



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

E-News.

May 3, 2010

In Washington

Coalition Members Weigh in with Congress, Agencies, White House at 2010 Skills Summit

National Skills Coalition's members representing business, labor, community colleges, community organizations, and the public sector came to DC this month to ensure investments in people are central to America's economic agenda. On April 6, David Hansell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (DHHS) and Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (DOEd) briefed attendees on plans to support pathways for low-skilled adults and discuss Coalition members' on-the-ground perspectives. On April 7, Summit attendees met with Members of Congress, White House staff, and DC-based gubernatorial staff, tallying over 425 contacts with policymakers. Prior to the Summit's kick-off, NSC's [Leadership Council](#) met with staff from the Senate HELP and House Education and Labor committees to discuss plans for Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization. Visit the [Summit webpage](#) to download event materials and [view photos](#).



*Brenda Dann-Messier
and David Hansell*



Washington Update: Job Creation Efforts, Reconciliation Bill, and More

This month's [Washington Update](#) examines the latest developments around the multiple jobs bills moving through Congress, the recently enacted Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, and how the Department of Labor is funding on-the-job training through Recovery Act-funded National Emergency Grants.

Congressional Briefing Highlights Role of Training in Job Creation
On April 20, Catholic Charities hosted a congressional briefing on [Job Creation and Innovative Workforce Policies](#). The panel included Catholic Charities agencies across the country discussing innovative training programs to help low-income individuals enter the labor market and National Skills Coalition's Rachel Gragg discussing the role that federal policy can play in supporting these innovative programs.

In the States

S2C-Washington Campaign Celebrates Opportunity Express Act Victory

On April 21, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire signed the [Opportunity Express Act](#), an \$18.6 million investment in better

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coordination of existing job training and college programs that will retrain unemployed residents for high-demand industries that will drive the state's economic recovery. [State Representative Tim Probst](#) (D-17th) championed the bill, with the [support](#) of fellow members of the [Skills2Compete-Washington campaign](#) and the National Skills Coalition.



Skills2Compete-New Mexico Launches Campaign
In a new report released this week – [New Mexico's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#) – National Skills Coalition's [Skills2Compete-New Mexico campaign](#) calls on the state to invest in worker training and education so all residents can participate in economic recovery. [Learn more](#) about the campaign, read media coverage, and listen to a press conference with leaders from the philanthropic, community college, and business communities.

Michigan Launches Next Generation of Skills Alliances

The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) April 27th [Summit](#) showcased the state's next generation of Skills Alliances. Conceived of by the Charles Stewart Mott foundation, [Michigan Skills Alliances](#) are partnerships to align training needs within a specific industry sector or region. National Skills Coalition Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen spoke at the Summit about the importance of sector partnerships as part of a [comprehensive skills strategy](#).

Workforce Development Focus of Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Candidate Forum

On April 19, the [JOIN Funders Collaborative](#) in Philadelphia worked with leaders from the workforce, business and non-profit communities to organize a Gubernatorial Forum on the "Future of Pennsylvania's Workforce and Economy." Every candidate and over 500 Pennsylvanians discussed how the state can prepare youth and adults for the 21st-century economy. National Skills Coalition was a co-sponsor of the event. [Watch](#) the candidates share their positions.



Incorporating Workforce, Postsecondary into State Longitudinal Data Systems

In March, National Skills Coalition and partners released a brief – [Incorporating Postsecondary and Workforce Data into Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems](#) – recommending steps to build statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS) that measure the educational transitions, completions, and labor market outcomes of all students, including adult students and workers.

Aspen Event Features Sectoral Demonstration Targeting Low-Income Adults

This month, the [Aspen Institute's Workforce Strategies Initiative](#) (WSI) hosted an event in Seattle highlighting their [Courses to Employment demonstration](#), which features six sectoral community college-nonprofit partnerships helping low-income individuals prepare for college and the workforce. At the event, National Skills Coalition's Rachel Gragg briefed attendees on the role that federal policy can play in supporting sectoral initiatives like Courses to Employment. View [videos](#) from the demonstration sites.

Coalition's [RSS feed](#) to get the latest updates on federal policy impacting America's workers.

Not sure how? Download our [RSS "How To" Guide](#).

Partner Resources

[Center on Wisconsin Strategy's](#) (COWS) new report – [Greener Skills: How Credentials Create Value in the Clean Energy Economy](#) – assesses the state of green training and offers policy suggestions for federal, state and system stakeholders.

[Register](#) for the [National Network of Sector Partnerships'](#) (NNSP) Federal Workforce Policy Update featuring National Skills Coalition's Kermit Kaleba.

The [Sector Skills Academy](#), a joint project of the [Aspen Institute](#) and [Public/Private Ventures](#), is accepting applications for its 2010 class. [Apply](#) to this unique year-long program designed for the next generation of innovative leaders in sectoral workforce development.

The [Center on Law and Social Policy](#) (CLASP) has released a new brief on [Creating Summer Jobs for Youth](#) under the TANF Emergency Fund.

[The Critical and Emerging Role of Workforce Investment Boards: How Federal Policy Can Incite Workforce Innovation](#), by [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#), offers Workforce Investment Act reauthorization recommendations based on the experiences of the Workforce Innovators Network (WIN).

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