

For Immediate Release
Contact: Maureen Conway
Director, Workforce Strategies Initiative
The Aspen Institute
Tel: 202-736-2502

Workforce Leadership Academy Selects 23 New Fellows

Washington, D.C., July 19, 2010 – Twenty-three people involved in workforce training in the U.S. have been named for a year-long leadership academy in which they will share best practices, build new skills and engage in an enriching professional development experience. In its sixth year, the Sector Skills Academy is jointly operated by the Aspen Institute’s Workforce Strategies Initiative (WSI) and Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), both known for their research on workforce issues. Funding is provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The Academy emphasizes sectoral employment development – a type of workforce training that prepares workers by developing a deep understanding of important regional industries, working closely with employers, and then crafting a set of training and other services that both support the industries’ competitiveness and connect workers to good-paying jobs.

As in the past, this year’s fellows work in diverse settings, including community-based organizations, community colleges, foundations and government-funded agencies. They focus on jobs in a wide range of fields, including health care, energy, construction, engineering, green and renewable resources, hospitality, manufacturing and transportation.

The Academy includes mentoring and technical assistance, Webinars and three, multi-day meetings in different locations, where participants learn from experienced sector project leaders, visit innovative training programs and engage in classroom-style learning activities. The group’s first meeting is set for September 2010 in Wye, Md.

“The Academy offers a rare opportunity for those in workforce development to step outside their day-to-day routine, and learn from innovators about best practices in the field,” said Maureen Conway, director of WSI. “That puts them in an excellent position to become a resource back home when workforce policies and programs are being developed.”

Additional information about the Sector Skills Academy is available at:
www.sectorskillsacademy.org

WSI (www.aspenwsi.org), a program of the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C., identifies and advances strategies that help low-income Americans gain ground in today's labor market. It engages in applied research, facilitates dialogue, and disseminates innovative ideas and research findings.

P/PV (www.ppv.org), based in Philadelphia, Pa., is an action-based public policy and program development organization.

The Aspen Institute (www.aspeninstitute.org) mission is twofold: to foster values-based leadership, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and to provide a neutral and balanced venue for discussing and acting on critical issues. The Aspen Institute does this primarily in four ways: seminars, young-leader fellowships around the globe, policy programs, and public conferences and events. The Institute is based in Washington, D.C.; Aspen, CO; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore; and has an international network of partners.