



**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**  
**THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**  
**79TH ANNUAL MEETING**  
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# **JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

## **CONTENTS PAGE**

URBAN MANUFACTURING .....	3
SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE JOBS AND INVESTMENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF GROWTH ZONES .....	5
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION & FUNDING OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT.....	6
SUPPORT OF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.....	8
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR’S EFFORTS AROUND THE 2011 SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM.....	9
SUPPORT FOR ADULT EDUCATION .....	11
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT.....	12
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR BASING INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL DECISIONS ON PERFORMANCE, NOT SENIORITY .....	15
SUPPORTING AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT.....	17
SUPPORT FOR YOUTHBUILD.....	18
ARTS EDUCATION .....	20
SUPPORT OF DOLLARWISE MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN .....	22

## **URBAN MANUFACTURING**

**WHEREAS**, manufacturing plays a central role in the U.S. economy, with 300,000 firms employing 11.7 million people and supporting an additional 7 million related jobs; generating \$1.64 trillion in goods; and accounting for the majority of U.S. exports; and

**WHEREAS**, manufacturing jobs serve as a gateway to the middle class, paying significantly higher wages than the retail and personal-service businesses – 19.3 percent over the national private sector average – in both large and small cities and metropolitan areas; and

**WHEREAS**, manufacturing firms are a major driver of national innovation capacity, accounting for 70 percent of industry-funded research and development; and

**WHEREAS**, manufacturing brings revenues into the city and metropolitan economy from external areas, states, and countries, also supporting job creation in other parts of the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. lost nearly a third of its manufacturing jobs over the past the decade; and

**WHEREAS**, the pre-recession U.S. growth model driven by highly-leveraged domestic consumption cannot sustain recovery, and the next economy must refocus on production, exports, innovation, and opportunity at all skill levels; and

**WHEREAS**, unlike when large companies dominated U.S. production, today’s manufacturing sector is increasingly located in cities, comprised of decentralized networks of small, specialized firms, with nearly 16 percent of all manufacturers employing fewer than 20 people; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that manufacturers in urban areas are more productive, pay higher median wages, and generate synergies; and

**WHEREAS**, despite bipartisan interest, the Administration’s “Framework for Revitalizing American Manufacturing,” and various legislative proposals, there remains a multitude of unconnected federal programs and no comprehensive national strategy for reviving and sustaining a strong manufacturing sector,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress to establish and pursue a clear manufacturing strategy that better incorporates the role and value of manufacturing in broader urban and economic development policies and programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that federal place-based planning and infrastructure programs, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and Economic Development Administration regional cluster initiatives, should explicitly consider alignment of physical development with economic development objectives in support of the manufacturing sector, including goods movement infrastructure and urban industrial parks as transit-oriented development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government should evaluate existing access to capital programs for constraints on urban manufacturing support, such as in Small Business Administration loan program criteria related to firm size, sectors, and property ownership; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government should seek to reallocate existing resources in order to expand or fill gaps in manufacturing program support services, such as better linkages with engineering research on manufacturing methods, and work across groups of assemblers and suppliers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government should assess changes to the tax code that enable real estate development to address the needs of smaller urban manufacturers, such as allowing use of Industrial Revenue Bonds for development of multi-tenanted rental industrial buildings; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports promotion of workforce policies and programs that better enable training in manufacturing-related skills and address identified barriers to small manufacturer growth, such as flexibility to train incumbent workers as proposed in the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act.

## **SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE JOBS AND INVESTMENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF GROWTH ZONES**

**WHEREAS**, President Obama proposes to rejuvenate distressed communities through a new initiative to identify and support Growth Zones across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, economic growth occurs in a metropolitan or regional context and, when possible, federal initiatives should acknowledge regional assets and patterns as they provide incentives and tools to enhance such growth;

**WHEREAS**, the President proposes to create a national competition for Growth Zones, a Race to the Top-style initiative for regions and communities that face high unemployment rates and that identify new opportunities for economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Growth Zones are designed to build upon the legacy of Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Renewal Communities, as well as initiatives begun or strengthened during the Obama Administration, and improve these programs’ ability to provide support to distressed communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Growth Zones will stimulate job creation and investments through employment credits and investment incentives to businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Growth Zones will support communities in translating economic strategies into economic realities providing planning and seed capital grants; and

**WHEREAS**, Growth Zones will receive federal program flexibility to allow for more coordinated and effective use of federal funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the President’s proposal to create a Growth Zones program.

