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From : "Coalition On Adult Basic Education" noreply@coabe.org

To : "ahu.dayanc@fayar.net" ahu.dayanc@fayar.net

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Behind Every Employer

PODCAST



Anson Green, Host
Jeffrey Abramowitz, Host and Executive Producer

Season 1, Episode 9:

Digital Equity Act

Amanda and Anne sit down with us to provide an expert review and valuable playbook describing what employers and practitioners can do to respond to the Digital Equity Act, a transformative law passed by Congress in 2021 that will drive a generational realignment for communities currently disconnected or scarcely accessing digital resources. Digital access and literacy are on everyone's minds as this new \$2.75 billion in federal funding reaches states and communities. Amanda and Anne underscore the critical role employers can play in defining and advocating the digital skills needed to remain competitive. Our guests leverage their local, state, and national leadership to describe the roles employers, state agencies, local providers, advocates, and teachers can play to support their organizations, workers, students, and residents.

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Featured Guest from Episode 9:



Amanda Bergson-Shilcock is a Senior Fellow at National Skills Coalition where she leads the organization's work on adult education and workforce policies to expand opportunities for US-born and immigrant adults. Throughout her career, Amanda has worked with state and federal policymakers and skills advocates to develop policy solutions that address the challenges facing adult learners and jobseekers, including immigrant workers.

As a workforce development expert for more than a decade, Amanda has authored numerous publications and policy recommendations – on immigrant integration, workforce development, and adult education – which have helped educate policymakers, journalists, and the public, and inform public policy at the state and federal levels. Her policy expertise, insights, and commentary have been cited and published in local and national media outlets, including TIME, Fortune, BBC News, Inside Higher Ed, POLITICO, Business Insider, The Wall Street Journal, HR Dive, and many others.

Prior to joining National Skills Coalition in 2015, Amanda served as Vice President of Policy and Evaluation at the nonprofit Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians in Philadelphia. In that role, she led the Welcoming Center's policy and communications work on adult education, workforce and economic development issues. She also served as Policy and Communications Director for IMPRINT, a national coalition of nonprofit organizations focusing on the integration of immigrant professionals. Amanda holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied American Civilization with an emphasis on minority populations. She is based in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.



Anne Neville-Bonilla is passionate about work that centers around digital skills, broadband access, and making government information and services easier to find and use. For more than 20 years she has been part of local, state and national efforts in these areas. Anne began her work as an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer building and then teaching in a community technology center for kids, adults and seniors. She directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's State Broadband Initiative from 2009-2015, developing the first national broadband map, supporting most states' first broadband offices, and funding broadband adoption and digital government services. She led California's effort to connect more than 1,000 public libraries to high-capacity broadband and helped author the state's broadband plans in 2008 and again in 2020. She has directed multiple projects to improve government services, most recently serving as Chief Deputy Director of the California Office of Digital Innovation. She is currently a Senior Advisor to McKinsey & Company.

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