

STATE OF COLORADO



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

October 27, 2008

Dear Community Leader:

Colorado faces a great challenge and opportunity to make its system of public education – from pre-school through college – more successful and productive. We hope you will be able to participate in an important meeting in Gunnison on November 10, 2008, to help us meet the challenge and seize the opportunity.

The “Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act” (sometimes called the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, or CAP4K) was enacted this year with ambitious goals. It requires the leadership of Colorado’s P-12 schools and its post-secondary institutions to establish a workable pathway from preschool into college or the workplace. Essential to that pathway is an understanding of what it means to be post-secondary and workforce ready and, with that in mind, to ensure that students not only take certain courses but actually master the content. If Colorado successfully implements this legislation, we will lead the nation in preparing our children to be successful and competitive in the global economy.

Because the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) must work together for CAP4K to succeed, we are jointly holding the meeting on November 10 to get input and advice from community leaders such as you. Under CAP4K, CDE and DHE are required to jointly develop an agreed-upon description of “postsecondary and workforce readiness” by December 2009. The description in turn will be the basis for the standards for school districts to meet and for the tools to assess whether the standards have been met. In short, the description we come up with over the next 12 months will guide education in this state for the foreseeable future.

The meeting November 10 is one of a series of town hall style meetings we are convening around the state to hear the views of educators, students, parents, business people, community leaders and interested citizens on what goes into being postsecondary and workforce ready. What do students need to be successful once they leave high school? What are the 21st century skills that an employer needs to see, or the competencies a college

instructor expects? Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in your region of the state?

To help answer these questions, please attend the meeting on **November 10** at the **Aspinall-Wilson Center, Western State College of Colorado, 909 Escalante Drive, Gunnison, Colorado from 5:00 to 7:00 in the evening** with key senior staff from our two departments. A map of the campus is attached for your reference. Refreshments will be provided before the meeting. We'd also appreciate it if you would forward this invitation to others you think might be interested.

Sincerely yours,

David Skaggs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Skaggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.

Executive Director
Department of Higher Education

Dwight Jones

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education