



NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

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E-News.

October 28, 2011

NSC, Georgetown Release Joint Policy Brief, Examine Innovations in State Workforce Policy
National Skills Coalition and the [Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy](#) released a [joint policy brief](#) last week examining recent innovations in state workforce policy and the implications for their continuation in the current political, economic and budgetary environment. [State Workforce Policy: Recent Innovations and an Uncertain Future](#)—authored by Peter Edelman, Harry Holzer and Elizabeth Watson of Georgetown and Eric Seleznow and Andy Van Kleunen of NSC—highlights several innovative state practices that better align education and training with the demands for skilled workers in key occupations and industries. The paper identifies a number of ways in which federal policy can better support the development of these initiatives and offers several recommendations for restoring federal funding to encourage state workforce innovation.

NSC Leaders Bring Skills into the Conversation at Washington Ideas Forum
Earlier this month, NSC Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen and Associate Director Rachel Unruh took part in the third-annual [Washington Ideas Forum](#), a gathering of over 600 of the nation's most prominent thought leaders hosted by [The Atlantic](#) and the [Aspen Institute](#). Andy participated in the Higher Education Working Summit, a roundtable conversation with leaders from the education, workforce and foundation sectors focusing on narrowing the skills gap in higher education and preparing students to excel in the 21st-century workforce. Rachel likewise joined a group of leaders in the field, partaking in a conversation about narrowing America's skills gap moderated by Don Peck, Features Editor at [The Atlantic](#).



S2C-Colorado Campaign Launches with Report Release, Offers Policy Recommendations

[Skills2Compete-Colorado](#) launched earlier this week with the release of [Colorado's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#). The report, written by National Skills Coalition in partnership with [SkillBuild Colorado](#) and released at the Colorado Community College Summit, was featured in the [Denver Business Journal](#). Joined by a broad coalition of business, labor, workforce and education leaders, the campaign released a companion platform, [Preparing for the Future: Closing Colorado's Middle-Skills Gap](#), offering policy recommendations to improve efforts to train adults for the middle-skill jobs that will continue to drive Colorado's economic recovery.



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New York Workforce Conference Focuses on State's Middle-Skill Challenge

On October 17, the [New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals](#) (NYATEP) and the New York Department of Labor convened their Annual Fall Workforce Conference with an intensive pre-conference session on *Meeting the Middle Skill Challenge*. Attended by more than 60 state workforce leaders, the session focused solely on identifying solutions to address the middle-skills gap as documented in [New York's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs](#), released earlier this year by NSC and the [Skills2Compete-New York campaign](#). In addition to learning about innovative skill development policies from representatives of Maryland, Massachusetts and NSC, attendees heard from a range of local programs about what they were doing to help address New York's education, training, and skills gaps.

Maryland Implements New Career Pathways Framework, Hosts Summit

Last month, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning hosted the first ever [Maryland Career Pathways Summit](#) to mark the beginning of the state's implementation of a new career pathways framework for addressing the needs of low-skilled workers. The event convened over 250 workforce and education stakeholders to explore strategies for implementing a career pathways system to provide integrated education, occupational training, and employment opportunities. The Summit was the outgrowth of [Maryland's participation](#) in the U.S. Department of Labor's [Career Pathways Institute](#), which brought together eleven states to participate in an in depth planning process to support the development of career pathways.

Partner Resources

[PHI's](#) new [State Data Center](#)—the first web-based tool to host comprehensive, state-by-state profiles of the direct-care workforce—provides easy-to-read charts with up-to-date, key direct-care workforce statistics for every state, which can be easily downloaded and reproduced.

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