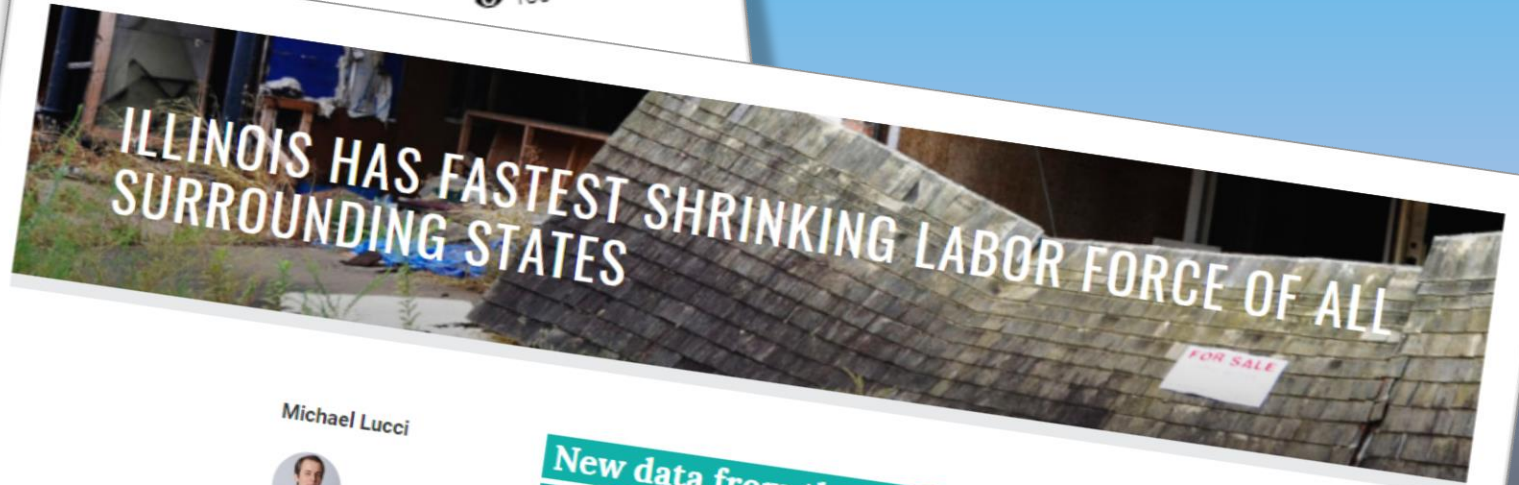
Labor shortage: 68 percent of Illinois contractors are having trouble finding qualified workers

By Mark Buckshon - September 4, 2018



Source: chicagoconstructionnews.com

186 0



Michael Lucci



/ JOBS + GROWTH
OCTOBER 25, 2016

New data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show Illinois' professional and business services sector has fared better than the state's manufacturing industry, which recorded 800 job losses in September.

Source: Illinoispolicy.org

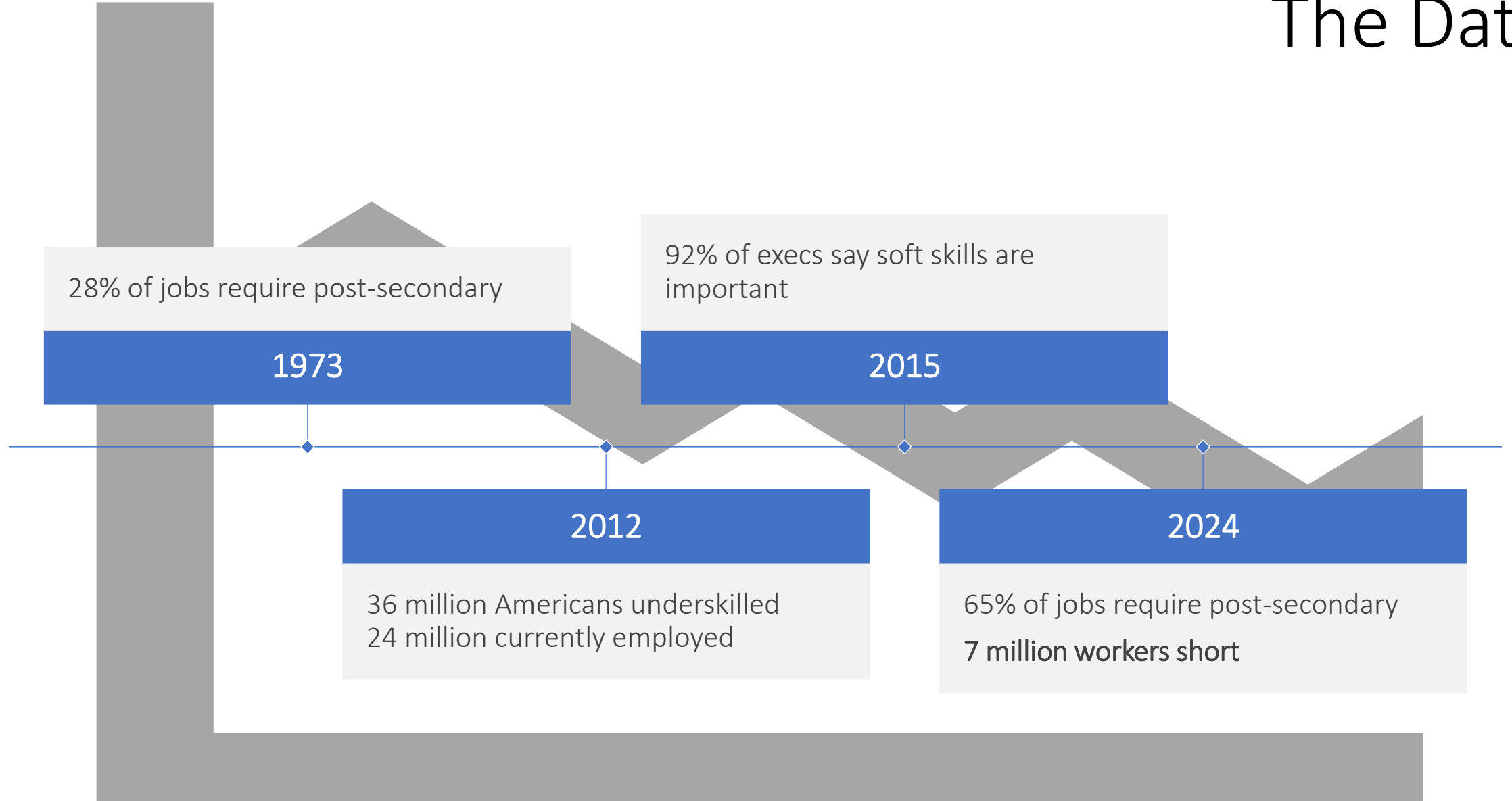
BY BOTTOM LINE ON MAY 26, 2017 • ( LEAVE A COMMENT)

