



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DWIGHT D. JONES – COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
DAVID E. SKAGGS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 2009

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 co-sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, to help us meet this challenge and seize the opportunity. The meeting will be held in Durango, CO on May 19, 2009.

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 are jointly holding the meeting on May 19 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 on May 19 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 skills and

competencies do students need to be workforce ready? What skills and competencies do students need to be postsecondary ready? 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 **May 19** at the **DoubleTree Hotel Durango, 501 Camino del Rio, Durango, CO, from 5 to 7 p.m.** with key senior staff from CDE and DHE. Light refreshments will be provided before the meeting.

If you would be so kind as to R.S.V.P. using one of the following three methods by close of business on Friday, May 15, 2009, we would greatly appreciate it:

- 1) if you received this invitation by email, please use the voting buttons provided on the email; or
- 2) call Samantha Long at the Colorado Department of Education, 303-866-3801 and leave a voice mail message; or
- 3) send an email using [long\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:long_s@cde.state.co.us).

Please feel free to forward this invitation to others you think might be interested. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

David Skaggs



Executive Director  
Department of Higher Education

Dwight Jones



Commissioner  
Colorado Department of Education