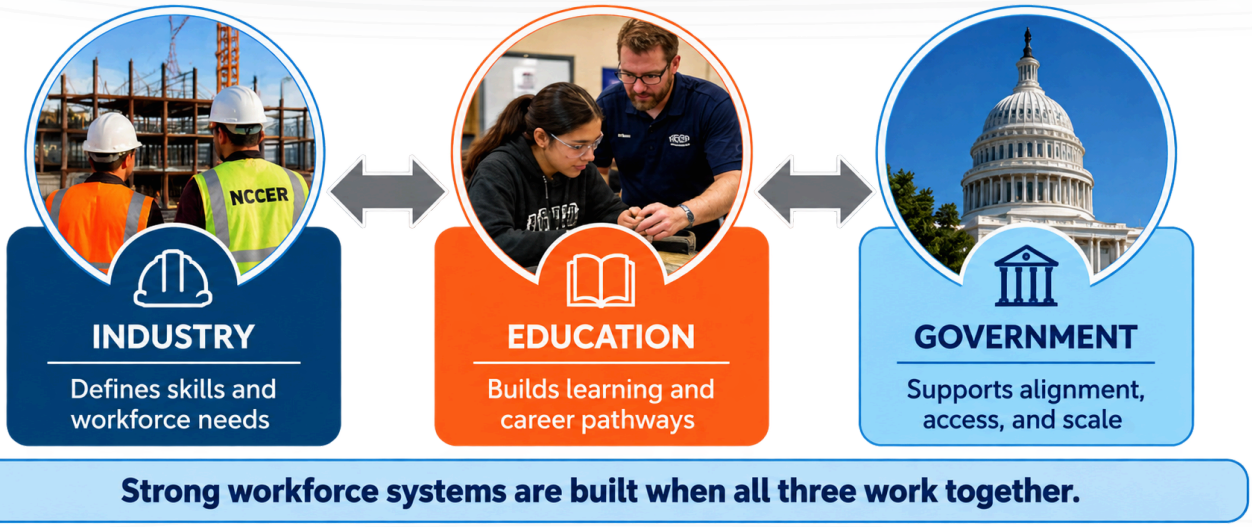
6 Working Together to Build the Workforce

Connecting Industry, Education, and Government

Preparing the next generation of skilled workers is not something industry, education, or government can accomplish alone.

Construction employers understand the skills, competencies, and workforce needs of the industry. Schools and training providers create the learning experiences that prepare people for those careers. Government can help create the policies, resources, and infrastructure that allow those systems to work together.



Strong workforce systems are built when all three work together.

Often workforce and education systems operate independently. Employers may struggle to find opportunities to engage with schools, while educators may lack consistent industry input into curriculum, training, equipment, credentials, and work-based learning.

Stronger partnerships between all of these entities will help ensure that what students learn is connected to the skills employers need, and that students can see a clearer path from education into a career.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

CREATE
meaningful partnerships between employers, schools, training providers, and government.

GIVE
industry a stronger voice in identifying competencies, curriculum, credentials, and training needs.

EXPAND
employer involvement through work-based learning, mentorship, equipment, instructors, and other forms of support.

BUILD
clearer pathways that help students move from education and training into industry careers.

Read all 7 recommendations in the 2026 update to Restoring the Dignity of Work
Find the full report at www.NCCER.org/research/

© NCCER 2026