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION & FUNDING OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the policy of investing in employment, training and career development is important to the national economy and the USCM; and

**WHEREAS**, while the national economy is beginning to expand, the national unemployment rate is alarmingly high especially in highly dense urban areas; and

**WHEREAS**, over 8 million people were served nationally by the public workforce system funded by WIA Title 1 - a 234 percent increase in participation rates in just two years; and

**WHEREAS**, over 4.3 million WIA participants found jobs through the public workforce system; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal budget for FY 10 reduced available funding for an array of national workforce programs targeting dislocated workers, low-income adults, veterans, disconnected young adults and other highly labor market vulnerable groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Labor has been extremely supportive of operating and evaluating Adult and Dislocated Workers programs; Youth Employment, Job Corps, and YouthBuild programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the investment of federal funds into adult and youth training, employment and career development has a significant positive impact on the local and national economy, tax-base and competitiveness,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act this year and that it include:

improved regional and private-sector coordination, and expansion of outreach to immigrants;

- incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
- additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare works for jobs in the building trades and in high-growth industries;
- adequate funding for programs which have demonstrated success in developing a competitive workforce such as summer youth employment, adult education/G.E.D. literacy, Pell grants, vocational education and incumbent worker programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools;
- work with education and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to workforce trends;

- collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify high-growth job trends.

## **SUPPORT OF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Summer Youth employment is an important policy goal for the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

**WHEREAS**, employment for young adults ages 16 -24 nationally is at an all-time low; and

**WHEREAS**, unemployment rates for young adults in major cities and rural areas range upwards of 40 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, national studies have demonstrated that youth employment has positive impacts on high school graduation rates, college-going rates, and future earnings; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government through the American Revitalization and Recovery Act (ARRA) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds made \$1 billion available nationally to provide Summer Youth employment and year round services in FY 2009 and FY 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the national workforce investment boards and their service providers served over 600,000 young people with summer and year round employment opportunities, exceeding their goal of 350,000; and

**WHEREAS**, FY 11 Federal Continuing Resolution did not contain any funds for Summer Youth Funds, and FY 12 proposed House budget does not contain any Summer Youth funds,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment to a strong Summer Jobs program, either by providing funding for year round youth activities and ensuring that Summer Jobs are part of any WIA reauthorization or by establishing separate ongoing funding for a Summer Jobs program.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S EFFORTS AROUND THE 2011  
SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Mayors has strong policy supporting Summer Youth employment programs over the last ten years setting down firm direction for the Conference at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Seattle in 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably over the past several years, and the overall teen employment rate for 2004 to 2006 was the lowest in the past 60 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Conference reiterated its commitment to Summer Youth programs in the face of a worsening employment setting for teens and young adults; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Conference supported the creation of an enhanced Summer Jobs initiative for teen workers promoting career exploration, internships, and additional programmatic opportunities in financial literacy, work readiness, post-secondary education, as well as health awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference has continuously and most recently in 2010 called for WIA programs to be funded at 2000 levels adjusted for inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, the labor market for the nation's teens continues to deteriorate considerably since 2000, when 45 percent of U.S. teens had summer jobs, to the historic low of only 32.7% in the summer of 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 the Conference recommended a youth development appropriations level of \$3.84 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Youth Employment Program was give \$0 funding for the summer of 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Labor remained committed to keeping a Summer Youth Employment Program regardless of funding challenges through a volunteer outreach campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, DOL now has over 25 entities providing over 50,000 jobs to America's youth for the summer of 2011 with a goal of 100,000 jobs,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors congratulates the Department of Labor for its inspiring commitment to a program considered a critical priority by the Conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thank the Department of Labor for partnering with and making cities such a valuable part of the this success; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that member cities of the Conference do all they can to aid DOL in reaching and exceeding their goal of 100,000 summer jobs for 2011.

