

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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WASHINGTON BOARD FOR
EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

February 1, 2010

Karen Lee, Commissioner
Department of Employment Security
PO Box 9046
Olympia, WA 98507-9046

Charlie Earl, Executive Director
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
PO Box 42495
Olympia, WA 98504-2495

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
PO Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504-3105

Dear Karen, Charlie and Eleni

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleni".

Thank you for all your hard work and that of your staff on the Workforce System Study I requested last spring.

As I learn more about the complexities of this system and the interconnections between business, labor, local governments, local boards, the community and technical college system, our state board and the federal government, I am becoming more convinced that a more extended time frame is in order.

Last week I met with statewide representatives of business and labor who urged me to extend the timeline for completion of the report from March 31st until after Congress reauthorizes the federal Workforce Investment Act. They suggested that this would insure that we only have to make one set of changes to our processes and procedures in case the federal government makes significant changes to the Act. They also argued that this would allow for a much broader dialogue among the various partners in our state.

I am very proud of the work our state does in workforce development. I believe we have a system that needs to keep improving but that is a nationally recognized leader that must be maintained. I want us all to continue to emphasize access and accountability while keeping the



local flexibility that has been essential to our success. I do want you to continue to follow the steps I outlined in my December letter to you as we move toward a final report following WIA reauthorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: Rick Bender, President, Washington State Labor Council
Don Brunell, President, Association of Washington Business