



## NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

New Washington Update, Podcast Explore FY 2012 Appropriations, Foxx Consolidation Bill, and More  
Read this month's [Washington Update](#) for the latest on the Fiscal Year 2012 omnibus, including cuts and policy changes for Department of Labor and Pell grant programs. Learn more about issues surrounding the unemployment insurance (UI) and payroll tax holiday "Extenders" bill, and new legislation introduced by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)—[The Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act of 2011](#)—that would consolidate 33 current federal employment and training programs into four new "Workforce Investment Funds."

Also, be sure to [download a podcast](#) of NSC's annual *Federal Policy End of Session* audio update. Listen as NSC's federal policy team recaps the trials and triumphs for workforce advocates in one of the most difficult political environments in recent memory, and discusses the flurry of year-end congressional activity likely to have significant impact on our nation's workforce development system in 2012.



Holzer Paper Calls for New Competitive Grant Program, Wins Hamilton Project Policy Innovation Prize  
In his new paper, [Raising Job Quality and Skills for American Workers: Creating More-Effective Education and Workforce Development Systems in the States](#), Georgetown Professor and NSC Board Member [Harry Holzer](#) calls for a new \$2 billion federal competitive grant program that would reward states for adopting evidence-supported strategies that educate workers for jobs in firms that pay well within growing industries. The strategies would be expected to build on already proven state practices of building industry- or sector-targeted partnerships between employers, education providers, workforce agencies and intermediaries to provide training and a range of support services to workers entering that industry. The paper won the 2011 Hamilton Project Policy Innovation Prize for the best proposal to create jobs and enhance productivity. [Read more.](#)

NSC Board Member Discusses Training as Part of Heldrich Center's Conversation Series  
Earlier this year, [Andy Levin](#), NSC Board Member and former Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth, was a guest speaker for the [Heldrich Center for Workforce Development's](#) Conversation Series, "[Facing Down the Great Recession](#)." In his remarks, Andy described how his state responded to high unemployment rates through its innovative "No Worker Left Behind" training initiative. Andy also highlighted Michigan's efforts to give adult education and literacy a central role

## E-News

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in state job creation efforts, as well as the important role that employers must play in the workforce system. [Read more.](#)

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#### Meet NSC's Newest Team Member

NSC is pleased to announce the arrival of our newest team member, Communications Associate Jen Gable. Jen previously completed an AmeriCorps VISTA term of service as the Communications Specialist for the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV), where her work included creating CACLV's social media presence, managing the organization's website and e-communications, developing communications materials, and assisting with marketing strategy for individual programs and local small business owners. [Learn more about Jen and her role at NSC.](#)



#### NSC Member Appointed Oregon Governor's Workforce Development Policy Advisor

Earlier this month, former NSC Regional Field Director Agnes Balassa was appointed the Governor's Workforce Development Policy Advisor by Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. In her new role, Agnes will advise the Governor on workforce development policy and serve as a liaison between federal, state and local efforts on workforce and training issues. Prior to joining the Governor's office, Agnes was Executive Director of the Oregon Workforce Partnership, a statewide association created to better align economic, education and training programs. [Learn more.](#)

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