



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News

July 8, 2011

National Partners Announce New Workforce Initiative at CGI America

On June 30, at [CGI America](#), a meeting of the [Clinton Global Initiative](#) (CGI), National Skills Coalition, [Skills for America's Future](#), [National Fund for Workforce Solutions](#), and [Corporate Voices for Working Families](#) announced the creation of [Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships](#), an initiative to bring diverse business leaders together to help shape a national skills strategy that can address structural skill shortages that are putting the brakes on economic recovery and job creation. At the meeting, the [Joyce Foundation](#) also [announced](#) that it will be the first member of the philanthropic community to invest in the Business Leaders United Commitment to Action.

Washington Update: The Latest on WIA, the FY 2012 Budget, TAA, and More

Read this month's [Washington Update](#) for latest news and analysis on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), as well as an update on the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations process. Learn more about the status of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, the final "Gainful Employment" rule released by the Department of Education, the reintroduction of the On-the-Job (OJT) Training Act by Senators Shaheen and Cochran, and more.



NSC, Georgetown Convene State Workforce Policy Roundtable

On June 21, [Georgetown University's Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy](#) and National Skills Coalition jointly convened a Roundtable discussion—[State Workforce Policy: The Future of Policy Innovation in a Changing Environment](#)—to explore recent innovations in state workforce policy and the implications for continued innovation in a changing and challenging political, economic and budgetary environment. Bringing together [present and former leaders](#) from the state public workforce systems, the Roundtable discussed promising state workforce policies and practices implemented over the past several years, what is known about their effectiveness, and their potential for continuation. [Learn more.](#)



Peter Edelman, Georgetown University Law Center • Andy Van Kleunen, National Skills Coalition • Elizabeth Watson, Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy

Pennsylvania Advocates Achieve Major Workforce Victory
[The Pennsylvania Fund for Workforce Solutions](#), [Keystone Research Center](#), [PathWays PA](#), [PA Partners](#) and other workforce leaders from across the state achieved a major win last week when Pennsylvania lawmakers voted to

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permanently establish the [Industry Partnerships](#) (IPs) program as part of the state's workforce development strategy. Since 2005, Pennsylvania's sector strategies have served as a national model for training more workers for high-demand occupations. Though originally zeroed out in Governor Corbett's 2011-2012 budget proposal, a [statute](#) to permanently establish IPs was unanimously passed through both chambers of the General Assembly after stakeholders built statewide support for the initiative. [Read more](#) about this important victory.

Investments in Skills, Job Training Make Headlines

In the face of continued calls for budget cuts in Washington, workforce advocates are making the case for investments in job training in the media. Last month [Harry Holzer](#), Professor of Public Policy at Georgetown University and NSC Board member, urged policymakers to continue to provide supports for the unemployed and investments in the future skills of the nation's workers in an opinion piece in [The Hill](#). In the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#), NSC Member Erick Ajax's metal fabrication company was profiled and praised by the White House as an "example of how manufacturers and community colleges partnering to invest in workforce development is a win-win-win."

Coalition Recognized as Community Partner at District 1199c Training & Upgrading Fund Annual Gala

Last month, National Skills Coalition was honored by the [District 1199c Training & Upgrading Fund](#) during its Annual Graduation and Recognition Gala in Philadelphia. NSC Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen accepted the Outstanding Community Partner award on behalf of the Coalition, which was recognized for its contribution in advocating for workforce development. The Fund, which is led by NSC Leadership Council Member Cheryl Feldman, provides basic and job skills training to over 2,000 students per year in the Philadelphia area.

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Miss NSC's June audio update—*Moving Fiscal and Political Mountains: Advancing Workforce Legislative Reforms in the States?* [Download the podcast](#) and listen as NSC partners from Massachusetts, Iowa, Indiana and Oregon discuss their efforts to pass significant workforce policy legislation to help their state prepare more workers for middle-skill jobs.

[Public/Private Venture's Benchmarking Project](#) aims provide the workforce development field with the tools and data needed to assess and improve their practices by offering programs a way to anonymously compare their job placement and retention outcomes with organizations that share similar characteristics. [Get involved today](#).

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