



STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr. – Governor

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DWIGHT D. JONES – COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
DAVID E. SKAGGS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 2009

Dear Business Leader:

We are writing to invite you to an important meeting, hosted by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at the Chamber, 1445 Market Street, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Colorado faces a great challenge and opportunity to make its system of public education – from pre-school through college – more successful and productive. The “Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act” (sometimes called the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, or CAP4K) was enacted in 2008 with ambitious goals. It requires the leadership of Colorado’s P-12 schools and its postsecondary 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 postsecondary 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 Department of Higher Education (DHE) must work together for CAP4K to succeed, we have jointly been holding meetings around the state 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.

Input from the business community is critical to the work CDE and DHE are doing for this legislation. Please plan to attend this important meeting and provide us with your views on what it means to be “postsecondary and workforce ready.”

We greatly appreciate your willingness to participate, and we thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Skaggs

Executive Director
Department of Higher Education

Dwight Jones

Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education