



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News

May 28, 2010

Breaking News



Today the House approved a scaled-back version of the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act, which includes a temporary extension of UI benefits and the TANF Emergency Fund, and additional funding for summer youth employment. [Watch](#) as National Skills Coalition Senior Policy Analyst Kermit Kaleba discusses the vote and [learn more](#) about what this means for the workforce community.

In Washington

Middle-Skill Education and Training Remains Key to Economy, Recovery

With high unemployment and job creation efforts dominating national economic conversations, recent articles in the [New York Times](#), [the Atlantic](#), and [Washington Monthly](#) call into question the perception that a four-year college degree is the only avenue to preparing a skilled workforce for a rapidly changing economy. This month, Professor Harry Holzer, co-author of NSC's Skills2Compete report [America's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#), released a [brief](#) confirming that the largest portion of job demand – now and in the near future – will be in middle-skill occupations that require training past high school but not necessarily a four-year degree.

White House Auto Council: Investments in Training a Priority
The [White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers](#), with the Department of Labor and the Brookings Institution, held a conference on *Auto Communities and the Next Economy* on May 18 to discuss findings from their new [annual report](#). Over 400 leaders from upper Midwest states and DC – including NSC staff – met with senior Administration officials about how to re-tool troubled auto communities, including using targeted job training funds to retrain laid-off workers. Participants discussed models like Michigan's No Worker Left Behind program, which recently graduated its 100,000th laid-off worker with a new middle-skilled credential, often matched to the state's restructuring economy.

COWS, CLASP, NSC Convene Green Skills Roundtable
On April 20, National Skills Coalition, the [Center on Wisconsin Strategy](#) (COWS) and the [Center for Law and Social Policy](#) (CLASP), convened leaders from labor, business, and federal agencies to discuss a recent COWS report, [Greener Skills: How Credentials Create Value in the](#)

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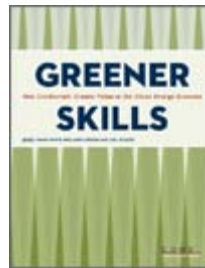
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[Clean Energy Economy](#), and ways to broaden conversations around skills training for green industries to the more generally needed reforms to the country's education and training system.

DOL Announces Longitudinal Workforce Data Systems Grants
On May 17, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration [announced](#) the availability of \$12.2 million in competitive Workforce Data Quality Initiative grants to state workforce agencies. These three-year grants will support the development and implementation of statewide or multistate longitudinal workforce data systems. [Learn more.](#)

In the States

Middle-Skill Jobs Focus of New Mexico Lt. Governor Event
New Mexico's Lt. Governor's office, with help from the [Center for State Innovation](#), held a [Workforce and Education Strategy Academy](#) on May 27 on preparing more New Mexico workers for middle-skill jobs. Lt. Governor Diane Denish, with a number of cabinet secretaries, discussed middle-skill jobs, citing the [Skills2Compete-New Mexico campaign's](#) recent report – [New Mexico's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#) – and a possible goal of increasing the number of New Mexicans with a two-year degree, credential or equivalent education by 20 percent by 2020. S2C campaign members and NSC's Zach Silk spoke during the morning session, engaging a wide range of policy makers in discussions about a statewide skills agenda. NSC's Andy Van Kleunen facilitated an afternoon breakout session on middle-skill jobs, attended by government officials, educators, and the private sector.



Jobs & Skills Get Top Billing at Connecticut Gubernatorial Forum
On May 10, [Campaign for a Working Connecticut](#), [Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund](#) (CWEALF), and other partners, co-sponsored the *Prospering Communities, Thriving Families* gubernatorial candidates forum. Candidates offered their positions on issues facing Connecticut's economy and workforce, identifying opportunities for meeting those challenges through training and education reform. [Watch](#) the candidates share their positions and read CWEALF's [briefing paper](#) on *Workforce Education and Training Challenges and Solutions*.



Rhode Island Skills2Compete Day Highlights Importance of Training Investments

The [Rhode Island Workforce Alliance](#), lead partner of the [Skills2Compete-Rhode Island campaign](#), held Skills2Compete Day at the State House on May 20. Adult education and job training leaders from across the state came together to demonstrate to legislators how investments in adult education and training are critical to building the skills of Rhode Island's workforce and a strong economy.



[RSS "How To" Guide.](#)

REMINDER

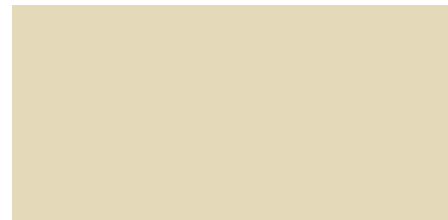
Department of Labor's On-the-Job Training Grants under the Recovery Act must be obligated by June 30. [Learn more.](#)

Partner Resources

[Community Research Partners](#) offers a blueprint for strengthening Ohio's workforce system in its new report – [Help Wanted](#) – recommending the development of industry sector strategies and career pathways programs to meet employer needs and support success for adults in education and training.

[Graduated Success: Sustainable Economic Opportunity Through One- and Two-Year Credentials](#), a new report by [Demos](#), examines one- and two-year credentials as viable paths to economic prosperity.

The [Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance](#) will hold a hearing in Washington, DC on June 25 to discuss “Meeting the Access & Persistence Challenge.” [Learn more](#) and [register](#).



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