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New Research Shows “Skills Gap” in Massachusetts ***Skilled Workers in Demand in High Growth Industries such as Healthcare***

BOSTON -- According to a new research brief, *Skills Gap: Where are the Jobs?* released by Commonwealth Corporation, there is a mismatch between the skills of workers looking for employment and the skills needed in growth industries in Massachusetts.

The report points to examples that include the manufacturing sector, which has seen considerable job losses over the past several years, many of which will not be regained. As a result, displaced production workers are finding it necessary to upgrade their skills to secure employment in other sectors. At the same time, there is a shortage of skilled workers in select high-growth industries, the healthcare industry being one notable example.

Among the findings

- Occupational groups continuing to have among the highest vacancy rates are 1) healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, 2) scientists and 3) healthcare support.
- Over the past two decades, structural changes in the state’s economy have seen an increase in the share of higher paying professional/technical and managerial positions and a decline in the number of well-paying blue collar and administrative support positions.
- Technological innovation requires incumbent workers to upgrade their skills and education, even in industries losing employment, such as manufacturing
- At a time when many employers are concerned about replacing retiring baby-boomers, the skill, educational and communication requirements for many jobs are increasing.

Jonathan Raymond, President of Commonwealth Corporation, said of the findings, “Long-term investments in training and education will go a long way toward easing the skills gap. A strong economy requires a competitive business community and well-paying jobs for residents; upgrading worker’s skills in coordination with our employers serves both.”

To see the brief please visit www.commcorp.org/researchandevaluation/briefs.html

Commonwealth Corporation is a quasi-public organization that seeks to increase the prosperity of workers in Massachusetts, while making businesses more competitive through education and workforce development. Commonwealth Corporation receives financial support from the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development.

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