



Date:

Friday, March 26, 2010

Time:

10:50 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Presenter:

“Greener Skills & Greener Standards: How Credentials Create Value in a Low-Carbon Economy”

Sarah L White

Senior Associate, Center on Wisconsin Strategy

Green jobs and the skills necessary to do them continue to attract intense attention in the Midwest and beyond, fueled by global climate change and job market collapse. The attention is important, but uncoordinated investment in greening the American workforce threatens to create more chaos in an already cluttered U.S. training system. This presentation assesses the rapidly evolving state of green training; underscores the importance of building clearly articulated career pathways, particularly in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors; and provides specific policy suggestions on implementing a national credentialing system and ensuring equitable access to it.

Presenter Biography:

Sarah L. White

Sarah L. White is a Senior Associate at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), a national policy center at the University of Wisconsin dedicated to high-road economic development. Her work at COWS focuses on the intersection of labor and energy policy at state and federal levels, and she is a national expert on jobs and training in the emerging green economy. White has written widely on education for sustainability and social change, including, most recently: *Greener Skills and Greener Standards, How Credentials Add Value in a Clean Energy Economy*; *Mapping Green Career Pathways: Job Training Infrastructure and Opportunities in Wisconsin*; *Greening Wisconsin’s Workforce: Training, Jobs and Recovery in the Clean Energy Economy*; *Greener Pathways: Jobs and Workforce Development in the Clean Energy Economy*; and *Green-Collar Jobs in America’s Cities: Building Pathways Out of Poverty and Careers in the Clean Energy Economy*. White came to COWS from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, where she served as the Secretary’s policy advisor for federal employment and training programs. Before that, she ran the Development Education Program of Interfaith Hunger Appeal in New York, working to integrate academic and NGO efforts addressing poverty, food security and sustainable development. A labor historian by training, White holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and a B.A. from Wellesley College.