



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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October 25, 2012

The Honorable Gary Alexander
House of Representatives
426B Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Alexander:

After reviewing workforce budget requests from partner agencies, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board recommends that the list of currently funded workforce programs referred to in the attached resolution be given funding priority in the 2013-2015 operating budget.

State law directs the Workforce Board to review and recommend to the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature budget requests for training system programs by our partner agencies. Part of the Workforce Board's review includes ensuring that these requests are consistent with the state's workforce development strategic plan. (See RCW 28C.18.060(5)).

This year, the Workforce Board updated the state's workforce development strategic plan after undertaking an extensive interactive comment process of public forums, targeted stakeholder meetings, virtual online sessions and written feedback. The new strategic plan, titled *High Skills, High Wages 2012 - 2022*, calls for an education and training system that can address the different learning styles and workforce training needs of the state's diverse working population. In addition, the plan calls for accountability and cost effectiveness in workforce education and training delivery.

The Workforce Board's resolution identifies 13 activities and programs that are consistent with the state's strategic plan and should be considered a priority in funding through the 2013-2015 biennium.

These recommendations are founded on the Workforce Board's careful data driven assessment of the unique challenges and opportunities for workforce development in Washington. If the Governor or Legislature determines that further prioritization of workforce programs is necessary, the Workforce Board will support those efforts by suggesting additional criteria for prioritization. Please contact us directly if you would like further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Cindy Zehnder
Chair



2013-2015 BUDGET RECOMMENDED MOTION

WHEREAS, The state is facing significant challenges in balancing the 2013-2015 biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's strategic plan for workforce development, *High Skills, High Wages, 2008-2018*, identifies strategic opportunities, and over the years the Board has championed budget requests consistent with *High Skills, High Wages* strategic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's Retooling Washington Workforce Initiative has focused on 1) helping the unemployed who need to have their skills retooled for jobs now and in the future and 2) responding to the current and future needs of employers for a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, Given the severity of the state's budget situation we must focus the state's limited resources on strategic opportunities that help workers and employers retool for the recovery and strategic opportunities that help grow the future workforce;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board requests that the Governor and Legislature prioritize the following currently funded programs and activities for funding for the 2013-2015 biennial budget (listed in no particular order):

- Secondary Career and Technical Education grants in high demand fields.
- Dropout prevention and intervention.
- Navigation 101 comprehensive school guidance and counseling program.
- Jobs for Washington's Graduates.
- Worker Retraining Program.
- Job Skills Program.
- Customized Training Program.
- Postsecondary High Employer Demand Programs of Study.
- Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST).
- Opportunity Grant Program.
- Funding for part-time students to receive the State Need Grant.
- WorkFirst Education and Training Services.
- Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarship