

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 10, 2011

This week, President Obama welcomed Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany for an official visit. On Wednesday the President went to Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus to deliver remarks and highlight the importance of training workers to enter the manufacturing industry. On Thursday, the President established the White House Rural Council to strengthen rural communities.

Germany Official Visit: On Tuesday, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed Chancellor Angela Merkel to the White House. The two leaders held a joint news conference in the East Room of the White House during which they answered questions on a wide range of issues. During the Germany Official Arrival Ceremony President Obama spoke of the strong alliance between our two countries:



"Today marks the first official visit and State Dinner for a European leader during my presidency. It's only fitting. The transatlantic alliance is the cornerstone -- is the heart -- of our efforts to promote peace and prosperity around the world. And Germany -- at the heart of Europe -- is one of our strongest allies. And Chancellor Merkel is one of my closest global partners.

"Our alliance, at its core, is a partnership between our peoples. The generations of German Americans who helped build a strong America. The Americans who, during a long Cold War,

helped to defend a free Germany. And citizens of both our countries -- entrepreneurs, innovators, students, scientists, and soldiers -- who work together, and forge the future, every day.

"At a time when some have asked whether the rise of new global powers means the decline of others, this visit reaffirms an enduring truth. Our alliances with nations like Germany are more important than ever. Indeed, they're indispensable to global security and prosperity."

You can watch video of the Official Arrival of Chancellor Merkel [HERE](#).

Strengthening the Manufacturing Industry: On Wednesday, President Obama visited Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus to deliver remarks highlighting the importance of training and preparing our workforce to compete for manufacturing jobs across our country. The President emphasized that preparing Americans to enter into the manufacturing sector will not only strengthen the economy and put Americans back to work, it's also critical to our nation's success as we compete in a 21st century global economy. In his remarks today, President Obama stressed the importance of matching the skills manufacturers need with education opportunities at local community colleges. He said:

"So today, we're announcing several new commitments by the private sector, colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers, to help make these partnerships a reality. Through these efforts, we're going to make it possible for 500,000 community college students -- half a million community college students -- to get industry-accepted credentials for manufacturing jobs that companies across America are looking to fill. Because the irony is even though a lot of folks are looking for work, there are a lot of companies that are actually also looking for skilled workers. There's a mismatch that we can close. And this partnership is a great way to do it.

"So if you're a company looking to hire, you'll know exactly what kind of training went into a specific degree. If you're considering attending a community college, you'll be able to know that the diploma you earn will be valuable when you hit the job market. And a lot of that's already happening here at NOVA. If you participate in the GM program here, like David did, you can count on being prepared to work on GM cars."



You can watch a video of the President's remarks [HERE](#).

White House Rural Council: On Thursday, the President announced the formation of the White House Rural Council to help strengthen rural communities. The Council will coordinate programs from across the government to promote public-private partnerships and help spur economic growth in rural communities. In a released statement, the President said:

"Strong rural communities are key to a stronger America. That's why I've established the White House Rural Council to make sure we're working across government to strengthen rural communities and promote economic growth."

[Holding Republicans Accountable](#)

This week, the DNC highlighted Mitt Romney's attempt to take credit for the recovery of the U.S. auto industry even though he argued to "Let Detroit Fail" in the New York Times in 2008. In anticipation of Romney's arrival in Detroit, the DNC released a new web video called "Welcome to Detroit, Mitt Romney" that shows Mitt Romney saying the auto industry should go bankrupt two years ago. After Romney was met with an unhappy public outside of campaign events, the DNC released coverage of Romney's trip called "Mitt Romney: Not The Homecoming He Was Hoping For."

You can watch the DNC's web videos "Welcome to Detroit, Mitt Romney" [HERE](#) and "Mitt Romney: Not The Homecoming He Was Hoping For" [HERE](#).

The DNC also called out Tim Pawlenty for his economic plans discussed during a speech in Chicago on Tuesday that would slash taxes for the wealthiest Americans and corporate America and explode the national debt and deficit.

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said about the plan:

"Tim Pawlenty's plan to extend and expand the Bush tax cuts, deeply slashing taxes paid by the wealthiest Americans and corporate America and sending our deficit soaring even higher, is not an economic plan, it's a prescription for economic disaster that would fall squarely on the backs of seniors and working families. Mr. Pawlenty would take the Republican policies of the last decade, which exploded our deficit and debt and nearly sank our economy into a second Great Depression, and inject them with steroids.

"Of course, perhaps no one should be surprised that Mr. Pawlenty, who left the state of Minnesota with a massive budget deficit, is now proposing to explode the deficit at the federal level. Tim Pawlenty left the people of Minnesota with a budget and economic nightmare. When Tim Pawlenty left the Governor's office middle class families and small business owners were paying higher property tax bills, college students were paying more for tuition, and at the same time funding for special education and services to seniors had been slashed. Even after raising taxes on hardworking Minnesotans and slashing vital services, Mr. Pawlenty left the state saddled with an historic \$6.2 billion projected deficit.

"On budget and fiscal matters Tim Pawlenty failed the people of Minnesota and now he wants to impose such misguided and wrongheaded policies on the rest of us. No thank you."

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: Strengthening the Manufacturing Industry

- On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to Northern Virginia Community College to talk about the importance of providing American workers with the training and preparation necessary to compete for jobs across the country.
- President Obama announced a number of new commitments from the private sector, colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers that will enable half a million community college students across America to obtain the industry-accepted credentials necessary to fill the manufacturing jobs that businesses across America are hoping to fill.
- The manufacturing industry, which currently employs more than 11 million American workers, provides quality jobs to individuals across this country, and it serves as the bedrock of many American communities.
- Preparing American workers for jobs in the manufacturing industry will make our economy stronger and help people get back to work, and it is vital to America's success as we compete in today's global economy.
- The manufacturing sector built our middle class, offering a solid foundation on which communities across America could grow and prosper. The new commitments that have been announced will train and prepare Americans to compete for quality manufacturing jobs, helping to strengthen and rebuild the middle class.
- The President understands what we need to do to build a stronger economy. We have to invest in the research and technology that will help us develop the ideas and industries of the future. We have to construct new roads and bridges and manufacture new things across America.
- Most of all, we have to train and educate Americans to out-compete workers around the world. That will make our economy stronger. It will make our middle class stronger, and it will help us to win the future.
- We all know what happens when we invest in the resolve of the American people. We saw that in Detroit, where the auto industry is making a comeback, taking on new workers, adding second shifts, and strengthening communities.
- There is still a long way to go to achieve full recovery and we are aware there are going to be bumps in the road ahead – but America is headed in the right direction.

Talking Points: Strengthening the Economy and Creating Jobs

- The President will travel to North Carolina Monday for a meeting of the Jobs and Competitiveness Council at the U.S. manufacturing and corporate headquarters of a leading manufacturer of energy efficient LED lighting, Cree.
- The President will hear from various business leaders and continue the conversation focused on pinpointing practical ways the public and private sectors can work together to foster job growth and creation.
- We are committed to the continuation and acceleration of hiring and the promotion of economic growth. Furthermore, we are committed to training and preparing the American workforce to compete for good jobs and good wages.
- There is still much work to be done to continue to grow our economy and there are going to be bumps in the road along the way, but our country and the economy are headed in the right direction.
- We've seen fifteen consecutive months of private sector job creation, with over 2.1 million new jobs created. In the past six months alone, we've added over a million private sector jobs.
- But we all know that the only economic news that resonates to a person looking for a job is "you're hired."
- We won't stop until every American who wants a job can find one.