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## Report urges keeping sight of mid-level jobs

By **PE Business** on October 21, 2009 5:00 AM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

Eventually the recession will come to end, and California may even balance its books.

One question that should be asked now is whether the state will have the work force it needs to get itself back to some level of prosperity. It is easy to forget the state has the eighth-biggest economy in the world. It needs, or is going to need workers once this economy finds its footing, able workers.

A report issued this week addresses that, and it specifically points out that the state is going to need a lot of worker bees, for lack of a better term. A panel called the Skills2Compete-California campaign has issued a report it calls "California's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs." The [report](#) worries that, amidst all of the wretched economic news of the past year, Californians who should have gotten onto solid career paths may have lost their way. Some of the employers who hire these people may have gotten a little lost as well.

People in Inland Southern California are calling for families and schools to remind young people, even those currently in the fourth grade, to think about college. That way the area will not fall victim to a recession that affects blue-collar workers as profoundly as this one has.

But this report, while certainly not denigrating the value of a college degree, tries to remind people that not everyone is college material, nor should they feel badly if they're not. The state needs skilled construction workers, just like it needs licensed vocational nurses, truck drivers, police officers and data processors. And, the state will need people to learn those so-called green jobs that everyone mentions.

Most, if not all, of these jobs require some sort of post-high-school training but not college degrees. But they represent almost half the working people in California.

The report's panel was authored by a group that includes public policy people and educators. Plus, organized labor representatives actually sat at the same table with private industry people for this.

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