Webinar: Federal workforce policy update
Join National Skills Coalition tomorrow, April 1 at 1:00 pm EST for a webinar on the latest developments on key education and training programs and the outlook for skills issues in the 114th Congress. Sign up now!

House, Senate pass budgets that would force deep cuts
Last week, the House and Senate each passed budget resolutions that would have deep consequences for non-defense discretionary programs – including education and training programs – as well as mandatory programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Read more about the proposed budgets.

Skills strategies included in more governors’ budget proposals
NSC’s state policy team reviews the latest budget proposals that address strategies to close the skill gap, such as sector partnerships, career pathways, and job-driven training.

Ten states receive SNAP E&T pilot grants, new WDQC report on SNAP E&T data
On March 20, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor announced $165 million in grants to 10 states as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) pilot program. Representatives from six of these states attended a 2014 meeting on building SNAP E&T programs hosted by National Skill Coalition, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Seattle Jobs Initiative. Starting this spring, NSC will provide technical assistance to states that did not receive pilot grants but are looking
to develop or expand skill-based 50/50 programs.

A new Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC) publication, “Stepping Up: State Developments in SNAP Employment and Training Data,” explains state best practices for collecting, reporting, and linking SNAP E&T data to other information that can help identify successful pathways into sustainable employment.

A chorus in support of better data, braided funding, serving vulnerable populations

The federal government released a summary of responses to its spring 2014 Request for Information (RFI) on Career Pathways. Nearly 150 responses from a diverse range of organizations were received in response to the RFI. Among the issues most frequently cited by respondents were several that National Skills Coalition has championed. Read more about the responses on our blog.

Leadership spotlight: John Brauer
NSC Leadership Council member John Brauer of the California Labor Federation sheds light on his role as Executive Director of Workforce and Economic Development. Read the interview in which he discusses sector-based strategies and upskilling initiatives.

Apprentices thrive at Fives Cincinnati, a BLU employer
Manufacturing group and Business Leaders United (BLU) employer Fives Cincinnati retains and grows its skilled workforce while upskilling job-seekers through its apprenticeship program developed in partnership with a local community college.

Partner resources

- **JP Morgan Chase**: Chauncy Lennon makes the case in a New York Times op-ed for private and public investment in training to address the current mismatch between employer needs, and the skills of job seekers.

- **Michigan League for Public Policy**: New policy brief addresses access and affordability of postsecondary skill-building in Michigan and urges the state to prioritize public investment in adult education.
NSC on the road

- State Policy Director Bryan Wilson presented on WIOA implementation before the Mississippi Community College administrations of Workforce Training, and Career and Technical Education on March 4.

- National Field Director Jessie Hogg Leslie headlined a workforce policy plenary at the California Labor Federation’s 2015 Building Workforce Partnerships Conference held on March 4-5.

- Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Bergson-Shilcock spoke on a Migration Policy Institute webinar on adult education, English, and skills training on March 5.

- WDQC Director Rachel Zinn served as a panelist during a meeting of the Workforce Data Quality Initiative grantees on March 12.
