

COLORADO JOBS CABINET MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Jobs Cabinet was a centerpiece of Governor Ritter's campaign. The vision for a Jobs Cabinet was set forth in the "Colorado Promise," as follows:

"Our ability to grow the economy, support businesses and create quality jobs hinges on the knowledge and productivity of our people. . . . As Governor, I will create a Colorado Jobs Cabinet as part of the Executive Branch. The Colorado Jobs Cabinet will be composed of senior business leaders and representatives from public and higher education, economic development and workforce development officials. The Jobs Cabinet will align the state's economic development and education goals with funding and strategies for preparing a modern labor force."

Implementing the vision for the Jobs Cabinet will be the responsibility of a group of senior business and education leaders from around the state (list attached). They will work with senior members of Governor Ritter's administration including the Executive Directors of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Department of Labor and Employment and Office of Economic Development and International Trade, as well as members of the Governor's P-20 Council.

The Jobs Cabinet will work to align the state's economic development, workforce development, and education programs to develop a 21st century workforce that meets the evolving needs of industry in a competitive global economy. Special emphasis will be placed on key economic sectors that are projected to experience significant growth in the next decade, including bioscience, energy, tourism, aerospace, and technology and knowledge-based industries. Notwithstanding this emphasis, the Jobs Cabinet will consider the full range of training needs from jobs requiring little technical expertise to jobs requiring advanced degrees or highly specialized skills.

Specifically, the Jobs Cabinet will:

1. Identify opportunities for more effective alignment of current programs in education, workforce training, and economic development to ensure a well-educated and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of a growing and changing economy during the next ten years;
2. Recommend priorities and improvements to utilize existing resources and economic development strategies and launch new programs to identify, educate, and train our workforce to meet new opportunities to support a vibrant economy in each region of the state; and

3. Propose structural changes and improvements where appropriate to assist in the implementation of these strategies and programs.

The Jobs Cabinet will hold meetings throughout the state to gather local input and develop strategies targeted to the needs of each major economic region.

The Jobs Cabinet will be staffed out of the Governor's office and provide regular reports directly to the Governor that document its regional recommendations to improve alignment between training programs and industry needs, and progress in implementing its recommendations. At the end of two years, the Jobs Cabinet will conduct a self-assessment and make recommendations on the best method to advance its mission in the future.