

**TOPIC: COLORADO INDUSTRIES, OCCUPATIONS, AND
COMPLETIONS WORKFORCE SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

**PREPARED BY: DR. BETH BEAN, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND
INFORMATION AND GARY HORVATH, INDEPENDENT
RESEARCHER**

I. SUMMARY

In 2012, the Colorado Department of Higher Education contracted with Gary Horvath, an independent researcher, to review and analyze industry, occupation, and completions to provide a foundation for understanding workforce needs in Colorado. The report examines the relationship between industry, occupation and completions and includes regional differences. The researcher used data from the Economic Modeling Systems Incorporated (EMSI) and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Highlights from the report include: 80% of jobs in Colorado are in one of 11 industries including Government, Retail, and Healthcare; some level of education is required in 36% of all Colorado jobs; STEM, Healthcare, and Education have a high percentage of occupations that require degrees; and Colorado has responded well to workforce needs in Healthcare but demand in the education sector has not kept pace with the supply of credentials.

II. BACKGROUND

This study was funded by way of grant support from the National Governors Association and in response to a RFP released in January 2012. The following points, as directed by the National Governors Association, were addressed: workforce goals as part of broader economic goals, workforce projections, a gap analysis of degrees and credentials (supply) and workforce needs (demand) in Colorado, and labor market projections. This study was conducted as a foundation to the forthcoming legislative report required for the Skills for Jobs Act, HB12-1061 and to provide context to the Master Plan goals pertaining to economic development and credentials.

III. CONTRACTED RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Summary report provided.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

