

THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS GROUP

Center for Labor Market Studies-Northeastern University
Crittenton Women's Union
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Workforce Board Association
Massachusetts Workforce Professionals Association
SkillWorks: Partners for a Productive Workforce

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MASSACHUSETTS JOBS AND WORKFORCE SUMMIT - JUNE 22, 2010

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Governor Deval Patrick greets Nancy Stager of Eastern Bank and Robert Haynes, President of the MA AFL-CIO at the first annual *Massachusetts Jobs and Workforce Summit* in Sturbridge.

WSG Hosts Gubernatorial Forum September 28

Investing In Jobs and Opportunity

Clearly the issue of jobs - and how we prepare our Commonwealth's residents for jobs - is an important one in the upcoming elections. A skilled workforce is crucial to our state's productivity and competitiveness. On Tuesday, Sept. 28 at Bunker Hill Community College, the four candidates for Governor of Massachusetts are invited to participate in the **Skills2Compete MA Gubernatorial Forum: Investing in Jobs and Opportunity**. Janet Wu of WCVB TV will moderate as the candidates offer their vision on jobs and

training for the Commonwealth. The candidates will answer questions on jobs and unemployment, workforce development policy and funding. Four years ago, 500 people turned out to hear the candidates address these issues at the first gubernatorial jobs and opportunity forum.

This summer, SkillWorks, the Workforce Solutions Group and the National Skills Coalition launched the **Skills2Compete - Massachusetts campaign**. (see below)

The **Skills2Compete - Massachusetts** vision is that every MA resident should have access to at least two years of education or training past high school so that they have the vocational credential, industry certification or associates degree needed to succeed in today's economy.

We have shared the S2C report and recommendations with each candidate and expect the candidates to address:

- **What are your plans for creating jobs and training Massachusetts residents for those jobs?**
- **How will your vision help our state and its residents stay competitive?**
- **How will you work to ensure that our training and education system is industry-led and responsive to the changing needs of Massachusetts businesses?**

To attend the Sept. 28th **Skills2Compete MA Gubernatorial Forum: Investing in Jobs and Opportunity**, please click [Register for Gubernatorial Forum](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

First Annual MA Jobs and Workforce Summit

"As our nation struggles through this economic downturn, we must step up the coordination and creativity of all our partners to support job creation, and the education and training necessary for those out of work or struggling to support their families."

**Bill Tinti, Chairman
MA Workforce Board Association**

The first annual **Massachusetts Jobs and Workforce Summit** held on June 22, 2010 at the Public House in Sturbridge, attracted 225 workforce

leaders from across the state. Sponsored by the MA Workforce Board Association, the Workforce Solutions Group, and SkillWorks, the Summit provided a forum for business, labor, government, education, training, community, faith-based and other workforce leaders to come together and inspire a common vision for job creation and workforce development for Massachusetts.

The opening workshop featured business leaders, Angelo Sabatalo of Nypro University, Steven Tamasi of Boston Centerless and Dr. Gary Gottlieb of Partners Healthcare sharing



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Bill Tinti, with Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary of EOLWD Joanne Goldstein, and Don Gillis, Executive Director of the MA Workforce Board Association

practices from their innovative skills training programs. At a lively lunch session, Governor Deval Patrick engaged directly with participants on meeting the current challenges and opportunities our state faces.

Throughout the day, leaders of the state's workforce development community "looked at how we can sustain emerging job growth through targeted training, education, business and economic development strategies," according to Don Gillis, Executive Director of the MA Workforce Board Association, one of the Summit's key planners.

The **Workforce Solutions Group** and our partners plan to host an annual **MA Jobs and Workforce Summit** for Massachusetts' employers and the state's workforce development community.



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Angelo Sabatalo,

Corporate Director of Training and Organizational Development, for Nypro, Inc. describing Nypro's global corporate university to Summit attendees.

Skills2Compete Campaign Launched

In July **SkillWorks**, the **Workforce Solutions Group**, and a coalition of Massachusetts business, labor, community-based organizations and educators launched the **Skills2Compete-Massachusetts Campaign** [Skills2Compete MA Campaign](#). The campaign kicked off with a report - **Massachusetts Forgotten Middle Skill Jobs** - produced in collaboration with the National Skills Coalition. As Massachusetts' unemployment hovers at 9% and concerns continue with the pace of economic recovery, the report highlights an important area of job growth.

The **Mass Forgotten Middle-Skills Jobs** report projects that by 2016, Massachusetts will have nearly 400,000 job openings **that require "middle-skills workers" - those with more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year college degree.** In our state, "middle-skill" jobs will account for 38% of all openings in a range of employment areas, including health care, biotech, manufacturing, business and hospitality with median annual incomes of \$50,000-\$55,000.

One goal of the **Skills2Compete MA** coalition is to urge Massachusetts to take advantage of this expected job growth by making significant investments in skills training, especially for those currently unemployed or working in low-wage, low-skill jobs. Unfortunately, only 32% of our current workforce likely has the skills to fill these jobs.