Major industries expect growth, but finding skilled workers a challenge

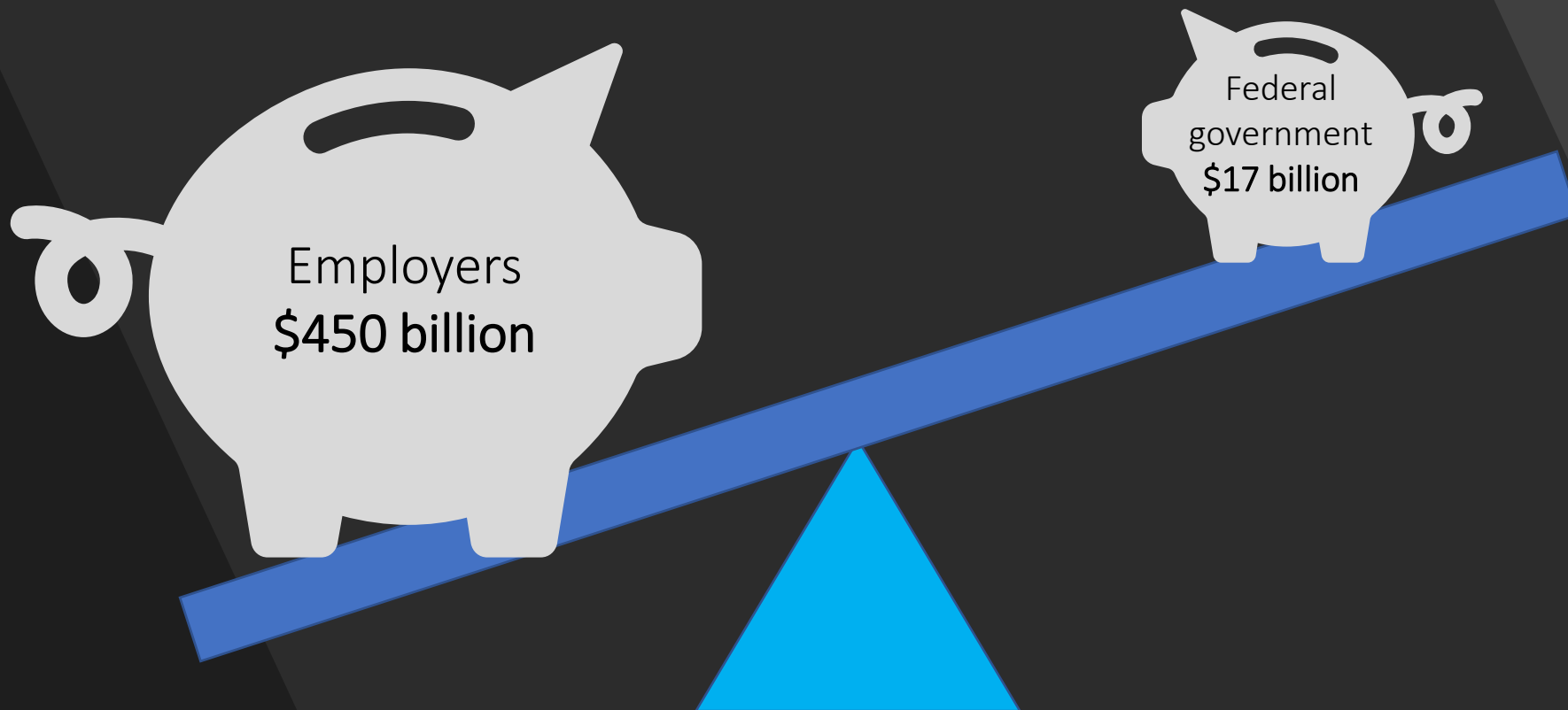
Positive economic conditions and strong prospects for growth were among the findings of a recent statewide survey of Kentucky businesses. But another finding poses a particular challenge despite that optimistic news: 84 percent of employers report having trouble recruiting qualified workers.

