



Working
Nation

FORTUNE

WorkingNation and Time Inc.'s Fortune partner to stream Episode 3 of "FutureWork," a new documentary series by Barbara Kopple

The series investigates dramatic changes impacting the U.S. workforce and solutions to train workers for the new economy

Episode 3 focuses on a two-year technical program developed by Toyota for new hires in central Kentucky that could serve as a model for the future of technical education

Watch at [Fortune.com](http://fortune.com) and [WorkingNation.com](http://workingnation.com)

Fortune: <http://fortune.com/2016/11/16/how-american-manufacturers-are-working-to-close-the-skills-gap/>

WorkingNation: <https://workingnation.com/futurework-model-of-the-future/>

Nov. 16, 2016 (LOS ANGELES) — Episode 3 of "FutureWork" premieres today on Fortune.com and Time.com. The episode, titled "Model of the Future," focuses on a two-year technical program developed by Toyota in central Kentucky that combines real work experience for incoming employees with advanced training in the field of robotics and automation.

As manufacturing jobs "re-shore" back to the U.S., employers like Toyota are working to re-design education to fill millions of highly-technical jobs with people able to do them. In the episode, Kopple looks at the work of Toyota to provide technical education in Georgetown, Ky., with the goal of creating ideally trained employees for their specialized needs.

Experts have called the program the model for the future of technical education, and its success has caught the eye of hundreds of other large manufacturers looking to create similar programs of their own.

Watch it [here](#).

The streaming episode is accompanied by a compelling op-ed from National Association of Manufacturers president and CEO Jay Timmons. In the piece, Timmons explains how a growing skills gap is preventing members of the U.S.

workforce from filling significant employment opportunities across U.S. manufacturing industries.

“Over the next decade, 2 million manufacturing jobs will go unfilled. Even as our nation strives to get people back to work, a lack of trained workers — often those with trade and technical skills — leaves most manufacturing companies scrambling for talent,” writes Timmons. “This skills gap is a drag on the economy. A shortage of trained employees can slow the growth of our businesses and therefore our economy.” Read the full op-ed [here](#).

Fortune has partnered with WorkingNation to distribute four episodes of “FutureWork,” a series of digital shorts by award-winning director Barbara Kopple. The films were commissioned by WorkingNation, a new not-for-profit national campaign dedicated to raising awareness of the looming unemployment crisis and skills gap in the United States.

A fourth and final episodes of “FutureWork” will premier on [Fortune.com](#) and [Time.com](#) in the coming weeks.

Episode 4 will highlight how youth tech competitions like the Vex Robotics World Championships increasingly serve as recruiting grounds for employers seeking new hires with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

The series launched on Fortune and Time on Oct. 19 with the premier of the first episode, “A Story of Yesterday & Today.” It explored the demise of the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY, and the impact it has had on local families struggling to find work in the aftermath of massive layoffs by the company. Watch it [here](#).

Episode 2 focused on Year Up, a national non-profit organization that partners with employers to provide young adults with a one-year training and internship program that results in potential employment. Watch it [here](#).

“The simple truth is that the future of work and employment is changing - faster than we ever could have predicted - and we are not ready,” said WorkingNation CEO and founder Art Bilger. “In fact, most Americans are dangerously unaware that this looming crisis even exists. At WorkingNation, we aim to change that while there is still time.” Read Bilger’s essay on the series on [Fortune.com](#).

“FutureWork” was executive produced by Joan Lynch and Melissa Panzer, two former producers for ESPN who are leading WorkingNation’s production of original content.

“FutureWork” is the newest documentary series from Academy Award-winning director Kopple, who is widely acclaimed for her piercing documentaries on

workers' rights and social issues. Her previous works include the feature-length documentaries "Harlan County, USA," exploring labor tensions in the coal mining industry in the 1970s, and "American Dream," about a mid-1980s workers' strike at a Hormel meatpacking plant in Minnesota.

Founded by venture capitalist Art Bilger, WorkingNation exists to expose hard truths about the looming unemployment crisis and bring the country together to create new jobs for a changing economy. Bilger serves as CEO of WorkingNation and has assembled a team of talented journalists, media and non-profit executives to carry out its mission. WorkingNation's produces original programming from award-winning directors and producers as well as other forms of interactive multimedia outreach to everyday Americans.

For more information, visit WorkingNation.com.

WorkingNation Media Contact:

Erik Borg
(212) 584-7829
erik@theleadpr.com

Time Inc. Media Contact:

Kerri Chyka
(212) 522.3651
kerri_chyka@timeinc.com

Toyota Media Contact:

Dennis Parker
(859) 749-7553
dennis.parker@toyota.com