



March 5, 2010

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Katherine Mainzer 617-263-3344
kmainzer@strategygroupinc.com

NATIONAL WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS WEEK, MARCH 8th-14th, 2010

Preparing Workers, Businesses to Succeed in Post-Recession Economy: A Week of Skill Building and Celebration

BOSTON, (March 7, 2010) - As much as two-thirds of the American workforce lacks the skills needed to succeed in today's economy. In Massachusetts, SkillWorks, Jobs for the Future, and the Commonwealth Workforce Coalition are part of a bold effort to ensure that workers and businesses can succeed as the economy moves toward recovery.

Monday, March 8 kicks off **Workforce Solutions Week**, a weeklong celebration that is bringing together workers, employers, public officials, and business, community, and education leaders to honor successful ways for building the nation's frontline workforce.

Through events around the country, the week will be an opportunity to highlight the successes of individual participants, service providers, employers, funders, and other partners in key national initiatives. **For additional information on WorkForce Solutions Week, go to <http://bit.ly/c5wQLh>.**

Here's the lineup for activities in Massachusetts:

Monday March 8th: 10 am, Nurses Hall, the State House. The Crittenton Women's Union will release their Hot Jobs Report. This report identifies the occupations with high vacancy rates in Massachusetts that require two years or less of post-secondary education or training and with wages that meet the state's income levels. For more info please contact: Stephanie Nichols at snichols@liveworkthrive.org

Wednesday March 10: 9 am-4pm, DCU Center, Worcester. The Commonwealth Workforce Coalition is sponsoring its 7th Annual conference called Sharing Skills-Building Connections. Over 350 workforce professionals are registered to attend to learn new strategies for the post-recession economy, share best practices, reach out to employers, and learn about state and federal legislation and training programs. Contact Ann Donner, Commonwealth Workforce Coalition, adonner@cedac.org (617) 727-5944.

Thursday March 11 at 1:30 pm, 33 Harrison Ave Boston. The Hotel Training Center, a

SkillWorks partnership, is hosting a graduation ceremony for the Hotel Training Center's Room Attendant Training. Graduates are all native or high-level English speakers with significant housekeeping experience in local Boston hotels who have completed six weeks of job training. Contact Joan Abbot: jabbot@hoteltrainingcenter.org

Throughout the week, The Healthcare Training Institute, a sector partnership funded by SkillWorks and operated by Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), will be celebrating its one-year anniversary. The Health Training Institute partners with Boston's major health care employers and community colleges to provide the education and training frontline health care workers need to develop their skills. (Contact: Meghan Johnson at mjohnson@jvs-boston.org)

"We hear about 'green' jobs and the growing job sectors in health care, education and business and professional services," said Loh-Sze Leung, Director of SkillWorks. "But, what we don't hear enough about is how to make sure that we have a workforce, trained and ready to take these jobs on.

"Today, 45% of jobs in Massachusetts are "middle-skilled," requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. Simply creating jobs is not enough. We must insure that our labor force has the skills to be successful in these jobs. The activities of **Workforce Solutions Week** can help us reach this goal. "

SkillWorks is a ten-year \$25 million investment partnership to improve workforce development in Boston and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SkillWorks provides the foundation for philanthropy, government, community organizations and employers to work together to help low income individuals gain the skills needed to attain family supporting jobs and to help businesses build a workforce that will help our economy grow and thrive. www.skill-works.org

###