The vision of S2C is simple:

- Every Mass resident should have access to at least two years of education or training past high school - leading to a vocational credential, industry certificate, or associates' degree needed to succeed in today's economy.
- Every resident should also have access to the basic skills and financial aid needed to pursue such education and training.

*We have seen great results in Worcester by investing in skills training for middle skill occupations. As a paramedic myself I can attest to the career ladder benefits of such education and training, and strongly endorse the **Skills2Compete MA campaign** to ensure every resident has these same opportunities.*

Worcester Mayor Joseph O'Brien

Widely covered by media across the state, and headlining the Boston Globe's website (Boston.com) for nearly two months, the campaign and report have garnered support and attention from business and education leaders. (See articles on S2C website, [S2C Media](#)). Endorsed by a diverse group of organizations and businesses, **Skills2Compete** forms the focus of the **Sept. 28 Skills2Compete Jobs and Opportunity Gubernatorial Forum**. To read more about the **Skills2Compete - Massachusetts** campaign, and to become an endorser, click: [Skills2Compete-MA Campaign](#)

2010 WSG Legislative Update

In August Congress and President Obama approved \$450 million in FMAP funds for MA. WSG partners may recall that during state budget deliveries, FMAP monies were considered to mitigate cuts to several workforce programs. For jobs and skills training, additional funding would be designated for **At-Risk Youth/YouthWorks jobs, Connecting Activities, and the Employment Services Program**. In fact ESP, which provides training for welfare recipients, without FMAP suffers a 35% cut.

Governor Patrick and legislative leaders have been discussing use of these funds. On Aug. 24, House Speaker Robert DeLeo said he hoped to appropriate the funds in informal sessions scheduled for the rest of the year. Debate is not allowed during informal sessions and any proposals can advance only with the agreement of all members present in such sessions. **WSG will alert our constituents as the FMAP funds are being considered this fall.**

There's good news on the **Workforce Training Fund**, which has seen its employer-generated training grants cut in half each of the past two years. Thanks to the combined advocacy of the **WSG workforce and employer communities, and of Associated Industries of MA (AIM)**, the legislature and the Governor have extended the fund through 2012, and have increased its total to \$24 million, after initial moves to fund it at only \$10 to \$15 million. With the WTF at \$24 million, up to 32,000 workers could be trained by over 1000 employers. (Figures from 2007 when \$24 million allocated in grants). For other WSG legislative priorities, please refer to the **WSG Priority Workforce Programs** chart [WSG Priority Workforce Programs](#) .

WSG 2010 Workforce Champion Awards



2010 WSG Champion Award - Mass Manufacturing Partnership: Jack Healy, MassMEP, Worcester Mayor Joe O'Brien, Ted Bauer, Leslie Parady and Matthew Healy of MassMEP, and Ted Coghlin, President, Skyline Technical Fund.

Congratulations to the workforce champions recognized at the **June 22 Jobs and Workforce Summit** in Sturbridge! The Workforce Solutions Group recognized three Massachusetts workforce leaders with the first annual **WSG Champions Awards**. Worcester Mayor Joseph O'Brien presented **Baystate Health of Springfield** with the **2010 Employer Champion of the Year** award. Baystate Health, the state's largest healthcare provider, champions workforce training for its 10,000 employees. They demonstrate their commitment through a variety of allied health and

nursing career ladder programs, supporting incumbent workers with no cost training and 100% release time, as well as collaborating with local high schools and community colleges.

The 2010 Champion Skills Training Provider is the Mass. Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Inc. MassMEP has developed a sustainable combination of workforce training programs to fulfill manufacturers' employee and new worker needs, helping keep Massachusetts competitive in this global economy. Their comprehensive training programs upgrade skills of incumbent technical workers and provide pre-employment training for new hires. A recent program with a goal to train 400 workers, surpassed that, training a total of 790. Seventy-one percent of the unemployed trainees were successfully placed in jobs.

The 2010 Innovative Training Partnership award recognizes Pathways to Financial Careers, an industry-led partnership of Eastern Bank, Salem Five Bank, North Shore Bank, Danvers Bank, North Shore Community College, Operation Bootstrap, the North Shore WIB and the North Shore Career Center. This collaborative program devised an assessment system to identify candidates and improve retention for a financial services career path, and then created a job skills preparation course. The Pathways Program prepares workers for careers in the financial sector, and strengthens ties and opportunities among industry, education and community partners.

Honorable Mention:

With many potential awardees nominated from across Massachusetts, the judging committee decided to recognize two Honorable Mentions in each category.

**Employer of the Year: Coca Cola North America, Northampton, MA;
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA.**

Skills Training Provider of the Year: Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, MA; BEST Corp. Hotel Training Center, Boston, MA

Innovative Workforce Training Partnership: Advanced Precision Manufacturing Training Partnership, a collaboration between the Western MA National Tooling and Machining Association and the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County;

Fundamentals of Instruction Inspection Training, AFSCME Council 93 labor union and The Arioeh Center, Wentworth Institute.