



Shared Prosperity

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

No Worker Left Behind Success

October 16, 2009

Michigan [Governor Jennifer Granholm](#) announced that the state had enrolled 100,000 individuals in its landmark “No Worker Left Behind Program”. The program offers qualified applicants up to \$10,000 in tuition for two years of classes at a state university, community college or approved training program. The Governor emphasized the need for the program by citing a [recent study](#) that projected that half the jobs created in the state between now and 2016 would be middle skills jobs that require some form of post-secondary education.



STEM Academies Expanded

October 15, 2009

Texas [Governor Rick Perry](#) committed \$160 million to expand Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (T-STEM) academies, focused on improving science and math education, and the [UTeach Program](#), which recruits university students in math and science fields into teaching. This initiative will double the number of T-STEM academies from 46 to 92 and increase the number of students who may enroll. The governor also proposed \$100 million T-STEM Challenge Scholarships for students pursuing degrees in STEM or medical fields at community or technical colleges and universities.

Addressing Health Personnel Shortages

October 20, 2009

Missouri [Governor Jay Nixon](#) announced expanded enrollment in medical programs at a number of state universities. The expanded enrollment is a result of the state’s “[Caring for Missourians](#)” program that is providing \$40 million to state universities to expand their medical schools, nursing schools, dental schools and other health care training programs. Despite the high level of unemployment in the state, Missouri still faces critical personnel shortages in a number of health-related fields. The program will fund the education of an additional 471 medical professionals, and the Governor will seek additional funding in future years.



RECENT REPORTS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

[Working Learners Need Innovative Education Models, Center for American Progress](#)

The Obama Administration recently announced the [America’s Graduation Initiative](#) which aspires to return the United States to the top echelons of college attainment. One element of this reform is an effort to increase community college graduation by 5 million by 2020. To accomplish this, the workforce development system will have to adjust to a working student body that has low literacy rates, limited English and no postsecondary degree or credential.

[Government Paves the Way: A Decent Work Agenda for the Obama Administration,](#)

This [National Employment Law Program](#) report outlines how the Federal Government can create good, family-sustaining jobs using simple, existing policy levers. By utilizing existing authority on prevailing wage regulations, responsible contractor requirements and enforcement of workplace laws, the federal government can facilitate the growth of high-road jobs.

[The Power of Technology to Transform Adult Learning, Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy](#)

The United States must reach a much greater proportion of its adult population with effective college and job readiness skills programs or it risks losing economic viability, declining standards of living, and undermining core democratic principles. Necessary reform requires deploying technology on an unprecedented scale and making use of all of the tools in our distance learning arsenal.

[Toward Ensuring America’s Workers and Industries the Skills to Compete](#)

With our economy in crisis—and with longer-term competitive challenges on the horizon—the need for greater national investment in the skills of American workers is more pressing than ever. Toward that end, [The Workforce Alliance](#) urges policymakers to adopt a broad framework for workforce development that focuses on a set of core strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, and proportionate investment.

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