More than 1,000 businesses participated in the Bridging the Talent Gap survey, conducted by the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management.

The Data



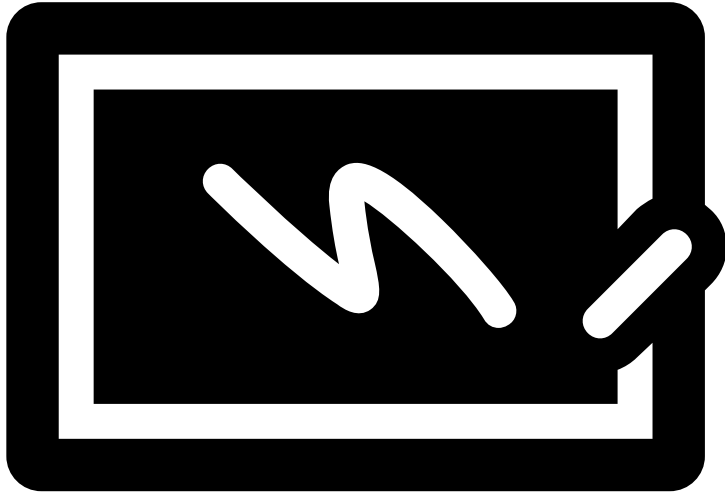
The Cost of Underskilled



The Cost of Underskilled

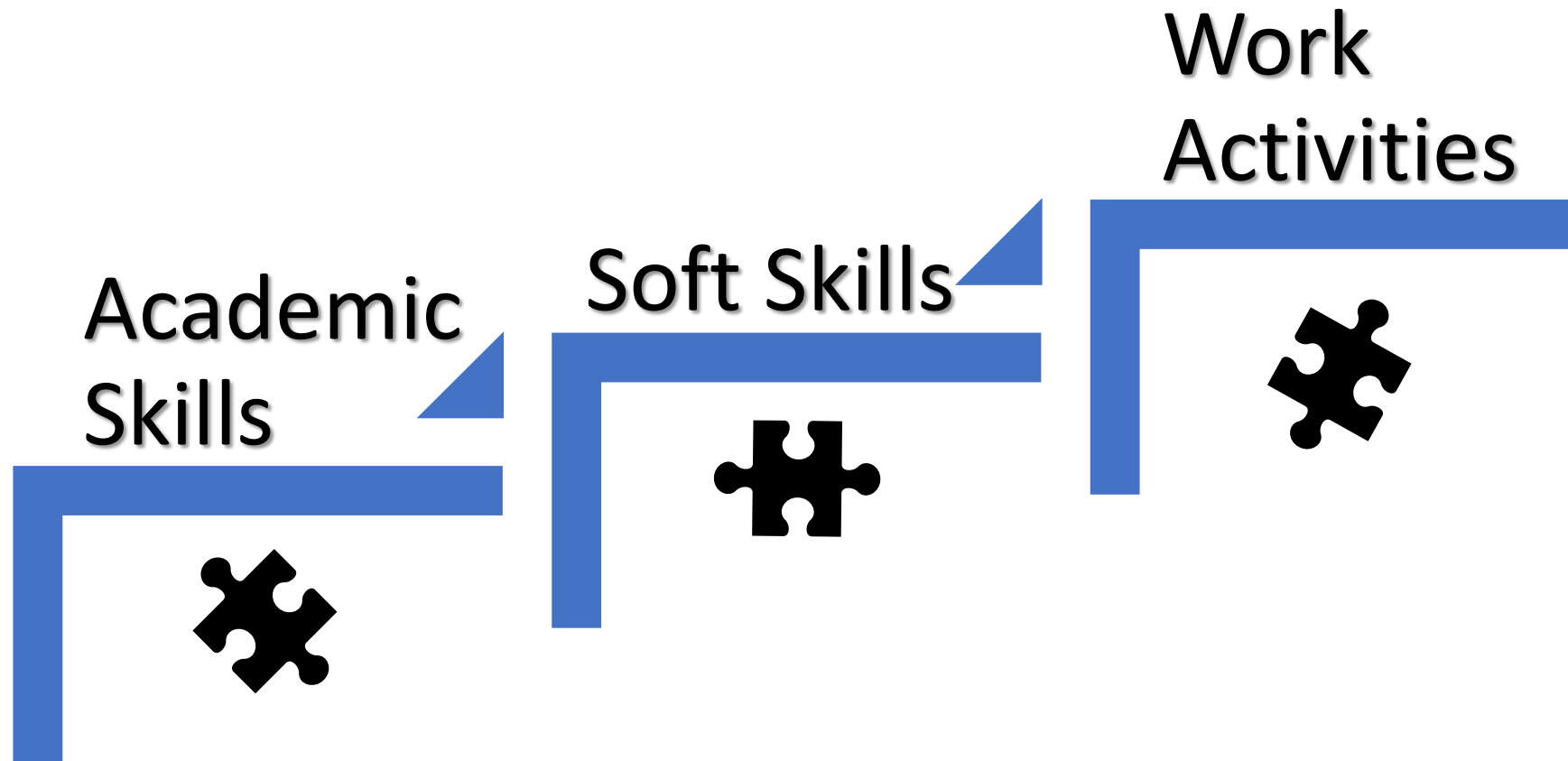
