

**Workforce Development Update**  
**July, 2010**

**HOT NEWS! Most Current Updates!**

- **ACLS Capacity Building Grants for Career Pathways:** Fourteen ABE programs were awarded grants last spring to build curricula and other strategies to support career pathways for ABE/ESOL students. The work of the grantees will be highlighted at the ABE Directors Meeting on September 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Look for displays of materials developed by your colleagues and come to the workshop session to hear about their successes.
- **The Bridges to Success Task Force** has now formally merged with the Policy to Performance Initiative, an interagency initiative to support adults transitioning successfully to post-secondary education supported by a technical assistance award from US DOE Office of Vocational and Adult Education.
- **NEW REPORT - MASSACHUSETTS' FORGOTTEN MIDDLE SKILL JOBS!** Written by the National Skills Coalition for the Massachusetts Skills2Compete- Massachusetts campaign and released on July 14<sup>th</sup>, this new report highlights jobs that represent 44% of jobs in Massachusetts. Middle skills jobs are available in a variety of sectors, and require certificate to associate degree credentials. Read the report and find out about how you can join the campaign, go to [www.nationalskillscoalition.org/Massachusetts](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/Massachusetts).
- **Skills2Compete-Massachusetts** – This campaign highlights that a skilled workforce is crucial to our state's economy, that residents need access to basic skills, and that Massachusetts must improve post-secondary credential attainment rates. Spearheaded by Skills2Compete-Massachusetts, SkillWorks, and the Workforce Solutions Group, the initiative focuses on Partnerships, Pathways, and Proportionate Investment to assure that MA residents can access middle-skill jobs that comprise 44% of jobs in our economy. Four policy recommendations are featured:
  - Fully fund the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund.
  - Fully fund the Workforce Training Fund.
  - Link both funds more closely with MA economic development initiatives.
  - Develop regional training centers.
- **National College Transitions Network** – In the summer issue of the NCTN newsletter, the Community Learning Center in Cambridge was featured as developing a new promising practice by using syllabi in transition classes to build college knowledge. Read more at [www.collegetransition.org](http://www.collegetransition.org).
- **Shifting Gears: State Innovation to Advance Workers and the Economy in the Midwest** – Released in July 2010 by CLASP and written by Julie Strawn, this report addresses how mid-western states are working to help workers gain the skills they need to work in a knowledge-based economy. Read more at [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org). Click on the Resources and Publications page.

**Conferences and Professional Development Opportunities**

- **Commonwealth Workforce Coalition** promotes the Graduate Certificate in Workforce Development at Northeastern University in Boston. For information, go to [www.northeastern.edu/cps](http://www.northeastern.edu/cps), or contact Ann Donner, Commonwealth Workforce Coalition at 617-727-5944 or [adonner@cedac.org](mailto:adonner@cedac.org).
- **The 4th Annual National College Transitions Network Conference** will be held on November 15 – 16, 2010 in Providence, RI. Go to [www.collegetransition.org](http://www.collegetransition.org) for more information.
- **The National Association of Workforce Professionals, Massachusetts Chapter** is headed by Keith Hendsley at Holyoke Community College. For information about joining the association, contact him at [khendsley@hcc.edu](mailto:khendsley@hcc.edu).

**News from Workforce Development Organizations**

- **Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board** – The next full Board meeting will be held on September 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Teamsters Local 25 at 544 Main Street in Charlestown. The next Performance

Measures Subcommittee will meet on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at MEDITECH, 200 Lowder Brook Drive in Westwood.

**SABES**

Remember to stay in touch with your SABES Workforce Development Coordinator to help your program establish linkages for next steps for students in post-secondary education and training or in employment, and to help you develop integrating career awareness in the ABE/ESOL curriculum.

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**Find events at the SABES Calendar:**     <http://calendar.sabes.org>