## **SUPPORT FOR ADULT EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, adult education provides educational opportunities and services to equip adults with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively as citizens, workers, parents, and family and community members; and

**WHEREAS**, adult instructional programs ensure that adults have the education and skills required in a competitive economy for a better quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, adult students are served by school districts, community colleges, community or faith-based organizations, volunteer literacy organizations, public or private nonprofit agencies, public libraries, correctional facilities, and state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 15 million Americans are out of work, another 9 million are under-employed, and the national jobless rate remains stubbornly high at around 9%, yet there are still about 3 million job openings across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, this requires communities to, not only focus on adding jobs to the market through the expansion of the private sector, but also address the “skills gap” by aggressively pursuing the training and education of our unemployed adult population; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 90 million adults face at least one major barrier to success in the labor market including the lack of a high school diploma, no postsecondary degree or training, and an inability to speak, read, and write English well and also lack incentives, financial aid and other support services,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors ask that the President and Congress maintain appropriations for adult education and training programs and ensure that the identification and implementation of evidence-based and best practices in adult education is commensurate with that for K-12 education.

## **U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT**

**WHEREAS**, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than quarter ultimately earn a bachelor's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24<sup>th</sup> out of 29 developed nations in math and 17<sup>th</sup> in science; and

**WHEREAS**, a generation the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap, and mayors throughout the nation are leading focused, ambitious, and transformative efforts in this regard; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Conference endorsed the President's comprehensive plan for public education, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America's leadership in higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a pressing need to reform No Child Left Behind, the most recent version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the President released his Blueprint for Reform of the Act in March 2010, emphasizing three major goals for reauthorization: (1) raise standards, (2) reward excellence and student academic growth, and (3) increase local control and flexibility while maintaining focus on equity and closing achievement gaps; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference unanimously endorsed the President's Blueprint for Reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in June 2010;

**WHEREAS**, Secretary of Education Duncan has worked closely with the Conference and individual mayors in diverse cities across the nation to promote a joint strategy for advancing student success and closing the achievement gap,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act during this session and reaffirms its support for the President's Blueprint for Reform; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following ESEA reauthorization policy priorities:

- Setting a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college and career, regardless of income, race, ethnic or language background, or disability status.
- Using a new generation of assessments aligned with higher standards, capturing higher-order skills and deeper learning, to provide more accurate measures of student growth, align secondary and postsecondary education, hold districts and states accountable for college and career readiness, and better inform classroom instruction.
- Ensuring a more complete, well-rounded education for students to contribute in our democracy and thrive in a global economy, from literacy, mathematics, science, and technology to history, civics, foreign languages, the arts, and other subjects, and designing assessments and accountability standards which promote linked curricula integrating a variety of academic subjects.
- Supporting efforts to recruit, place, reward, retain, and promote effective teachers and principals, to remove barriers to effective teacher assignment and retention like last-in-first-out seniority rules.
- Enhancing the profession of teaching by recognizing, encouraging, and rewarding excellence, including more robust and systemic teacher evaluation based in part on student outcomes.
- Improving access to effective teachers and principals for students in high-poverty, high-minority urban schools.
- Allowing greater innovation by local schools, with thinner employment contracts, greater flexibility, and meaningful accountability for results.
- Investing in more effective pathways and practices for preparing, placing, and supporting beginning teachers and principals, especially in high need schools.
- Taking steps to ensure equity, including comparability in resources between high- and low-poverty schools.
- Continuing the incentives for systemic reforms first promulgated in Race to the Top.
- Evolving the Race to the Top approach to a city and district level rather than states to enable innovative communities to take on bold, comprehensive reforms even in the absence of effective state initiatives, and building in direct and deep mayoral involvement in any such district-level Race to the Top program.
- Supporting the expansion of high-performing public charter schools and other autonomous or mayorally-chartered public schools.

