



Shared Prosperity

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

Spotlight on State Innovations

Delaware Clean Energy Jobs Act

March 10, 2010

[Governor Jack Markell](#) of Delaware announced the introduction of the [Clean Energy Jobs Act](#). The legislation is intended to incentivize the development of clean and renewable energy sources and thereby create hundreds of good-paying family supporting jobs throughout the state. By creating a 30% renewable portfolio standard for 2029, the act would [leverage](#) 300 megawatts of new solar capacity and 1000 megawatts of additional wind power. The bill also includes a local generation minimum which will help focus the economic impact on areas within the state.



Maryland Higher Education Improvement

March 5, 2010

[Governor Martin](#)

[O'Malley](#) touted improvements in the Maryland higher education system and laid out further plans for reform.



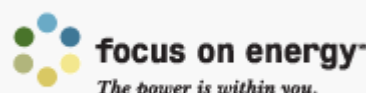
Following on the work of the [Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Future Higher Education](#), Governor O'Malley laid out a three-pronged legislative strategy for the coming year. Amongst the initiatives being sponsored by the governor are efforts to limit tuition increases to 3% in the coming year, establish a statewide data system to track student performance, and to add four members to a council tasked with better aligning the Maryland elementary, secondary and post secondary educa-

Wisconsin Clean Energy Program

March 4, 2010

[Governor Jim Doyle](#) applauded the findings of an [independent study](#) that showed Wisconsin had created more than 5,000 jobs through its [Focus on Energy](#) clean energy programs. The study, conducted by PA

Consulting Group Inc. and Economic Development Research Group Inc.,



also estimated that Focus on Energy had increased Wisconsin's gross state product by \$1.4 billion since its inception in 2001. The [study also found](#) that the funding increases included in the [Clean Energy Jobs Act](#) currently working its way through the State legislature would [create an additional increase of \\$2 billion in gross state product and 20,000 jobs](#).

Recent Publications in Education and Workforce

[White House Blueprint for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#)

The Obama Administration released a blueprint for the reauthorization of the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#) (formerly the No Child Left Behind Act). The blueprint focuses on four areas: (1) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness; (2) Providing information to families to help them evaluate and improve their children's schools, and to educators to help them improve their students' learning; (3) Implementing college- and career-ready standards and developing improved assessments aligned with those standards; and (4) Improving student learning and achievement in America's lowest-performing schools by providing intensive support and effective interventions.

[An Aggressive Blueprint for Targeted Reform](#)

The [Center for American Progress](#) praises the Obama Administration's blueprint for reauthorization of the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#) as a step forward from No Child Left Behind (NCLB). CAP finds that the blueprint improves on the initial law by creating a more sensible accountability structure that delineates among schools with different levels of student progress, takes a major step toward greater funding equity among schools within districts, and promotes major investments in innovation and experimentation that are crucial if this country is going to move beyond the indefensible status quo in our public education system.

[The Critical and Emerging Role of Workforce Investment Boards](#)

The [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#) recently released this report that promotes a more active local role for Workforce Investment Boards. Using WIA as a foundation, future legislation should clearly articulate the role of local WIBs as strategic policy boards working as catalysts and coalition builders; While many Boards already convene stakeholders around common economic strategies, changes to federal legislation could help make this standard practice.

[America's Teacher Corps](#)

The [Brookings Institution](#) promotes the creation of a federal teacher corps (which they call America's Teacher Corps or, the ATC) to promote the training of the high quality educators the nation needs to move its educational system into the 21st century. Highly effective K-12 public school teachers, as documented through district or state evaluation systems, would qualify for membership in the ATC, and members would receive visible recognition for teaching excellence, a salary supplement and a portable credential. The program would also provide financial incentives for effective educators to teach in low-performance, high-poverty school districts.

If you have a program or report you'd like other states to know about, something you think we should include in the newsletter, or other questions or comments, please contact us:

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