\$14,000 per
vacant position





The seamless teaching of academic skills in a real-life, work-ready context through the use of authentic materials

Contextualized Instruction



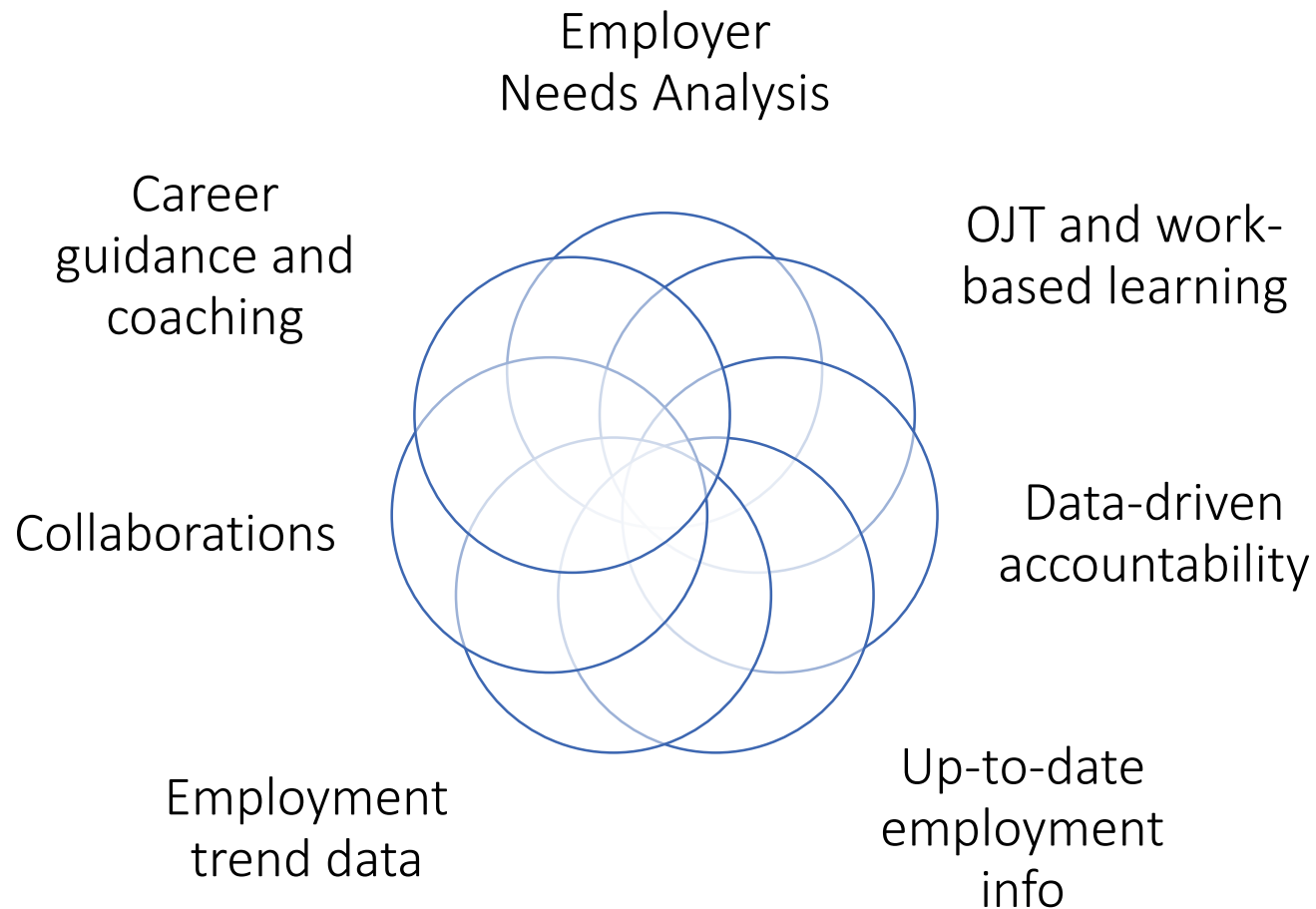
Contextualized Instruction

Skills are the currency of today.



