



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION  
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News.

January 28, 2011

## Reflections on the State of the Union



[Read](#) Andy Van Kleunen's commentary in response to President Obama's State of the Union speech earlier this week. NSC applauds the President's call for investments in innovation, infrastructure and education. But can we make sure all Americans are part of this new Sputnik moment?

Register for NSC's Upcoming Audio Update on the President's Budget

[Join](#) National Skills Coalition on Monday, February 28 at 1:00 pm ET for an overview and analysis of President Obama's Fiscal Year 2012 budget proposal as it relates to workforce education and training. Learn what you can do to weigh in with lawmakers during this exceptionally challenging fiscal climate to ensure we're investing in workforce education and training that will have an immediate impact on both workers and businesses. [Register today.](#)



Missed NSC's December End of Session Federal Policy Audio Update? A podcast is now available for [download](#).

NSC Releases Summary of TAA Community College and Career Training Grants SGA

On January 20, the Department of Labor released a [Solicitation for Grant Applications](#) (SGA) for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program. The \$500 million awarded under the SGA will support capacity-building grants to community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under TAA, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. [Click here](#) to read an overview of key points within the SGA.

Skills2Compete-Massachusetts Proposes Innovative Middle Skills Legislation

[Skills2Compete-Massachusetts](#), led by [Skill Works](#) and the [Workforce Solutions Group](#), filed groundbreaking legislation this month. The [Middle](#)

### In this issue.

[Register for NSC's Upcoming Audio Update](#)

[NSC Releases Summary of TAACCCT Grants SGA](#)

[S2C-MA Proposes Innovative Middle Skills Legislation](#)

[MD Governor Convenes Skills and Education Forum](#)

[New NSC, CSW Paper Explores Lessons from NWLB](#)

[Good Jobs and Well-Trained Workers. New Book Argues for Policies that Support Both](#)

[Stay Connected. Update your Contact Information](#)

[Partner Resources](#)

Stay informed. )))

Forward this. )))

### FOLLOW US





[Skills Solutions Act](#) seeks to increase credential attainment and wages for Massachusetts workers.

The bill would build upon existing resources to develop a more robust system to prepare adult, non-traditional students with the skills and credentials needed for employment in Massachusetts' high-growth industry sectors. Coalition members have secured sponsorship for the bill and continue to build additional support. [Read more.](#)

---

#### Maryland Governor O'Malley Convenes Skills and Education Forum

On January 3, Governor Martin O'Malley convened a forum on skills and education policy—one of five [Maryland Forward](#) forums to generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the [Governor's 15 strategic goals](#), including [Skills2Compete-Maryland](#), an effort to increase the skills of Maryland's workforce by 20 percent by 2012. Governor O'Malley led discussions on building a world-class K-12 education system, promoting college completion, and expanding skills training. Recommendations included establishing a longitudinal data system, expanding career and technical education, expanding apprenticeships and occupational training, and expanding community college enrollment.



---

#### New NSC, CSW Paper Explores Lessons Learned from No Worker Left Behind

National Skills Coalition, in partnership with [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#), released [Michigan's No Worker Left Behind: Lessons Learned from Big-Picture Workforce Policy Change](#). This analysis explores the reasoning, process, outcomes and lessons learned by Michigan—a state that has significantly changed statewide workforce policy through their groundbreaking [No Worker Left Behind](#) initiative. While no two states are the same, Michigan's experience offers valuable lessons that can be translated and adapted by other states.

---

#### Good Jobs and Well-Trained Workers, New Book Argues for Policies that Support Both

In a new book—[Where Are All the Good Jobs Going?](#)—[Harry Holzer](#), Professor of Public Policy at Georgetown University and NSC Board member, and his coauthors examine whether the U.S. labor market still produces jobs with good pay and benefits. The authors conclude that good jobs are not disappearing, but have changed in their location and skill demands, and that future policies will need to address job quality and worker training. In a recent [Washington Post](#) piece discussing the book, Holzer argues for public policies that invest in training and education aligned with the needs of employers.

---

Stay Connected, Update your Contact Information  
Moved recently? Changed jobs? Changed your e-mail address? Keep us



informed! It's a new year and NSC is getting an early start on our spring cleaning. We want to make sure we have the most up-to-date information on all our members, so please take a quick minute to [review and update](#) your contact information.

---

#### Partner Resources

The next submission deadline for [Public/Private Ventures'](#) Benchmarking Project will be Friday, February 25. [Learn more](#) about the Project and how your organization can participate.

There is still time to [register](#) for the [2011 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference](#)—February 8-10 in Washington, DC. Register and join stakeholders from the labor, business, environmental, and the 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](mailto:info@nationalskillscoalition.org)

[Update your email preferences](#)

