



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

E-News.

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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.



Governor O'Malley Launches Skills2Compete-Maryland Initiative, Builds on Findings of National Campaign

At a press conference on March 2, at Prince George's Community College, Governor Martin O'Malley announced his [Skills2Compete-Maryland](#) initiative. The Governor called on the workforce development community to increase the skills of Maryland's workforce by 20 percent by 2012, and stated that Skills2Compete-Maryland will ensure that every working Marylander has access to the equivalent of at least two years of education or training past high school – leading to a career or technical credential, industry certification, or two years of college – to be pursued at whatever point and pace makes sense for individual workers and industries.



Governor Martin O'Malley

"An education and training strategy guided by the Skills2Compete vision will give Maryland a competitive edge for recovery and long-term growth," said Eric M. Seleznow, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, also a member of National Skills Coalition's Leadership Council.

Maryland joins ten other states with initiatives aligned with National Skills Coalition's [national Skills2Compete campaign](#). Speaking at yesterday's press conference, National Skills Coalition's Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen noted that the Governor's initiative is a model. "Governor O'Malley has set a new bar for the country. He has truly set himself apart as a governor who believes in growing his state's economy by investing in people. We will work to ensure Congress and other Governors can learn from the ambitious goal he has

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set for his state.”

The Governor’s announcement coincided with the release of a report by National Skills Coalition, [Maryland’s Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#).

Visit the Governor’s Skills2Compete-Maryland [webpage](#), read the initiative [issue brief](#), or view [photos](#) from the event. Read [press coverage](#) and listen to a [press conference](#) about *Maryland’s Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs*.

Senate HELP Committee Holds Hearing On WIA, Witnesses Urge Reauthorization

On February 24, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on [A Stronger Workforce Investment System for a Stronger Economy](#). The hearing featured testimony from leading workforce development experts who highlighted the importance of job training in federal job creation and recovery efforts and stressed the need to strengthen and reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). [Read more](#) about the hearing and [watch](#) as National Skills Coalition Leadership Council member Cheryl Feldman, Executive Director of the District 1199c Training & Upgrading Fund in Philadelphia, testifies before the Committee.



Washington Update, New Podcast Analyze President’s FY 2011 Budget

On February 1, President Obama submitted his FY 2011 budget request to Congress, calling for substantial increases in funding for traditional higher education programs while essentially level funding workforce development programs under the Departments of Labor and Education. For a complete analysis, read National Skills Coalition’s special Budget Edition [Washington Update](#), download our [budget chart](#), and listen to a [Podcast](#) of our latest Audio Update examining the President’s FY 2011 budget proposal.



New Report: Bridge to a New Economy

In partnership with [Institute for America’s Future](#), National Skills Coalition released a new report – [Bridge to a New Economy](#) – examining the role middle-skill jobs will play in the economic recovery. The report advocates for greater expansion of federal funding to begin to build a foundation for strong skills training that encourages industry and public partnerships and the development of career pathways for all workers.

Partner Resources

The Transportation Learning Center is sponsoring a one-day national conference on Wednesday, March 17. Join other transportation industry leaders, practitioners and advocates to exchange ideas, share successes, and learn about emerging best practices and new developments in the training field. [Learn more.](#)

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