

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

In order to compete in the global economy, the United States needs the most educated workforce in the world. The high-wage jobs of the 21st century will require more knowledge and skills than the jobs of the past. We therefore must develop innovative strategies to train more Americans with the skills that businesses and the economy will need to ensure American competitiveness.

Community colleges are a key part of our education system, providing a flexible and affordable place to sharpen relevant workforce skills and align them with the needs of employers in their communities. Traditional four-year colleges, on-line institutions, and non-traditional educational outlets also can play an essential role in providing training opportunities. To prepare students for 21st-century jobs, these institutions need to develop flexible, affordable, and responsive training programs that meet regional and national economic needs. An important way to ensure that training programs meet such needs is through partnerships between these institutions and labor unions, small businesses, and other regional employers. As educational institutions develop these innovative programs, we should assess what works and what does not, so that we reward excellent outcomes and true innovation that meets the needs of entrepreneurs and other employers in every part of the country, from rural communities to urban centers.

Therefore, I am establishing a task force to develop skills for America's future by identifying, developing, and increasing the scale of promising approaches to improving the skills of our Nation's workers. By coordinating the work of relevant agencies with that of non-profits, labor unions, and private sector organizations, and by leveraging the assets of these entities, this effort will build better partnerships between businesses, community colleges, and other training providers to get Americans trained for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

SECTION 1. Establishment. There is established an interagency Task Force on Skills for America's Future (Task Force) to ensure that Federal policies promote innovative training programs and curricula, including successful public-private partnerships, at community colleges as well as in other settings, that will prepare the American workforce for 21st-century jobs. The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

SEC. 2. Membership. In addition to the Co-Chairs, the Task Force shall consist of the following members, or any senior official designated by one of the following members who is a part of the member's department, agency, or office, and who is a full time employee of the Federal Government:

- (a) the Secretary of Defense;
- (b) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (c) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (d) the Secretary of Labor;
- (e) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (f) the Secretary of Transportation;
- (g) the Secretary of Energy;
- (h) the Secretary of Education;
- (i) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (j) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (k) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- (l) the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and
- (m) the heads of other executive departments, agencies, or offices as the Co-Chairs may designate.

SEC. 3. Administration. The Council of Economic Advisers shall provide administrative support for the Task Force to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

SEC. 4. Mission and Functions. The Task Force shall work across executive departments and agencies to en-

sure that Federal policies facilitate, and offer incentives for, innovative career-training and education opportunities at community colleges as well as in other settings, and that these opportunities are directly related to skills and job requirements across a range of industries. Using the best evidence available regarding effective practice, the Task Force shall develop recommendations and options for meeting the following objectives:

- (a) improved public-private collaboration to develop career pathway and training programs with effective curricula, certifiable skills, and industry-recognized credentials and degrees;
- (b) identification of opportunities to amplify, accelerate, or increase the scale of, successful public-private partnerships that match trained workers with prospective employers;
- (c) identification and development of stackable credentials that provide entry to and advancement along a career pathway in an in-demand occupation;
- (d) outreach to relevant stakeholders—including industry, the adult workforce, younger students, educational institutions, labor unions, policymakers, and community leaders—with expertise in skill development;
- (e) alignment of workforce training programs funded by the Departments of Education and Labor, as well as other Federal agencies, with innovative practices and regional market demands, to build on effective skills-based training for adult workers and younger students, including individuals with disabilities;
- (f) partnership with appropriate non-profit entities to engage the private sector in developing effective training programs that provide students with recognizable and portable skills that are needed in the marketplace; and
- (g) greater use of technology to improve training, skills assessment, and labor market information.

SEC. 5. General Provisions.

- (a) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of any necessary appropriations.
- (b) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
- (c) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Task Force, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Task Force. Each executive department, agency, and office shall bear its own expenses of participating in the Task Force.
- (d) The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA.

SUBCHAPTER II—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

§ 2811. Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

(Pub. L. 105-220, title I, § 106, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 945.)

PART A—STATE PROVISIONS

§ 2821. State workforce investment boards

(a) In general

The Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce investment board to assist in the development of the State plan described in section 2822 of this title and to carry out the other functions described in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) Membership

(1) In general

The State Board shall include—

(A) the Governor;

(B) 2 members of each chamber of the State legislature, appointed by the appropriate presiding officers of each such chamber; and

(C) representatives appointed by the Governor, who are—

(i) representatives of business in the State, who—

(I) are owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, and other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, including members of local boards described in section 2832(b)(2)(A)(i) of this title;

(II) represent businesses with employment opportunities that reflect the employment opportunities of the State; and

(III) are appointed from among individuals nominated by State business organizations and business trade associations;

(ii) chief elected officials (representing both cities and counties, where appropriate);

(iii) representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by State labor federations;

(iv) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

(v) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

(vi)(I) the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 2841(b) of this title and carried out by one-stop partners; and

(II) in any case in which no lead State agency official has responsibility for such a program, service, or activity, a representative in the State with expertise relating to such program, service, or activity; and

(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, such as the State agency officials responsible for economic development and juvenile justice programs in the State.

(2) Authority and regional representation of board members

Members of the board that represent organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with optimum policymaking authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities. The members of the board shall represent diverse regions of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.

(3) Majority

A majority of the members of the State Board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(C)(i).

(c) Chairperson

The Governor shall select a chairperson for the State Board from among the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) of this section.

(d) Functions

The State Board shall assist the Governor in—

(1) development of the State plan;

(2) development and continuous improvement of a statewide system of activities that are funded under this subchapter or carried out through a one-stop delivery system described in section 2864(c) of this title that receives funds under this subchapter (referred to in this chapter as a “statewide workforce investment system”), including—

(A) development of linkages in order to assure coordination and nonduplication among the programs and activities described in section 2841(b) of this title; and

(B) review of local plans;

(3) commenting at least once annually on the measures taken pursuant to section 2323(b)(3) of title 20;

(4) designation of local areas as required in section 2831 of this title;

(5) development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for adult employment and training activities and youth activities to local areas as permitted under sections 2853(b)(3)(B) and 2863(b)(3)(B) of this title;

(6) development and continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the workforce investment activities in the State as required under section 2871(b) of this title;

(7) preparation of the annual report to the Secretary described in section 2871(d) of this title;

(8) development of the statewide employment statistics system described in section 497-2(e) of this title; and

(9) development of an application for an incentive grant under section 9273 of title 20.

(e) Alternative entity

(1) In general

For purposes of complying with subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, a State may use any State entity (including a State council, State workforce development board, combination of regional workforce development boards, or similar entity) that—

(A) was in existence on December 31, 1997;