

CREATING JOBS; DELIVERING EDUCATION AND SKILLS; EXPANDING LABOR'S ROLE

**A Seminar on Strategy for Labor and Policy Leaders
Sponsored by the National Labor College of the AFL-CIO
and the Albert Shanker Institute
May 15, 2009**

10000 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Silver Spring, MD

10:00 a.m. Introduction and Explanation on Possible Strategic Priorities: William Scheuerman,
President, National Labor College

**10:15 a.m. SHAPING THE NEXT ECONOMY'S WORKFORCE –
CREATING CAPACITY FOR BASIC AND EXPANDING SECTORS; BROADENING LABOR'S ROLE**

**What Next After “Learning, Working, Investing and Succeeding in America,”
AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement, August 05, 2008?**

Tom Buffenbarger, President, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Randi Weingarten, President, Albert Shanker Institute and American Federation of Teachers

Respondent: **Thea Lee**, Policy Director, AFL-CIO

In August 2008 the AFL-CIO passed a statement that put the Federation on record observing that “our national government remains dangerously blind to the pressing need for greater systematic public investment in education and skill-development programs,” and urging the development of a “cohesive national strategy” that would include increased access and choices, improved coordination across delivery sectors, the use of new technologies and the promise of a broad basic education for all, and cooperation between business, unions and education providers. This session will explore what positions or steps labor should take to move from policy to implementation.

**11:15 a.m. CREATING A SEAMLESS WEB SYSTEM OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION -- FROM SECONDARY
SCHOOLS TO WORKPLACE LEARNING**

***Connecting the Contributions of High Schools, Community Colleges, Colleges, Employers and
Unions:***

Robert I. Lerman, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Discussion

Union/ Employer/ Government Partnership Models that Enlighten, Engage and Sustain

Tom Wilson, Director of Organizing, British Trades Union Congress

Discussion

At our discussion last year we focused considerable emphasis on the fact that this country relies on an irrational mix of education and skills providers that leaves virtually all its consumers – from high school students to incumbent workers, not to mention employers and the economy itself -- confused and ill-served. This session will review problems created by this disconnect that stem from lack of good data and from the narrow assumptions held by respective providers. In the U.K.

a system of training shored up by union-selected, publicly-funded learning representatives has begun to provide some necessary glue, at least between the post-secondary pieces of the British system.

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON DISCUSSION: HARNESSING THE TECHNOLOGY TORNADO – A STORM OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS, WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Marshall (Mike) Smith, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education

Technology is radically changing access to learning and formats for delivering it in schools, postsecondary institutions and in the workplace -- both in this country and in competitor economies. It could do even more. This session will offer information about an array of models available for technology-based learning strategies, some of which may be broadly adaptable for use in secondary, postsecondary and incumbent worker training.

Discussion

**1:30 p.m. GRAPPLING WITH THE NEXT ECONOMY
WHERE ARE THE JOBS COMING FROM? HOW CAN WE HELP WORKERS QUALIFY?**

Tony Carnevale, Director, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University

Union Leader Responses

Paul Shearon, Secretary Treasurer, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers

Michael Langford, President, Utility Workers Union of America

Since our last discussion the economy has fallen into deep recession, a Democratic President has been elected, and an over \$700 billion stimulus package of financing for jobs and job supports has entered its implementation phase. While jobs are a first concern, the need for a workforce development vision is no less relevant. Some high demand sectors – health care, energy, infrastructure, education – have gotten a boost from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Manufacturing sectors are still looking for additional supports. All of them need matching training complements. This session will relate the existing jobs and training picture to what needs to be done when the economy recovers.

**2:30 p.m. BEST STATE PRACTICES: INNOVATIVE STATE POLICIES FOR BUILDING
A JOBS/ SKILLS AGENDA**

Stephen Herzenberg, Executive Director, Keystone Foundation

A good training system will be hugely reliant on state programs. Pennsylvania is considering some of the most interesting options, including use of unemployment insurance to develop long-term safeguards for employees to develop necessary skills.

3:15 p.m. CONSIDERING A LABOR STRATEGY
Moderator: **Bill Scheuerman**, President, National Labor College

4:00 p.m. Adjourn