



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News

August 31, 2011

President to Announce Jobs Proposal, Training Investments Likely, NSC Weighs In with Washington Post

President Obama has requested a joint session of Congress next Wednesday, September 7 at 8:00 pm ET to announce his much anticipated job creation proposal to boost employment and the economy. There has been a great deal of speculation in the media about what initiatives the President will put forward in his plan, which is expected to include some mixture of infrastructure investment, tax credits, and retraining programs focused on aiding the long-term unemployed. Professor [Harry Holzer](#) (NSC Board Member) and NSC Executive Director [Andy Van Kleunen](#) recently weighed in on this debate in an article in this week's [Washington Post](#). Look for NSC's reaction to the President's plan following Wednesday's speech.

New NSC Report Focal Point of Meeting with Southern Governors About Closing the South's Middle-Skill Gap

On August 21, NSC State Policy Director Eric Seleznow led a panel discussion on [Closing the South's Middle-Skill Gap](#) at the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) [2011 Annual Meeting](#). The session, which focused on the shortage of qualified middle-skill workers critical to Governors' efforts to support the region's innovation economy, highlighted data presented in [Driving Innovation from the Middle: Middle-Skill Jobs in the American South's Economy](#). This report, written by National Skills Coalition's Associate Director Rachel Unruh, examines the role of middle-skill jobs in the American South's economy and in key innovation industries, assesses current and future skills gaps, and explores policy strategies to close those gaps.



The report found that middle-skill jobs account for 51 percent of the region's jobs today and will account for 44 percent of job openings in the next decade, making them the engine of the American South's economy. This message resonated with Governors and the media alike. Following SGA's meeting, several media outlets in the South ran an [Associated Press](#) story on the report release, with additional editorials appearing in newspapers in [North Carolina](#), [West Virginia](#), [Alabama](#), and [Georgia](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the event, read media coverage, and download the report.

Register for NSC's September Audio Update on Federal Funding

Last month's deal to raise the national debt ceiling may have averted an economic catastrophe, but the bill's ultimate impact on federal workforce and education programs remains an open question. Join NSC's federal policy team on Tuesday, September 13 at 1:00 pm ET as they discuss what was included (and not included) in the



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Balanced Budget Act of 2011, the timeline for the newly-created Super Congress, and how this measure could affect federal funding for job training during the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations cycle and throughout the next decade. [Register for the call.](#)

National Groups, Local Advocates Help Make Workforce Week of Action a Success

Earlier this month, NSC joined over twenty national organizations in sponsoring [National Workforce Week of Action](#) to bring together members of the business community, labor, education and training programs, and the public sector from across the nation to stand up for investments in America's workers and industries. In meetings with Members of Congress, in the press, and through social media, the workforce community urged policymakers to support adequate funding for workforce education and training programs—and your voices were heard! Thank you for making the Week of Action a huge success. [Read](#) about some of the week's events and learn how you can continue to [weigh in](#) with policymakers in the months ahead.

Rhode Island Partners Achieve Legislative Win, State Adopts Credential Counting Measure

Working in partnership with NSC, the [Rhode Island Workforce Alliance](#) (RIWA), led by [The Poverty Institute](#), achieved a major legislative win when state policymakers adopted a credential attainment measure for the state. As part of their budget bill ([Article 24](#)), the Rhode Island legislature included language to incorporate credential counting in their already impressive cross-system annual state workforce report—*Unified Workforce Development Expenditure and Program Report*. In this difficult fiscal environment, one of the key values of advocating for “credential counting” is that it's a low-cost, high-impact policy. By creating a measurable starting point, it allows a state to identify skill gaps and set meaningful training and education goals moving forward.

Under Skills2Compete, Maryland Increases Apprenticeship Outcomes by 28 Percent

As part of Governor Martin O'Malley's credential measurement effort under the [Skills2Compete-Maryland](#) initiative—a statewide effort to expand skills training by 20 percent by 2012—the Apprenticeship Maryland Program recently announced the graduation of 1,457 apprentices in Fiscal Year 2011, a 28 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2010. [Skills2Compete-Maryland](#) provides a single, overarching theme for Governor O'Malley's existing workforce policies of expanding employment opportunities, enhancing and upgrading skills to meet the needs of business, and creating pathways to earn a decent wage. It focuses state agencies, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, apprenticeship programs, and other stakeholders on increasing postsecondary participation and completion rates, and measures agencies progress towards this goal. [Read more.](#)

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[Sector Skills Academy](#)—a joint initiative operated by the Aspen Institute's [Workforce Strategies Initiative](#) and [Public/Private Ventures](#) with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation—[announced](#) the selection of 25 workforce development leaders for their 2011-2012 fellows.

[The Corps Network's](#) latest publication, [A Green Career Pathways Framework: Postsecondary and Employment Success for Low-Income, Disconnected Youth](#), illustrates how to prepare young people for jobs, postsecondary education, and careers in a growing green economy.

The [New York Association of Training and Employment](#)

[Professionals](#) (NYATEP) is searching for a new Executive Director who will be responsible for developing, recommending and implementing the strategies and goals of the Association. For more details, click [here](#).

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