



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

E-News

May 26, 2011

Over 50 National Organizations Send Letter Urging House, Senate to Prioritize Workforce Funding in FY 2012
Last week, National Skills Coalition and over fifty other national organizations sent a [joint letter](#) to House leadership and members of the Appropriations and Education and Workforce Committees urging them to prioritize funding for employment and training programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, and this week sent a similar joint letter to key members in the Senate. The letter comes in response to the House and Senate appropriations committees asking lawmakers to submit “member requests” designating their funding priorities for FY 2012. It is critically important that workforce programs be included in these requests in order to clearly signal that investments in the skills of the U.S. workforce are a Congressional priority.

Learn More About Advancing State Policy, Register for NSC's Next Audio Update

[Join](#) NSC on Thursday, June 28 at 1:00 pm EDT for our next audio update, *Moving Fiscal and Political Mountains: Advancing Workforce Legislative Reforms in the States*. NSC partners from Massachusetts, Iowa, Indiana and Washington will discuss their efforts to pass workforce legislation to help prepare more workers for middle-skill jobs. Moving a bill or regulatory reform can be daunting and challenging. Learn successful strategies for organizing stakeholders to get a bill moving, identifying champions, and developing advocacy plans to advance innovative state policy reforms. [Register today!](#)



NSC Highlights Value of CTE, Offers Recommendations at Department of Education Event

Last Month, NSC Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen participated in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Community Conversation with National Associations hosted by the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education to help inform the Department's overall strategy for improving career and technical education. In his remarks, Van Kleunen spoke about the need to strengthen the public message around the value of CTE and middle-skill jobs to communicate the range of viable education and training pathways whereby people can develop skilled careers. Van Kleunen also spoke about the important role that sector partnerships can play in collaboration with local CTE programs to begin to operationalize and implement training strategies to meet needs of local industries. [Read](#) full remarks.

NSC, State Partners Advise on Career Pathways Strategies at Department of Labor Institute

In April, NSC State Policy Director Eric Seleznow

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served as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) at the [Career Pathways Initiative's 2011 Spring Institute](#). Co-sponsored by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education, the Initiative works to strengthen career pathway systems for low-skilled adults and dislocated workers. In his remarks, Seleznow spoke about the importance of integrating credential measurement strategies to support effective and comprehensive career pathway systems. Nine state teams participated in the Institute, including NSC partners from New Mexico, Minnesota, and Maryland, and NSC members Cheryl Feldman (District 1199c Training & Upgrading Fund, PA), Mimi Maduro (Oregon Career Pathways Initiative), and Rebecca Nickoli (Ivy Tech Community College, IN) also served as SMEs. [Watch](#) video or [view](#) photos from the event.



*Eric Seleznow
NSC State Policy Director*

Skills2Compete-Indiana Drives Middle-Skills Resolution Building on the momentum of the [Skills2Compete-Indiana Campaign](#) launch in October 2010, campaign partners led by the [Indiana Institute for Working Families](#) helped successfully advance [Senate Resolution 85](#) to call on Indiana's State Workforce Investment Board, Department of Workforce Development, and Department of Education to assess industry-recognized standards for middle-skill industry clusters to ensure that education and training programs are meeting these standards. The Resolution was adopted by the full state senate on April 26. Click [here](#) to learn more.

NSC Board Member Appointed Commissioner of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

On April 28, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel [announced](#) the appointment of NSC Board Member [Evelyn Diaz](#) as the new Commissioner of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS). Diaz previously served as CEO of the Chicago Workforce Investment Council (CWIC), where she worked closely with City government and the private sector to improve employment outcomes for Chicagoans and create a skilled and educated workforce to keep Chicago's economy thriving. In her new capacity as Commissioner, Diaz oversees a continuum of coordinated services to help enhance the lives of Chicago residents.



*Evelyn Diaz
Commissioner
Chicago DFSS*

Partner Resources

Save the date for [National Council of La Raza's](#) second Workforce Development Forum, October 11-12 in Chicago. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Released this month by [Women Employed](#) and the [Illinois Shifting Gears](#) team, the [Transition Services Self-Assessment Tool for Adult Education and Developmental Bridge Programs](#) is a new resource to help bridge program staff assess transition services to get a clearer sense of which services are being used and which additional services they may want to offer students.

[Economic Mobility Corporation's](#) latest evaluation, [A Promising Start: Year Up's Initial Impacts on Low-Income Young Adults' Careers](#), finds that Year Up participants earned nearly \$3500, or 30 percent more than members of a

control group in their first year in the labor market. The report's findings are among the most promising in the youth employment field in many years.

[*Giving Credit Where Credit is Due: Creating a Competency-Based Qualifications Framework for Postsecondary Education and Training*](#), a new report by [CLASP](#) in conjunction with the [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce's](#) Keith Bird, explores the challenge of developing a national competency-based framework for awarding educational credit for skills and learning mastered through formal and informal occupational education and training.

[The Insight Center for Community Economic Development](#) is seeking a Workforce Director to provide leadership and direction to Insight's Workforce Development program and oversee a national effort to provide jobs for marginalized populations. Click [here](#) for more details.

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