Workforce Innovation
and Opportunity Act
(WIOA)

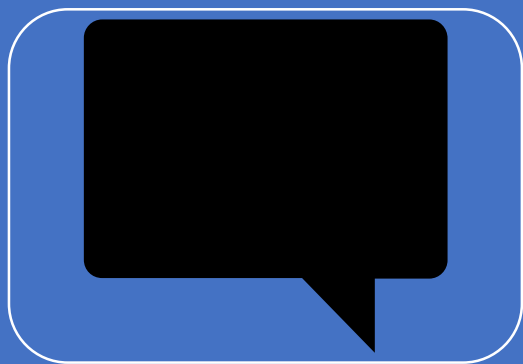
Strengthens alignment among adult education, postsecondary education, and employers.



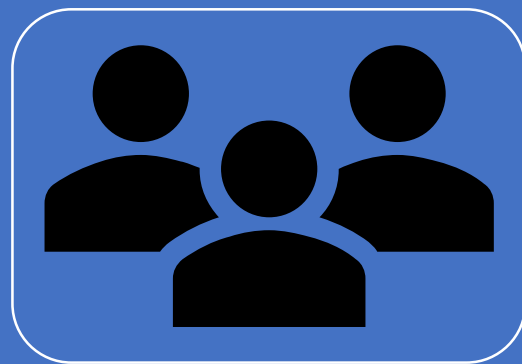
The 7 Elements of WIOA



The 4 C's



Communication



Collaboration



Critical Thinking



Creativity

Communication



Verbal and non-verbal communication with recognition of the importance in ensuring the message sent is the message that is received.



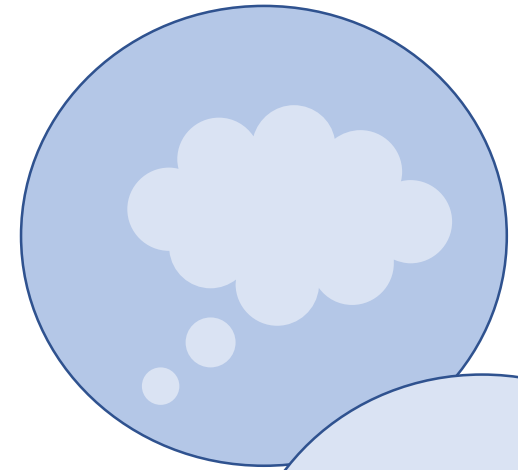
Listen actively and critically, including inferring meaning and identifying fallibility of information when necessary



Recognize audience-specific needs and make adjustments



Utilize media to *enhance communicative ability*



Collaboration



Communicate clearly and effectively



Appreciate and value the ideas and work of others



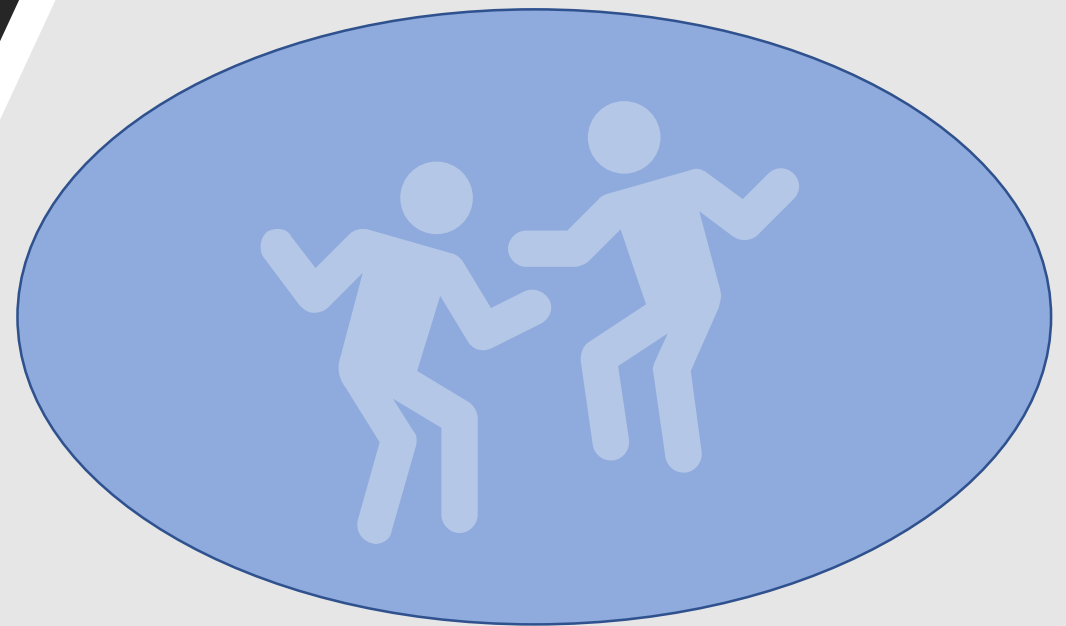
Give and receive critical feedback in working toward a common goal



