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Mayors Discuss Strategies to Prepare Workforce for High-Paying Jobs

Latest Report Identifies High-Growth Employment Sectors:
Projects 11.5 Million Jobs will be Added to Economy Over Next 5 Years

Dallas, TX – Today at the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Fall Leadership meeting in Dallas, more than 100 mayors, workforce development professionals and private-sector leaders met to discuss how to tackle local job growth challenges and future workforce needs as the U.S. economy continues to recover. Also, USCM released a report prepared by IHS Global Insight, identifying specific sectors of the economy expected to have the highest and fastest job growth.

The new report projects an expected 8.6% job growth over the next five years, adding 11.5 million jobs to the economy. The report provides 5 and 10-year job forecasts by sector and subsectors of the economy, both nationally and in 15 select metro areas.

“U.S. cities require a highly skilled, trained workforce that can compete globally,” said USCM President Philadelphia (PA) Mayor Michael Nutter. “There is nothing more important than building successful programs that support the individuals in our communities to develop skills for the jobs of the future, and enable personal and professional growth.”

Report Key Findings (the full report can be found at usmayors.org):

• The professional and business services sector is forecast to lead growth, adding 3.69 million jobs over the next five years, with most of the growth coming from expansions in the admin/support subsector.

• Other major job contributors will include the education and health services sector, projected to add 2.08 million jobs over the next five years; and the construction, natural resources, and mining sector, also slated to add 2.08 million jobs.

• Future growth in the manufacturing sector will come from expansions in durable goods, up 11.8% over 2012 employment levels.

• The report also analyzes job projections for fifteen major metro areas. Among these metros, Phoenix-Mesa will see a 14.2% projected payroll growth between 2012-2017. Charlotte will see a 13.8% payroll growth and Laredo 13.7%, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington at 12.8% and Salt Lake City at 11.5%

• Over the next five years, professional and business services will be the top contributor to job growth in 13 of the 15 metros in the report.

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