

## We need your help!

The Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative is conducting a Employer Workplace Satisfaction Survey. The information will inform the work of the Collaborative, program builders, and decision-makers across the state to improve workforce supports, work-based learning, and education opportunities so that young people are better prepared for employment success and employers gain skilled workers. [Start the survey!](#)

## We appreciate the organizations who are helping to distribute the survey:

- *MT Association of Counties*
- *MT Chamber of Commerce (and local chambers)*
- *MT Department of Commerce*
- *MT Department of Labor & Industry*
- *MT Economic Development Association (and regional EDAs)*
- *MT Equipment Dealers Association*
- *MT High Tech Business Alliance*
- *MT Hospital Association*
- *MT League of Cities and Towns*
- *MT Manufacturing Extension Center*
- *MT Nonprofit Association*
- *MT Primary Care Association*
- *MT Restaurant Association*
- *MT Retail Association*
- *MT Rural Health Initiative*
- *Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education*
- *Office of Public Instruction*
- *Career & Technical Student Organizations*
- *Members of the Work-Based Learning Collaborative*

## Montana Employers

We want to learn about your recent experience recruiting, retaining talent, and your interest in work-based learning.

**Scan the QR code** to fill out the Employer Workplace Satisfaction Survey.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBLCollabEmployer>



Learn more about us at [wblmt.org](http://wblmt.org)



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## Earn a teaching license with industry experience

Looking for something new? Want to impact the next generation? Use your Industry Experience to obtain an Educator License. Class 4 Career and Technical teaching licenses are issued to those who have industry experience and wish to teach skills within those industries.

### More Information

Visit the [OPI website](#) to learn more about Class 4 Teaching Licenses.

### Application Process

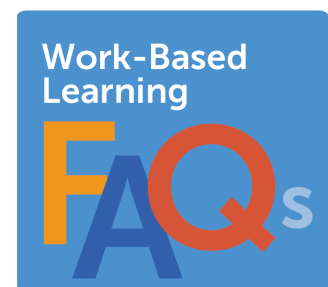
Submit your online application through the licensing system [Teach Montana](#) (TMT). TMT will ask a series of questions to lead you to the correct license application. Do you know someone who might be interested? [Share this flyer](#).



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## Questions about Work-based Learning?

We have many resources and information about work-based learning on our website, including a new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) brochure. Check out [www.wblmt.org](http://www.wblmt.org) for information, resources, and more!



### News you can use

#### [Implementing College and Career Pathways in Rural Communities](#)

College and career pathways are a critical strategy for supporting economic development in rural communities and creating economic advancement opportunities for youth. However, implementing pathways requires recognizing rural communities' unique needs and opportunities. This report by Jobs for the Future outlines three promising strategies for implementing rural pathways: build on local strengths and context, prioritize inclusive economic development, and embed remote opportunities.

The report considers the strengths rural communities can draw on and the challenges they may confront as they implement high-quality pathways that begin in high school and lead to postsecondary credentials aligned to quality jobs. State and regional leaders can employ these rural pathway strategies to support rural economic development and create more seamless transitions from education to career.

## Countering Perspectives on Rural America

[Small Towns, Big Opportunities: Many Workers in Rural Areas Have Good Jobs, but These Areas Need Greater Investment in Education, Training, and Career Counseling](#). This report by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce counters to some degree the popular narrative that rural America has been “left behind.” The report finds that the rural workforce makes up 13 percent of the total 25-to-64-year-old working population in the US and holds 12 percent, or a roughly proportionate share, of the country’s good jobs. It also provides recommendations to mitigate the region’s high labor-force non-participation rate (26 percent), low bachelor’s degree attainment rate (25 percent), and overall population decline.

In rural America, 7.4 million workers ages 25–64 have good jobs paying at least middle-class wages. CEW defines a good job as one that pays, nationally, a minimum of approximately \$43,000 to workers ages 25–44, a minimum of approximately \$55,000 to workers ages 45–64, and a median of approximately \$82,000 for all good jobs (in 2022 dollars). The report accounts for differences in cost of living between rural and urban areas when assessing whether workers have good jobs.

View the [full report](#), including state-level analysis of good jobs in rural and urban areas.

## Will Artificial Intelligence Steal Our Jobs?

Technologies often change the way we work and artificial intelligence (AI) is perhaps the most prominent example of that today. Jobs for the Future’s (JFF) Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) & the Future of Work is looking at big questions about how AI accelerates, rather than delays, access to quality jobs. Join us for the latest episode of Horizons: On the Record, where we visit one of the hottest markets for learning how to live and work with AI—Miami, Florida.



**Upcoming meetings:**  
**Quarterly Meeting (in-person)**  
Thursday, April 11  
Bozeman

### Questions? Contact:

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