Demonstrate flexibility—to take one for the team at the expense of self-interest



Assume a role in a team and to provide valuable contribution



Critical Thinking



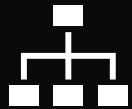
Analyze data, void of emotion or opinion (uses reasoning)



Appreciate other viewpoints' validity and to recognize alternate ideas



Systematically solve problems



Delineate parts from the whole



Creativity and Innovation



“Think outside the box” to solve a problem or meet a need (critical thinking)



Face a challenge as an opportunity (critical thinking)



Contribute in new ways (critical thinking)



Communication



Role-play and scenarios



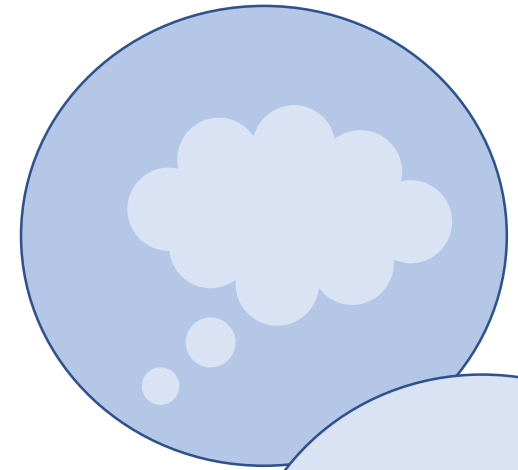
Multiple platforms for communication



Democratic establishment of classroom procedures



Instructor modeling



Collaboration



Partnered activities



Group debates



Assigned roles in group settings



Project-based learning activities



Critical Thinking



Deductive reasoning



Point of view analysis



Think-aloud modeling in problem-solving sets



Evidential vs. emotional response



"How and why" questioning



Creativity and Innovation



Mathematic manipulatives



Brainstorming activities



Projects with multiple outcomes



Soft Skill Assessments

- Informal rubrics and checklists
- Instructor observation
- Self-assessment
- Soft skill software

Employee handbooks

Job descriptions

Memos/emails

Incident reports

Job market analysis reports

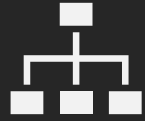
Public transportation or shift schedules

Salary and benefits reports

Authentic Materials



Soft Skills Integration



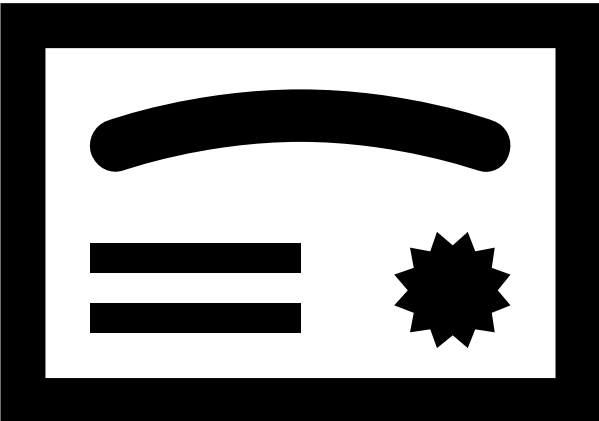
OCTAE Framework



Rubrics and checklists



Authentic materials



Contextualized Instruction Categories



Workforce Prep

Learning, practicing, and demonstrating soft skills



Career Pathways

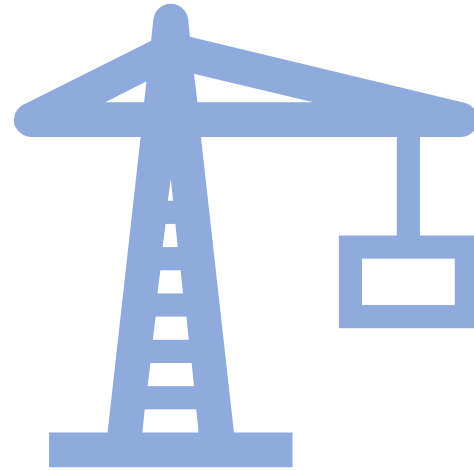
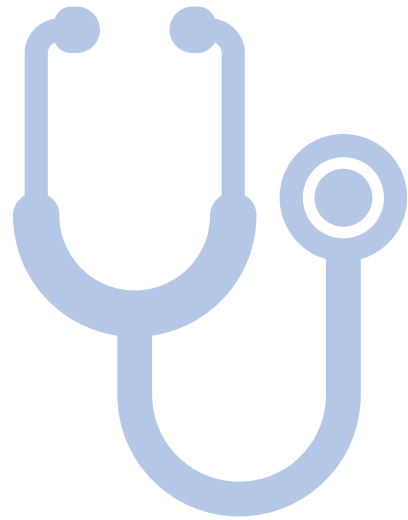
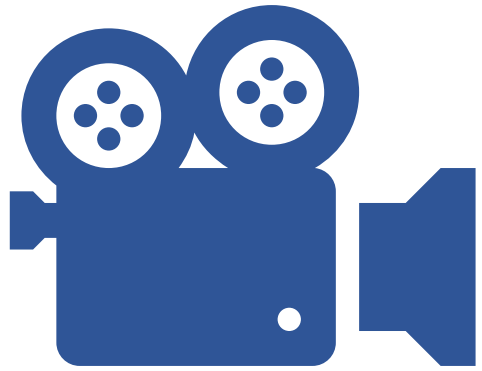
ABE/ASE instruction that is occupational-specific as an introduction to a cluster



