



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News.

January 27, 2010

The View from Washington

[Watch](#) as National Skills Coalition Executive Director Andy Van



Kleunen discusses the latest developments in Washington and in the states to ensure that every worker and every industry gains the skills to compete and prosper in today's economy.

Survey: Give Us Your ARRA "Report from the Field"

In anticipation of WIA reauthorization and Fiscal Year 2011 funding proposals, some are asking if [Recovery Act](#) investments have expanded worker training or led to WIA reforms, like sector partnerships and career pathways, encouraged under USDOL guidance. With limited official information to date, National Skills Coalition has been talking to local members and we want to hear from you as well. Please take a moment to complete our brief, anonymous [on-line survey](#) so we can further investigate what is and isn't working.

Anticipating Priorities in State of the Union, Budget Address

It is likely that economic recovery and job creation will be among the key themes in President Obama's January 27 State of the Union address, where he is expected to [outline an agenda](#) to help middle class families by "creating good, sustainable jobs" as well as "reverse the overall erosion in middle class security" by promoting tax credits for child care, lower payments for student loans and automated IRA deposits. Job creation and job training have dominated [headlines](#) across that nation of late and were the subject of the President's [town-hall meeting](#) on January 22 at Lorain Community College in Ohio. The President's budget, to be released on February 1, is expected to reflect these priorities.

Coalition Staff, Members Talk SECTORS at Senate Briefing

On January 12, the Senate Manufacturing Task Force held a briefing to discuss how the [SECTORS](#)

In this issue.

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[Anticipating Priorities in State of the Union, Budget Address](#)

[Coalition Staff, Members Talk SECTORS at Senate Briefing](#)

[House Passes Jobs Bill, Senate to Take Action](#)

[Coalition Staff, Members Organize OVAE Session for Employers to Weigh in on WIA](#)

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Did you hear the latest news? The Department of Labor released the final three "green jobs" grant programs authorized under the Recovery Act. Hear about news like this when it breaks by signing up for National Skills Coalition's [RSS feed](#).

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[Act](#) can promote growth and competitiveness. National Skills Coalition members Ray Prendergast, representing the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, and Bill Rayl, Executive Director of the Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (MI), discussed the role sector partnerships play in enhancing economic development efforts, addressing employer skill demands, and enhancing worker placement. National Skills Coalition Director Andy Van Kleunen provided policy context for the discussion.



Ray Prendergast and Bill Rayl

Join the growing number of organizations who have endorsed the SECTORS Act by [signing on](#) today.

House Passes Jobs Bill, Senate to Take Action

The House passed the [Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010](#) on December 16. In addition to infrastructure investments and funding to prevent education and public safety layoffs, the bill included \$750 million in competitive grants for job training in high-growth and emerging fields, and \$500 million for summer youth employment programs. Though the Senate has not introduced its bill, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on January 21. National Skills Coalition Leadership Council member Marlena Sessions, CEO for Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, [testified](#) before the Subcommittee.

Coalition Staff, Members Organize OVAE Session for Employers to Weigh in on WIA

National Skills Coalition, in collaboration with Lifespan Community Health Services and other Coalition partners, organized a New England Workforce Investment Act Community Conversation led by Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Attended by over 50 employers and community organizations, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), and staff for Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), participants discussed skills training for adult workers and WIA reauthorization. [Learn more](#) about this and other Community Conversations around the country.



Brenda Dann-Messier

Partner Resources

[Women Employed](#) released two new publications. [Building Illinois' Workforce of the Future](#) introduces a vision for an effective, world-class student support system that will help improve graduation rates for low-income adult students, and Women Employed's [Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act \(SAFRA\) recommendations](#) offer ways to increase the impact of this legislation on improving access to, and completion of, community college degrees.

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