

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO. 161  
MARCH 21, 2012**

**HIGH SKILLS, HIGH WAGES 2012  
PLANNING PROCESS**

At the March meeting the Board will have the opportunity to discuss the next steps for developing *High Skills, High Wages 2012*.

In order to develop the goals, objectives, and strategies for the current and recent editions of *High Skills, High Wages*, the Board formed workgroups, one for each goal area expected to be in the plan; e.g., youth, adults, and industry. Each workgroup was chaired by Board members and a wide variety of stakeholders were invited to participate, including legislators. In order to partner with the Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), the WDCs were recruited to participate in each workgroup, and a first step for each group was to comb through all the local plans of the WDCs for ideas for objectives and strategies.

Through a series of meetings, the work groups developed draft proposals to the Board for objectives and strategies for the Plan. These drafts were then reviewed by the Board's Inter-agency Committee prior to being sent to the Board for the members to review. After the Board has reviewed and modified the drafts, the Board widely distributed the drafts electronically to thousands of individuals for their review and comment. The Board also conducted public forums around the state in order to obtain input in person. Extensive efforts were made to ensure good turnouts of interested and diverse stakeholders. Based on this combination of face-to-face and electronic input over the course of typically about six months, and deliberations at several Board meetings, the Board then adopted the final Plan for publication and distribution.

To direct staff on the next steps, there are a number of questions for the Board to consider:

- Does the Board want staff to organize workgroups of stakeholders?
- What should be the general topic for each workgroup?
- Do Board members want to co-chair the workgroups? Who wants to co-chair which group?
- Should legislators be invited to participate on the workgroups?

Assuming that the Board wants to form workgroups and follow the same general process that was used in 2008, the general schedule for the planning process might be as follows:

<b>Step</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Environmental Scans	February - March
Workgroups	April - June
Board review of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft	June 28
Public forums and electronic input	July – August

Board adoption of near final	September 28
Writing of background chapters on the economy, the workforce, and the workforce system	September – October
Board adoption of final	November 15
Due	December 1

At the meeting, the Board will have the opportunity to discuss the above questions and tentative schedule.

**No Formal Board Action Requested:** For Board discussion and guidance