IET

Occupationally-specific content, delivered concurrently with post-secondary, employer, or training provider





Career Pathways

Career Clusters



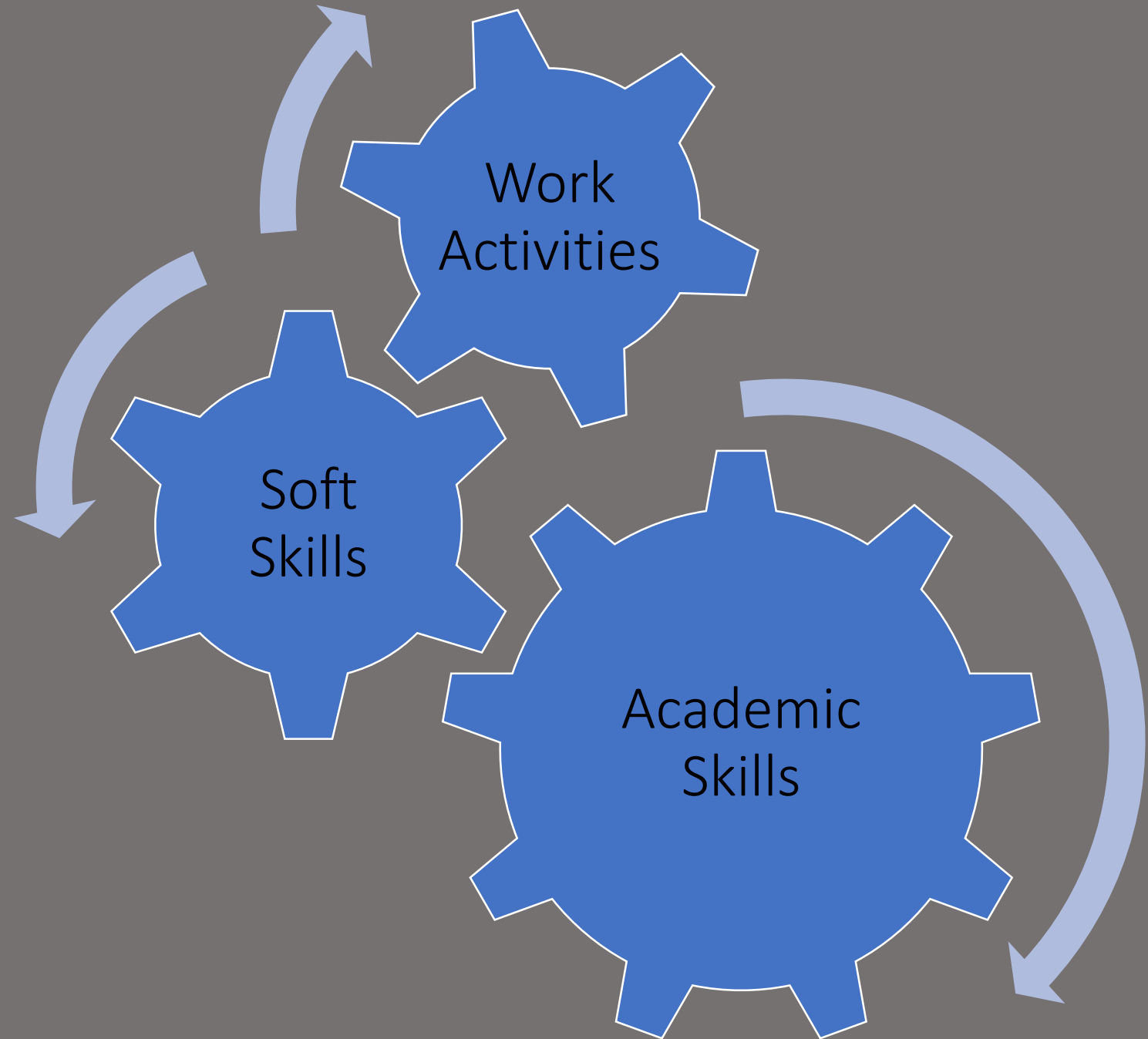
What are your region's target sectors?

A black silhouette of a person holding a child.	A black icon of a line graph with an upward-pointing arrow.	A black icon of three stacked coins.	A black icon of a tablet with a lightning bolt symbol on the screen.
A black icon of a pair of handcuffs.	A black icon of a truck.	A black icon of a hand saw.	A black icon of a satellite dish.
A black icon of a computer monitor and tower.	A black icon of a hospital bed.	A black icon of a barn.	A black icon of a printer.
A black icon of a syringe.	A black icon of a gavel.	A black icon of two interlocking gears.	A black icon of a microscope.



