



Workforce Training and  
Education Coordinating Board

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Legislative committee endorses job training and education strategy** *Plan would help more Washington workers retool for family-wage jobs*

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – A state senate committee today unanimously approved the state’s plan that prepares youth for the workplace, helps working adults acquire and retain family-wage jobs and ensures Washington’s businesses have the skilled workers they need to prosper.

The Senate Higher Education and Workforce Committee adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 8404 that formally endorses the state’s comprehensive plan for workforce development, *High Skills, High Wages 2008 – 2018*. The plan coordinates the efforts of seven state agencies that administer 18 education and training programs, serving everyone from youth and adults who need more education to earn a living wage to the recently laid off retooling for new careers.

“The Governor and the Legislature are already moving forward with elements of the plan through budget and legislation,” said Eleni Papadakis, executive director of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board). “It’s encouraging to see this support at a time when our workers and businesses need it most. While we’ve always been a leader in workforce development, this commitment will help position our state to come out of this downturn more fully prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead.”

The Workforce Board approved the 10-year strategic plan late last year. The plan lays out strategies for youth, adults and industry and includes action steps aimed at improving Washington’s high school graduation rate, increasing opportunities for training beyond high school, expanding workplace-based and online learning options and strengthening our regional economies by focusing on industry clusters.

For a copy of the plan, go to: [http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Activities\\_HighSkills.asp](http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Activities_HighSkills.asp)

*The Legislature established the Workforce Board to create a coordinated and accountable workforce training system. The 12-member board appointed by the Governor has a strong customer focus with two-thirds of the voting seats held by business and labor representatives.*

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