

Award Date Announced

Council Unveils Ambitious Incentive Program

Mark your calendar now! The first annual Performance Awards Event will be held Thursday evening, October 10, 2002, at the Marriott Tech Center. Invitations will follow. Workforce Council Executive Director Booker T. Graves has announced what promises to be the first of many Annual Performance Award Event Galas organized to reward the system's best workforce boards and center operators with performance incentive awards. The inaugural event will be held at the Marriott Hotel, located in the heart of the Denver Tech Center. This year, all nine of Colorado's federally recognized local workforce investment areas will receive \$42,200, an equitable share of \$380,000 planned for distribution. Next year, when the total amount available increases to approximately \$500,000, individual Workforce Boards and Workforce Centers will be required to satisfy predetermined criteria established relative to three distinct award categories: Partnership, Performance Incentive Awards, and Innovation in Leadership and Service Delivery. Tagged the "Continuous Improvement Management System (CIMS)," the performance award process has been introduced by the Colorado Workforce Council to encourage local Workforce Boards to continually improve customer service standards and raise the profile of Colorado's One Stop Centers. Beginning in Year Two, Local Boards will compete for awards to be made in the fall of 2003 by submitting a letter to the state council by June 30, 2003, outlining activities accomplished as a result of being conducted between October 2001 and September 30, 2002. Official announcements, with specific instructions for participation are en route to local boards. Funding for the new CIMS award program is provided by the federal Workforce Investment Act with specific amounts for each award category determined by the Colorado Workforce Council. Technical assistance will be provided to those regions experiencing difficulty with achieving performance standards. Sanctions will be imposed upon local areas that fail to meet such standards over two consecutive years. Program Year One ended 6/30/01 and first-time awards will be made at the October 10 Award Event. Program Year Two ended June 30, 2002 but due to reporting processes, outcome data cannot be confirmed until December 2002. Awards for Year Two will be made next year.

A Message from...

*Booker T. Graves, Executive Director
Colorado Workforce Council*



**Dear Workforce Board Members
from Colorado & Beyond---**

**Please be our guest at a
reception planned for Thursday evening, on
August 22, at the Adam's Mark Hotel, in Denver.**

**We invite you to join us in celebration of a
successful first-time USDOL Region IV Workforce
Development Conference. We would be delighted--
and honored--to have an opportunity to spend
an evening with folks like yourselves who share
our commitment to the continued improvement of
the workforce development system.**

Year Three began on July 1, 2002 and will end 9/30/03. Performance outcomes will be recognized in the fall of 2004. Fundamentally, it is the intention of the Workforce Council to provide financial awards and recognition to those Boards and operators that are able to demonstrate an answer to a very simple question: "What has been done to improve Colorado's system for Workforce Development?"

Marketing Boot Camp 101 Council Brings San Diego Experts to Denver

If you're headed for the Region IV Workforce Conference this week, be sure to bring your work boots and prepare to traverse some very difficult terrain: Marketing the public workforce system. In response to a request from the Colorado Workforce Council, representatives from the San Diego Workforce Partnership will offer a

Marketing Boot Camp, on Thursday, August 22, from 9:00-11:45 a.m., in the Terrace Room, at the Adam's Mark Hotel, in Denver. Having crafted strategic alliances with private and public entities within their area, the San Diego Partnership has raised \$1.4M exclusively for marketing and outreach on behalf of San Diego's seven career centers.



The Colorado Workforce Council is a business-led board appointed by the Governor of Colorado to maintain a network of Workforce Centers designed to respond to employers in demand of a competitive workforce. Colorado is home to nineteen local workforce investment regions.

Project TRAIN on Track in Colorado

Council Wins \$1M Grant to Improve Services for PWD

The Colorado Workforce Council has secured a \$1M grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to improve customer service for People With Disabilities (PWD) who access One Stop Career Centers. "Project TRAIN" will fund staff, secure equipment and provide fully accessible workstations specifically designed to accommodate the special needs of PWD. The Social Security Administration (SSA) counts 107,500 Coloradans receiving benefits as a result of a documented disability. Disabilities include Psychiatric, Mental Retardation/Cognition, Orthopedic/Amputation, Brain Injury, Visual, Hearing and/or Drug and Alcohol related conditions. Over 46,000 individuals are enrolled in the SSI program and 61,500 receive benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance program. Fifty-five percent (55%) of those receiving benefits reside within the Denver Metro area. A major component of Project TRAIN is to staff Colorado's Workforce Centers with Benefit Planners certified to navigate

the labyrinth of government programs available to provide the services and support necessary for PWD to get and keep a job. Located within Workforce Centers, Benefit Planners will work in tandem with Workforce Specialists to prepare SSA benefit recipients for employment in occupations commanding wage levels sufficient to support existing lifestyles. Initially, Project TRAIN will establish "Consumer Navigator Pilot" programs in Colorado Springs and Grand Junction, with the intention of replicating such services system wide over the long run. With customer service being one of the basic tenets of One Stop Center design, Project TRAIN offers new resources for Colorado's Workforce Centers to improve customer service for PWD. Leadership for Project TRAIN is provided by Council Executive Director Booker T. Graves, Judy Ham, Executive Director of CP of Colorado, and Judy Emery, representing the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Currently, they are in search of a Program Coordinator.

Money Available for Special Projects

State Council Invites Local Boards to Apply for Funds

The Colorado Workforce Council invites Local Workforce Boards and Center Operators to apply for funds to support projects designed to serve the best interests of unemployed and employed adults, dislocated workers and the youth population. Funds are made available by way of the federal Workforce Investment Act that makes discretionary monies available for special projects relevant to workforce and labor market conditions unique to each state. In Colorado, the State Council has deferred judgment to local regions to determine what kind of projects make best sense. Approximately \$500,000 will be distributed. Applicants are invited to develop projects consistent with the State Council's goals, yet responsive to local

needs. Youth Discretionary Funds will be awarded by the State Youth Council to support projects that promote the participation of local business and foster the development of community partnerships. All grant applications will be reviewed by the Council to determine in general, how projects compliment state goals, the extent of private sector involvement, and reasonableness of the proposed budget. Requests are limited to three typewritten pages or less. Projects must be completed within an 18-month period. Funds will be distributed to award winners through an Expenditure Authorization process established between the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and local workforce regions. For more information, contact Booker Graves or Joe Eitel.

Council Calendar

Fall 2002

Meetings

Colorado Workforce Development Council

- November 21, 2002

Skills Development

Partnership Committee

- September 5, 2002
- December 5, 2002

State Workforce Investment System Committee

- November 14, 2002

Business Outreach & Marketing Committee

- TBA

Youth Council

- October 24, 2002

Events

Taste of Colorado Booth

- Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2002

Awards Dinner

- October 10, 2002

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