



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News

September 30, 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.

National Skills Coalition Identified by Experts as Top Workforce Nonprofit!

In September, a group of 121 experts identified [NSC as the top nonprofit](#) nationally in the workforce development field.

We are proud to have earned the distinction of a Philanthropedia Top Nonprofit and to share top honors with our partners at CLASP, Jobs for the Future, Aspen Institute, and Public/Private Ventures.



Philanthropedia is a nonprofit organization working to help donors make smarter donations by connecting them with some of the highest impact nonprofits in a cause. Visit Philanthropedia's [website](#) to learn more about how you can help support NSC's efforts—and those of our partners—to raise the skills of America's workers by making a donation through their Expert Fund.

Skills2Compete-Massachusetts Hosts Gubernatorial Forum on Jobs, Skills

On September 28, the [Skills2Compete-Massachusetts](#) campaign hosted a Gubernatorial Forum on Investing in Jobs and Opportunity attended by over 600 people. All four candidates were on hand to share their perspective and ideas for shaping Massachusetts' economy through workforce development and job creation policy. The event was moderated by Peter Howe of New England Cable News and featured a journalist panel. [View](#) photos, [watch](#) media coverage, and [listen](#) to the candidates themselves (*video from the forum to be posted soon*).



Washington Update: Congress Approves Continuing Resolution, Allows Key TANF Fund to Expire
Read this month's [Washington Update](#) for the latest on House and Senate leadership efforts to assemble a "continuing

In this issue.

[NSC Identified by Experts as Top Workforce Nonprofit](#)

[S2C-MA Hosts Gubernatorial Forum on Jobs, Skills](#)

[Washington Update](#)

[Skills, the Recession and a Tale of Two Economies](#)

[NSC Director Joins U.S. and EU Officials in Workforce Roundtable](#)

[Join NSC at NCWE and NCLR Conferences](#)

[In the News](#)

[Partner Resources](#)

[Stay informed. \)\)\)](#)

[RSS feed. \)\)\)](#)

INVEST

Your support makes our work possible. Become a Supporting Member today!

[Contribute. \)\)\)](#)

SIGN UP TODAY

Did you hear the latest news? Sign up for National Skills Coalition's [RSS feed](#) to get the latest updates on federal policy impacting America's workers.

resolution”(CR) to provide temporary funding for federal government operations at the start of the new fiscal year. Learn more about the exclusion of the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund from the CR, read NSC’s comments on the Department of Education’s proposed “Gainful Employment” definition, and more.



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

Skills, the Recession and a Tale of Two Economies: New Resource for Advocates

Recently, there have been reports in the press and elsewhere that skills and workforce training are not relevant in the current economic climate. At the same time, there is strong data indicating that even in this climate, jobs are going unfilled due in part to a lack of skilled workers in particular regions and industries. Accounts by employers in national surveys and in the press have illustrated how this skills mismatch is playing out on the ground. And these real world accounts echo with voters who, in a recent national poll by Allstate and the National Journal, ranked skills training as a top priority for addressing economic challenges.

NSC’s executive Director Andy Van Kleunen described these competing views and made the case for the integral role of training during a recession in a guest commentary for the Surdna Foundation this month, “[Skills, the Recession and a Tale of Two Economies](#).”

NSC has also [developed a toolkit](#) for our members who want to respond to erroneous assertions in the media and elsewhere that skills aren’t an integral part of a successful recovery strategy.

NSC Director Joins U.S. and European Officials in Workforce Roundtable

Earlier this month, NSC Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen participated in discussions between U.S. and European officials about how to more effectively respond to the global recession and create systems that better match workforce training to future job demands. The *United States - European Union Roundtable on New Skills for New Jobs* was co-organized by DOL’s Employment and Training Administration, its Bureau of International Labor Affairs, and the European Commission’s Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities. Other participants included the White House, other U.S. federal agencies, and officials from a number of key states. [View](#) photos from the Roundtable.



Join NSC at NCWE and NCLR Conferences

Please join NSC staff at the upcoming [NCLR Workforce Development Conference](#) and [NCWE’s Annual Fall Conference](#). NSC Federal Policy Director Rachel Gragg will direct a session on *Rebuilding our Economy: The Role of Federal Workforce Policy* and Central Regional Field Director Andrea Ray will facilitate the session on *Organizing New Alliances: The Approach of Skills2Compete Campaigns* at the NCLR conference in Chicago, October 13-14. Kermit Kaleba, NSC Senior Policy Analyst, will be leading a pre-conference session on *Advocacy 101* at the NCWE’s conference, October 16-19 in Washington, DC.

In the News

Over the last several months, National Skills Coalition staff and a number of our partners in the field have written opinion pieces or have been quoted in the media. Read the latest coverage of our issues in the [Washington Post](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#), [New York Times](#), [Des Moines Register](#), [Boston Herald](#), and [CNN](#).

Partner Resources

[Still an Hourglass? Immigrant Workers in Middle-Skilled Jobs](#), a new report by [Migration Policy Institute](#) (MPI), demonstrates that the fastest growth in immigrant employment since 2000 has occurred in middle-skilled jobs—jobs that require more than a high school but not a four-year college degree.

Learn about innovative approaches employers are taking to meet immediate and future workforce needs in today's challenging economy in [National Network of Sector Partners](#) (NNSP) new report, [From Hidden Costs to High Returns: Unlocking the Potential of the Lower-Wage Workforce](#).

[Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights'](#) new report—[Challenges and Opportunities for Midwest Workers Through this Recovery and Beyond](#)—examines the current state of the region's economy, outlines the challenges faced by hard to employee individuals, and identifies opportunities to better serve disadvantaged workers.

[Urban Institute](#) is calling for [proposals](#) for its [Work Support Strategies: Streamlining Access, Strengthening Families](#) program, which aims to provide a select group of states with the opportunity to design, test, and implement more effective, streamlined, and integrated approaches to delivering key supports for low-income working families.

[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](#)

