

# STATE OF COLORADO

## GOVERNOR'S JOBS CABINET

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
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Jim Lyons  
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Teresa Taylor  
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August 13, 2008

The rise of globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has created an entirely new marketplace for talented individuals – one where Colorado not only competes with Massachusetts and California, but with India and Japan as well. In order for Colorado to compete nationally and internationally, we need to create a sustainable workforce for this state – and to do that, we must align the goals of our business community with the goals of our education and workforce communities.

One of the strengths of this state is our diversity – we cannot find a one-sized fits all solution that will benefit the people of this state. Each region in this state has its own needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. To address this issue, the Jobs Cabinet has been split into five subcommittees by economic region: the Eastern Plains, Western Slope, Mountain Resorts, San Luis Valley and the Front Range. As part of the first phase of its work, the Jobs Cabinet has been holding community outreach meetings in these regions over the past two months.

Each community outreach meeting includes representatives from higher education, K-12, workforce, local business and economic development. During these meeting, the group is asked to identify their long-term goals for the Jobs Cabinet, as well as potential issues, demographics and industries in their regions. The matrix below summarizes the group's discussion and goals for this particular session.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website.

Sincerely,

The Jobs Cabinet Co-Chairs

Jim Lyons

Teresa Taylor

Ruth Ann Woo

**WESTERN SLOPE REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING GOALS**

**Durango, Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Alignment</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Five Year Indicators of Success</b>	<b>Five Year Indicators of Success</b>	<b>Five Year Indicators of Success</b>	<b>Five Year Indicators of Success</b>
Increased Funding with minimal red tap	Alignment with existing efforts regarding workforce development that provide tangible, meaningful action items unique to needs of different regions	Needs of Colorado companies need to be aligned with what schools are teaching and training	Early intervention that creates high expectations
Funding of existing programs that do not reinvent the wheel	Look at limitations to business' locating in Colorado	Middle/high school integration of opportunities; State mandates to change H.S. curriculum to meet needs of workforce	Increased college access to underserved students
Defined measurement/metric of success	Stronger connection between compensation and cost of living	Increase focus on entrepreneurial and vocational education, training and opportunities	Improved high school graduation rates
Increased state funding for education and training across the board with performance-based outcomes	Bottom up approach (not top down) workforce decisions	Clear pathways for non-traditional students to move into livable wage careers	More support (\$ or otherwise) to deal with educational challenges related to rural communities
		Focus on employability skills and work ethic in K-12	

**ISSUES, DEMOGRAPHICS, INDUSTRIES, AND STRENGTHS**  
**Sterling, Thursday, June 26, 2008**

<b>Targeted Demographics or Populations</b>	<b>Regional Strengths</b>	<b>Regional Economic Drivers over the next 10 years</b>	<b>Issues</b>
Students (Jr. High, High school)	Economic development and small business support is strong	Oil and Gas	The Jobs Cabinet is perceived as a political answer
Mentally, developmentally and physically disabled	Available education and a trend towards collaboration	Construction	Too many priorities & the ability to agree across regions
Single parent families	Quality of life (climate, community, generosity)	Tourism	School testing not aligned with workforce requirements (CSAP, for example)
Dropouts	Good utility and communication infrastructure	Finance	Funding constraints
Native Americans (housing, education, transportation)		Healthcare	