

Mark Kessenich is President & CEO of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership / Building Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program (WRTP/BIG STEP) - a non-profit workforce development intermediary serving Wisconsin's Manufacturing and Construction industries.

Mr. Kessenich joined the staff of WRTP/BIG STEP in November of 2011 and in July 2014 was named President / CEO. Prior to WRTP/BIG STEP, Mr. Kessenich served for 12 years as Director of Development & Planning for the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Kessenich is well regarded as a national expert on workforce development. He has served as a speaker, consultant, and technical advisor to a number of public and private workforce development organizations across the Midwest and nation, including the International Foundation, the Sector Skills Academy, AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, NABTU and Jobs For the Future. Mr. Kessenich currently serves as an advisor to the Construction Labor Management Council of SE Wisconsin, and the Construction and Manufacturing Industry Advisory Boards of Employ Milwaukee.

Mr. Kessenich serves on the National Skills Coalition – National Advisory Panel, the Council of State Governments -Wisconsin Re-entry Task Force, the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Advisory Council, and is a past Board Member of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

### About WRTP/BIG STEP

WRTP/BIG STEP is based in Milwaukee, WI with offices in Madison, WI and a partnership office in the Twin Cities, MN. In 2016 WRTP/BIG STEP served 3,771 individuals with 2,180 enrolled in industry designed skills trainings/apprenticeship readiness, and 726 placed in career pathways. Of these, 69% are people of color and average wage at entry was \$16.31. WRTP/BIG STEP has gained national recognition as one of the most effective workforce organizations in the country, and recently was awarded the prestigious Construction User's Roundtable (CURT) National Workforce Development Award as well Excellence in Apprenticeship Award from Jobs For the Future.