- Increasing access to a challenging high school curriculum, including college-level, dual-credit, and other accelerated courses.
- Expanding linked learning approaches which include a rigorous academic curricula aligned with entrance requirements for public institutions of higher education in the State; a career and technical education component organized around themes in high pay, high growth, or high skill industry or industry sector and aligned with state academic and technical standards; high quality work based learning components that are aligned with state academic standards (curriculum); and supplemental services.
- Streamlining funding streams to promote student success and innovation, and to provide greater flexibility to successful local schools.
- Protecting and expanding afterschool and extended school-day programs like the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, and requiring direct and deep mayoral involvement.
- Promoting schools as centers of their communities and investing in models that keep students safe, supported, and healthy both in and out of school.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the USCM calls upon the Secretary of Education to exercise his waiver authority within ESEA in a manner which advances these priorities.

## **U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR BASING INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL DECISIONS ON PERFORMANCE, NOT SENIORITY**

**WHEREAS**, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than a quarter ultimately earn a bachelor's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24th out of 29 developed nations in math and 17th in science; and

**WHEREAS**, a generation ago the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10th; and

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming body of research now demonstrates that the single most important school based factor for a child's academic success is the effectiveness of their teacher; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that ineffective teacher generates only half the learning of an effective teacher. Conversely, a highly effective teacher generates 50 percent more learning than an average teacher and as a result, children learn three times more in a highly effective teacher's classroom than in an ineffective teacher's classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, our schools and students are losing some our best and most promising teachers to seniority-based layoffs, especially as states and cities have to make difficult budget cuts. Recent studies show that more than 80% of seniority-based layoffs would result in better teachers leaving classrooms and worse teachers staying; and

**WHEREAS**, high-income areas generally have more stable staff and populations and therefore are less impacted by budget cuts. As a result, seniority based layoffs disproportionately negatively impact the highest need, highest poverty schools since these schools have larger numbers of new teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, methods do exist that allow fair and transparent evaluations of a teacher's effectiveness based in part on a student's academic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following performance based personnel policy priorities.

- Supporting educational staffing practices that value teachers as professionals by recognizing high performers, providing meaningful professional development and supports, placing effective school instructional leaders, creating quality learning conditions for students, and exiting from the system those who are not serving students well.

- Requiring meaningful principal evaluations that are developed with input from principals, use multiple measures, and are grounded in school-wide student achievement growth data.
- Requiring meaningful teacher evaluations that are developed with input from teachers, use multiple measures, rely on observations of teachers' professional practice conducted by fully trained individuals, and are grounded in student achievement growth data.
- Incenting local schools and districts to implement policies grounded in teacher effectiveness and to eliminate last in, first out or seniority based layoffs as the primary criterion for layoffs in times of economic hardship, school consolidation, or reorganization. Seniority may only serve as a tie-breaker between equally evaluated teachers.
- Setting a goal to end personnel practices in PK-12 education based solely on seniority and replace those with ones focused on teacher effectiveness.

## **SUPPORTING AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act was first introduced in the Senate in 2001, and has failed on numerous occasions, and will be re-introduced in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dream Act provides immigration relief to high school students by allowing them to become permanent residents if they came to the United States as children (under the age of 16), are long-term United States residents (five years or more), have good moral character and attend an institution of higher learning or enlist in the military for at least two years; and

**WHEREAS**, children who have been brought to the United States illegally should not be punished for the alleged transgressions of their parents/guardians and deserve to be judged on their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dream Act would provide young people with an incentive to move towards permanent residency, while pursuing further education or serving in the United States Armed Services; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 50,000 to 70,000 undocumented students graduate from United States high schools each year without legal status, making it difficult for them to attend college, secure employment or join the military; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no benefit in the creation of an underclass through the denial of higher education or employment that would prevent individuals from competing in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, there may be numerous families residing in cities in this country whose children would benefit from the passage of the Dream Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dream Act is a practical, fair solution that upholds values of fair opportunity and strong work ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of the Dream Act and encourages members of the United States Congress to support it,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports allowing undocumented alien children to become permanent residents after attending two years of college or joining the military if they came to the United States before the age of 16, have maintained continuous residence for five years, graduated from high school or obtained a general education diploma, and have good moral character; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the United States Congress to pass the Dream Act expeditiously.

