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## ● **TSJC president named to governor's job panel**



**CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/TAMMY ALHADEF**

**Gov. Bill Ritter shared the stage with Trinidad State Junior College President Ruth Ann Woods during a visit to Trinidad last year.**

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**TRINIDAD** - Trinidad State Junior College President Ruth Ann Woods will serve on the governor's new Colorado Jobs Cabinet.

Gov. Bill Ritter announced the appointment in his annual State of the State address last week.

The panel was created to help align economic-development strategies, education programs and regional workforce needs to produce a better labor force for Colorado businesses.

"We need to make sure that all of our economic-development strategies are aligned with our educational programs. That will be one of the main goals of my new Colorado Jobs Cabinet," Ritter said.

With Woods' help, TSJC has partnered with local businesses to set up numerous education programs to serve the workforce needs of the community. The energy production and industrial construction program, developed in 2006, produces ready-trained local employees for companies like Pioneer Natural Resources, one of the largest employers in Las Animas County.

● The cabinet will be composed of business leaders and representatives of

educational, economic development and workforce development agencies from throughout the state.

Ritter said the Department of Higher Education is working closely with college presidents on a long-term strategy for education funding, calling the move a priority.

"But this is not just about funding. It's also about quality workforce development," Ritter said.

Qwest Vice President Teresa Taylor and attorney Jim Lyons will co-chair the cabinet with Woods.

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