

## Access to Experts



**Mary Wright**  
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Mary Wright is director of The Conference Board Workforce Readiness Initiative and program director for the Business and Education Council. Her work focuses on how business engages in preparing the twenty-first-century workforce, including how to improve employment prospects for people with disabilities, returning veterans, and those with a criminal record. She has been the project manager and co-author for many research and publications, including *Are They Really Ready to Work? Ready to Innovate: Are Educators and Executives Aligned on the Creative Readiness of the U.S. Workforce*; *The Ill-Prepared Workforce*, and *Leveling the Playing Field: Attracting, Engaging, and Advancing People with Disabilities*. Wright is currently managing a series of creative conversations between artists and business leaders on workforce skills, crafting employer-ready material on improving employment outcomes for those with disabilities, expanding the applications of **The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine**® database, and designing a national tool for measuring workforce readiness.

Wright is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Connecticut College with a degree in urban affairs and an MBA in public nonprofit management from Columbia University. Before joining The Conference Board, Wright worked for Financial Guaranty Insurance Company, a GE Capital company, as a vice president in the public finance department and later in new product development and manager of government affairs.

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## Publications by Mary Wright

### Council Perspectives

- [Education and Corporate Philanthropy: Focus Funding for Maximum Impact](#)  
09 August, 2012

### Executive Action Report

- [Increasing U.S. Business Investment in Postsecondary Credentialing for New Workforce Entrants](#)  
31 March, 2010

### Key Findings

- [The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce](#)  
26 August, 2009
- [Ready to Innovate: Are Educators and Executives Aligned on the Creative Readiness of the U.S. Workforce?](#)  
31 March, 2008
- [Are They Really Ready To Work?](#)  
22 May, 2006

### Research Report

- [The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce](#)  
26 August, 2009
- [Ready to Innovate: Are Educators and Executives Aligned on the Creative Readiness of the U.S. Workforce?](#)  
10 October, 2008
- [Are They Really Ready to Work?](#)  
02 October, 2006