## **SUPPORT FOR YOUTHBUILD**

**WHEREAS**, there are 2.4 million young low-income adults in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 who have left high school without a diploma or who are unemployed and another 300,000 behind bars; and

**WHEREAS**, in YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people; and

**WHEREAS**, strong emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to success; and

**WHEREAS**, in YouthBuild programs the most disadvantaged youth are brought into the productive workforce and prepared for post-secondary education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 there were more than 273 YouthBuild programs in 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, engaging approximately 10,000 young adults; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 93 percent of YouthBuild students entered the program without their GED or diploma, 40 percent had been adjudicated, and 27 percent received public assistance prior to joining YouthBuild and, in spite of these overwhelming odds, 78 percent completed the program and 64 percent of graduates went on to college or jobs averaging \$9.20/hour; and

**WHEREAS**, YouthBuild is a public-private partnership in which each YouthBuild program secures its own funding, generally a mix of government (federal, state, and local) and private support and it is NOT an earmark; and

**WHEREAS**, federal support for YouthBuild was first authorized under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1992 and reauthorized within the Workforce Investment Act under the U.S. Department of Labor by the YouthBuild Transfer Act (Public Law 109-281) in September 2006, when it passed by unanimous consent in both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993 more than 100,000 YouthBuild students have produced over 20,000 units of low-income housing; and

**WHEREAS**, independent research has shown a minimum return on investment of \$7.80 for every dollar spent on every YouthBuild student; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is critical to workforce development, crime prevention, and economic development; and,

**WHEREAS**, recent cuts to the YouthBuild Program have left the Department of Labor unable to fund 121 of the 226 current YouthBuild grantees and as a result, the number of young people on the waiting list in 2010 (18,600) will increase dramatically,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms its support for YouthBuild as a critically important program to the federal-local partnership; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes additional cuts to YouthBuild and supports restoration to its FY10 level of \$102.5 million.

## ARTS EDUCATION

**WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

**WHEREAS**, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

- The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
- The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
- The arts build strong mathematical skills
- The arts advance the motivation to learn
- The arts promote positive social development; and

**WHEREAS**, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, the President's Committee on the Arts and on the Humanities report entitled *Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools* offers key recommendations to strengthen existing arts education programs, including:

- Building robust collaborations that encourages different approaches to arts education
- Developing the field of arts integration
- Expanding in-school opportunities for teaching artists
- Utilizing federal and state policies to reinforce the place of arts in K-12 education
- Widening the focus of evidence gathering about arts education; and

**WHEREAS**, performance results from the federal Arts In Education program demonstrate the ability of arts integration to boost achievement results among low-income and minority students; and

**WHEREAS**, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education

funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to incorporate the recommendations of President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities into the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$40 million for the Arts in Education program, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education.

## **SUPPORT OF DOLLARWISE MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN**

**WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Mayors' Council for the New American City established the DollarWi\$e Campaign to invite the nation's mayors to make their citizens' financial literacy a top priority; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the National Financial Capability Survey, almost half of Americans reported having trouble keeping up with monthly expenses and bills, while 14 percent stated it is very difficult to do so and 35 percent finding it somewhat difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, While half of young credit card holders paid off the balances on their credit cards in full each month, 41% percent paid only the minimum amount due; young credit card users were also the most likely to be charged fees for exceeding their credit limit; and

**WHEREAS**, Programs such as the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign, where many youth are employed, earning a paycheck, and making financial decisions for the first time in their lives, provide an ideal teachable moment to offer financial education to participating youth;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the United States Conference of Mayors reiterates its position that helping every American become financially literate should be a priority for federal, state, and local governments;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every mayor and city in the United States is invited and encouraged to join the Mayors' National DollarWi\$e Campaign and make a commitment to increasing their citizens' financial literacy;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all cities with a summer youth employment program are invited to participate in the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign and incorporate financial education into these programs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage cities to work with local chapters of financial planners to organize Financial Planning Days, or include financial education into other opportunities and venues, such as financial education forums, financial literacy fairs, and one-on-one financial counseling.