

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 143
NOVEMBER 19, 2009**

MEETING WITH THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

On November 19 the Workforce Board and the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) will meet jointly to discuss issues of mutual concern. Included in this tab are materials from both the Workforce Board and the HECB:

- The goals, objectives and strategies that pertain to postsecondary education and training from *High Skills, High Wages: 2008-2018: Washington's Strategic Plan for Workforce Development*.
- A Summary of the Workforce Board's Adult Worker Strategies.
- The Workforce Board's proposal to Senator Patty Murray regarding Workplace-Based Distance Learning for Low-Wage, Low-Skilled Adults.
- The HECB System Design Plan.

At the meeting, the Boards may wish to consider and discuss the following questions:

- What are the dimensions of our common interest in raising educational attainment for Washington's citizens? Points of departure/distinction?
- What are the current and long-term economic impacts to Washington state of reductions in funding for postsecondary education and training?
- What initiatives should the Workforce Board and the HECB cooperatively engage in the near term? Longer term?

HIGH SKILLS, HIGH WAGES 2008-2018: WASHINGTON'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

POSTSECONDARY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

Adult Goal: Provide Washington adults (including those with barriers to education and employment) with access to lifelong education, training, and employment services.

Objective 1: Increase the number of adults who have at least one year of postsecondary training.

- Provide more financial aid and support services to enable students to enroll in and complete at least one year of postsecondary training and receive a credential.
- Establish more industry-based credentials in occupational and general workplace skills demanded by employers for students that complete one year of training and develop more one-year certificated programs.
- Provide more workforce education students with access to work-based learning and career and labor market information.
- Create easy to navigate postsecondary education and training and career websites, including financial aid and support services.
- Conduct an ongoing marketing campaign to inform the general public about the employment and earnings benefits of postsecondary training, especially in high employer demand programs of study.

Objective 2: Postsecondary education and training provide effective opportunities for going in and out of training over the course of life-long learning.

- Develop public/private financial aid support to assist working adults to gain further education and training credentials including:
 - Increase the number of part-time, working students who can receive the State-Need Grant.
- Develop better links between Adult Basic Education, English-as-a-Second Language, job preparation and college-level courses.
- Develop more four-year degree options for students who complete technical associate degrees.
- Develop more statewide direct transfer agreements and articulation agreements between two-year and four-year schools, and between private schools and public schools.

- Grant more credits at postsecondary institutions for prior learning, including credits for major programs of study.

Objective 3: Adults with barriers to employment and training enter education and career pathways that lead to self-sufficiency.

- Expand the number of Adult Basic Education programs that integrate occupational skills training through the I-BEST model.

Industry Goal: Meet the workforce needs of industry by preparing students, current workers, and dislocated workers with the skills employers need.

Objective 1: The workforce development system supplies the number of newly prepared workers needed to meet current and emerging employer needs.

- Increase annual capacity in middle-skill education and training programs (greater than one year but less than four years).
- Expand apprenticeship training opportunities and recruitment of employers who hire apprentices for traditional and non-traditional programs.

Objective 2: The workforce development system strengthens Washington’s economy, focusing on strategic industry clusters as a central organizing principle.

- Establish Industry Skill Panels that provide information on skill needs in strategic industry clusters in all workforce development areas.
- Establish Centers of Excellence that provide best practice support to education providers for all strategic industry clusters in the state.
- Expand High Employer Demand programs of study at all levels of postsecondary education and target under-represented labor pools to facilitate their entry to high demand occupations.
- Coordinate workforce development and economic development planning efforts at the state and local levels including an emphasis on industry clusters.

Objective 3: Current and dislocated workers, and job seekers receive education and training that builds competitive skills and businesses.

- Increase the level of public and private support to customized training for current workers.
- Increase the number of working adults gaining further education and training at the workplace through distance learning and other methods.
- Expand the availability of Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs) to fund worker training.