

E-News

December 17, 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.

Meet NSC's 2011 Leadership Council

NSC is pleased to announce the members of our [2011 Leadership Council](#), some of the Coalition's leading members who will serve as the official programmatic advisory body to NSC's staff and Board in the coming year. The 59 members from 21 states represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders including community-based training organizations, colleges, public workforce agencies, unions, employer associations, and advocacy groups. Council members are nominated by NSC's [Board of Directors](#).

Year-End Washington Update: Appropriations, TANF, TAA and More

For the latest on the status of Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations and the Unemployment Insurance/Tax compromise bill, check out this month's [Washington Update](#). You can also find out more about the reauthorization of the TANF block grant and the Department of Labor's newly released preliminary details on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program. And be sure to download the podcast (*coming soon*) of our annual [End of Session Federal Policy Update](#), where we assess federal workforce policy in 2010 and discusses what the recent elections mean for advocacy in 2011.



NSC Delivers Plenary at USDOL Road to Recovery Conference

On December 14, NSC Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen described the latest developments in federal tax, recovery and workforce development policy at a plenary session of the Department of Labor's [2010 Road to Recovery: Strategies for ReEmployment Summit](#). Andy also discussed how the skills issue has been treated in larger political debates in DC, and how the issue is likely to play within Washington after the recent elections. Over 900 practitioners from the workforce development and re-employment worlds were in attendance.

In this issue.

[Meet NSC's 2011 Leadership Council](#)

[Year-End Washington Update](#)

[NSC Delivers Plenary at USDOL Road to Recovery Conference](#)

[State Campaign Partners Elevate Skills in Gubernatorial Elections, Transitions](#)

[S2C-Indiana Releases Policy Platform](#)

[NSC Continues Work with Employers to Weigh in on Skills Debate](#)

[Middle-Skill Jobs, Skills Mismatch Continued Focus of Research, Press](#)

Partner Resources

Stay informed.)))

RSS feed.)))



Join the broad base of supporters across the country who make a financial contribution to advance National Skills Coalition's efforts every

State Campaign Partners Elevate Skills in Gubernatorial Elections, Transitions

Over the past six months, NSC's state Skills2Compete campaign partners have used gubernatorial races and transitions as a platform to make skills central in debates about job creation and the economy. Coalition leaders and partners in [Massachusetts](#), [New Mexico](#), [Oregon](#), [Connecticut](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Michigan](#) and Colorado engaged gubernatorial candidates through forums, media outreach, policy platforms and transition recommendations endorsed by multi-stakeholder groups including business, labor, education, and the public workforce system. NSC featured these groups in two [Audio Updates](#) about strategies for engaging candidates and new administrations. [Learn more](#).

Skills2Compete-Indiana Releases Policy Platform

Gearing up for the next session of Indiana's General Assembly, the [Skills2Compete-Indiana campaign](#), led by the Indiana Institute for Working Families and other partners, released a new policy strategy for [Meeting the Demands of a 21st-Century Economy](#). These policy recommendations are intended to move the state toward realizing its full economic potential and addressing the realities of the 21st-century economy and workforce.

NSC Continues Work with Employers to Weigh in on Skills Debate

Last month, in partnership with the [National Fund for Workforce Solutions](#) and other groups, NSC [brought employers](#) from 11 states to DC to meet with federal policymakers and talk about the skills mismatches they are experiencing locally and how sector partnerships can help address these challenges. Many of these employers have taken the messages they shared with the White House, Department of Labor, and Congress back home. Read recent op-eds by Michael Mandina (Optimax Systems, Inc.) in the [Rochester Business Journal](#), Rick Winsman (Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce) in the [Kelso-Longview Business Connection](#), and Erick Ajax (E.J. Ajax & Sons) in the [Saint Paul Pioneer Press](#) arguing for greater support for sector partnerships to address local skills mismatches and promote economic growth.

Middle-Skill Jobs, Skills Mismatch Continued Focus of Research, Press

Earlier this month, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's New England Public Policy Center released [Mismatch in the Labor Market: Measuring the Supply of and Demand for Skilled Labor in New England](#). The [report](#) found that middle-skill jobs make up a significant portion of the New England labor market, will continue to do so in the coming decades, and that the supply of middle-skill workers will likely fall short of demand by 4-6 percent. The report followed a podcast last month by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta on [The Role of Technical and Vocational Schools in Easing Job Skills Mismatch](#).

Economic research and anecdotal reports of skills mismatches at the middle-skill level—amidst double digit unemployment—continue to draw attention from the media. Most recently, as part of NPR's series [The Skills Gap: Holding Back The Labor Market](#), Chris Arnold reported on the shortage of skilled workers in manufacturing.

Partner Resources

[STRIVE National](#) is the only workforce organization nominated for funding from American Express through the Members Project®, a partnership between American Express and TakePart to help people support charitable organizations. [Vote](#) for STRIVE and help raise \$200,000 to support vital workforce programs!

year. Become an [organizational Supporting Member](#), [individual donor](#), or both!



[Sectors Matter: Effective Training Requires an Industry Focus](#), a new issue brief released by [Opportunity Chicago](#) examines the initiative's experience in helping connect public housing residents to employment using industry-focused skills training. Early outcomes show that sector-focused training is working in certain industries even for traditionally harder-to-employ populations.

[Register](#) today for the [2011 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference](#)—February 8-10 in Washington, DC—and join stakeholders from the labor, business, environmental, and public sectors as they discuss strategies for building a green economy that creates good jobs.

[About us.](#)

[The issues.](#)

[Federal policies.](#)

[In the states.](#)

[Resources.](#)

[Press room.](#)

[Get involved.](#)

National Skills Coalition 1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 712, Washington, DC 20036
Phone 202.223.8991 Fax 202.223.8354 info@nationalskillscoalition.org

[Update your email preferences](#)

