



NEWS RELEASE

WISCONSIN FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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UW Now Livestream: Understanding the Labor Shortage

Many jobs, fewer workers slow the COVID recovery

MADISON, WI (October 11, 2021) — The COVID crisis forced many businesses to make dramatic cuts to their workforce. Now, with vaccinations and a decline in the delta variant, employers are ready to hire. The problem: there are many job openings but fewer workers interested in applying.

As the labor shortage continues, we are starting to see the affects across multiple industries. There are many questions about why the labor market has been slow to bounce back. Why are workers reluctant to return to the workforce? How much of an impact do independent workers, seasonality, COVID-19 concerns, and lack of childcare have? What can improve the situation — and is there a win-win solution?

On the next UW Now Livestream, a panel of experts will discuss the ongoing labor shortage. The talk will be moderated by Mike Knetter, president and CEO of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association.

Featured guests:

Rimantas Buinevicius is an executive search partner at Patina Solutions, a company that specializes in pairing executive- and managerial-level professional talent with organizations that need their expertise. He is also the chair of a Vistage advisory group in the southern Wisconsin and greater Madison areas, providing CEO coaching and peer advising. Prior to these positions, he served for more than 30 years in various executive roles for companies specializing in financial investments and technological solutions for the fields of education, business, medicine, and government.

Laura Dresser, PhD, is a clinical assistant professor in the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at UW–Madison. She is also the associate director of the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), a national think-and-do tank based at the UW, where she has worked for more than two decades. Her research and practice focus on low-wage work and workforce development systems. She has analyzed the structure of low-wage jobs and worked extensively with labor, business, and community leaders to build stronger labor market systems. A coeditor of *The Gloves-Off Economy: Workplace Standards at the Bottom of America's Labor Market*, she is currently working on issues surrounding care work and the connection between quality care, quality jobs, and minimum wages.

Kim Ruhl, PhD, is an associate professor of economics and the Mary Sue and Mike Shannon Chair in Economics at UW–Madison. He is also associate director of the Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE). Ruhl's research focuses on international economics, models of firm heterogeneity, and national income accounting. He is currently a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a special sworn employee of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, where he studies the ways that multinational firms produce and sell goods and services around the world.

When: Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. CDT

Where: <https://www.allwaysforward.org/uwnow/labor-shortage/>



ABOUT THE WISCONSIN FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the interests of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. It brings together alumni and friends of the university to raise, invest, and distribute funds, and it connects a growing number of Badgers to help facilitate their support for each other and the university. For more information, please visit supportuw.org or uwalumni.com.