Partnerships

- Business/Industry
- Education entities
- Career centers
- Counseling services

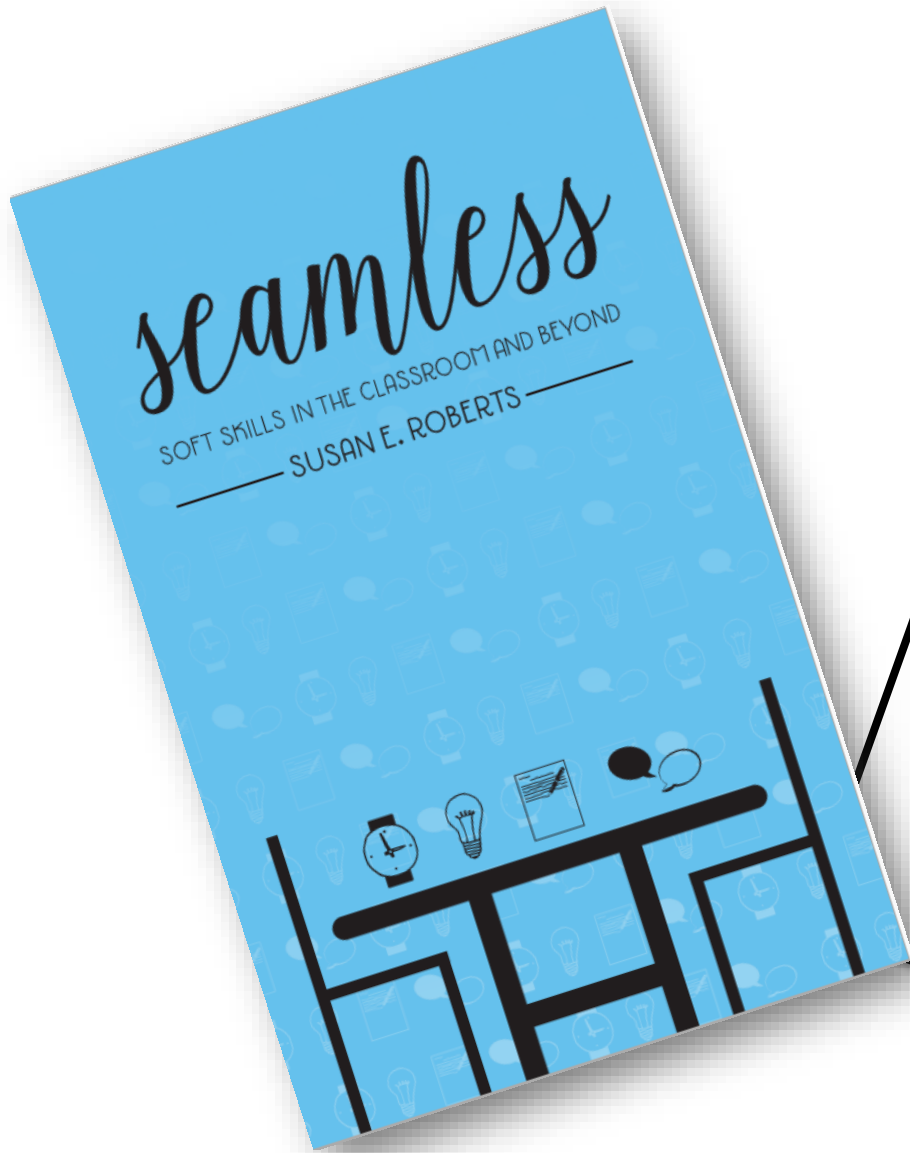


Soft Skills Implementation Diagnostic

Complete it for your program *or* your classroom

Criteria	Emerging	Established	Flourishing
My program has an implemented policy regarding soft skill-infused instruction.			
Program teachers and employees have the necessary training in soft skill instruction in order to deliver seamless, high quality lessons to our students.			
Contextualized instruction is taking place on a daily basis across all classrooms.			
My program currently employs soft skills curriculum across all grades.			
My program's employees model soft skills for students (attitude, dress, promptness, communication, etc.).			
I model soft skills for my employees.			
Local businesses' needs are considered in the context of goal-setting and program planning.			
A strong relationship with our Chamber of Commerce is important to my program.			
Students have access to high-quality co-op, internship, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities across a variety of age levels within and outside of our program.			
Student graduation/program completion requirements align with local economic demands.			
I know the soft-skill needs of local industry and foster these characteristics in students.			
My program helps to bridge the gap between graduates and employment/higher education.			
K-12: My district makes priority for WIOA-provisioned In-School Youth (ISY) Programs: financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills training, transition focus for training and post-secondary education, local labor			







Today's Materials

EXPERT GUIDANCE, QUALITY PRODUCTS

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THE SCR
CONSULTING WAY

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Welcome to SCR Academy, a collection of high-quality, interactive courses designed with the user in mind. Designed by nationally-recognized education consultant Susan Roberts of [SCR Consulting](#), SCR Academy offers courses in today's hottest topics in the world of education, from standards-based instruction to soft skill infusion and more.

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Contact Me!



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