



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 2011

Summer 2011 Update

In-Person Meeting

The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) held in-person meetings in Broomfield on June 16-17. The meetings included work sessions on collaboration between state agencies, media and outreach, the potential of partnering on the Skills2Compete campaign; business services standardization, as well as the Council's board meeting. The Council approved its Strategic Plan and the Continuous Improvement Management System (CIMS) Plan.

Colorado Blueprint

The Governor's Office released the "Colorado Blueprint: A bottom-up approach to economic development." The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) staff helped create the final document and is instrumental in implementing its initiatives, especially the alignment of state services, programs, and metrics. Specifically, CWDC plays an important partnership role in "Initiative II. Recruit, Grow and Retain Businesses" and "Initiative V. Educate and Train the Workforce of the Future." See www.colorado.gov/coloradoblueprint

Outreach to the Heads of State Agencies

The Director of CWDC, Stephanie Steffens, has begun outreach to the executive directors of state agencies that are involved with the Council. Their participation, engagement and support are critical in moving forward the goals in the CWDC Strategic Plan and the duties outlined in the "Colorado Blueprint." In addition, the Director is discussing the importance of utilizing CWDC's business representatives as partners to work with the state agency leadership in achieving economic vitality for Colorado. On August 15th, the CWDC Executive Committee met with Lt. Governor Joe Garcia from the Department of Higher Education, Ken Lund from the Office of Economic Development & International Trade, Reggie Bicha from the Department of Human Services, and Ellen Golombek from the Department of Labor & Employment to discuss opportunities for collaboration and the role of the CWDC in supporting the administration's goals.

National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs Annual Meeting

Stephanie Steffens attended this conference held in Kansas City July 31-August 3 to learn about national workforce topics and collaborate with peers from other states.

Meetings

- **State Youth Council**
Thurs. 9/8/11 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Dept. of Higher Education
- **Sectors Steering Committee**
Wed. 9/14/11 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting
- **CWDC Board Meeting**
Wed. 9/21/11 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
- **CWDC In-Person Meeting**
Mon./Tue. 10/24-25/11
Pueblo (exact location TBD)

State Youth Council

The State Youth Council finalized its strategic plan in alignment with the Council's and formed task groups to start implementing their goals. Task groups will report on progress at their September meeting.

Sectors Steering Committee

The Sectors Steering Committee met to finalize and approve its vision, mission and priorities. The full Council will receive a Sectors 101 training at its October meeting. August 18th was an exciting day, as U.S. Senator Mark Udall toured the Manufacturing Center of Excellence in Pueblo, an example of a very successful sector partnership.

Policy & Legislative Committee

The committee is building relationships with the CDLE Office of Government, Policy and Public Relations, as well as the Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives. A capstone student from the CU-Denver School of Public Affairs will be completing a statewide policy scan for the CWDC to document what policies enhance or hinder collaboration between economic development, education and workforce.