

SB08-212: Colorado's Alignment Bill  
 Co-convened Regional Meeting: **Grand Junction, CO**  
**March 4, 2009**

**NOTES – RAW DATA – Question #3**

Guiding Question #3– **Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in your region of the state?**

Responses:

• Agricultural consideration
• Appreciation for physical environment and natural resources
• Consideration of our base of seniors / retirement
• Construction management
• Cost of living is a challenge in this region; disparity of the cost in a resort region
• Cultivating energy talent
• Diversification- agriculture to hi tech
• Economic opportunity abounds here – needs a little bit of everything
• Energy / environment
• Epic center of energy resources: 60 miles - nations - natural gas, oil shale, uranium
• Forest service / parks
• Healthcare / human services
• Higher education institutions – cooperative growth and creation of niche fields
• Hospitality / recreation
• Impact of energy possibilities
• Import educated individuals for specific jobs [heavy reliance on this importation]
• Increasing number of community members without students
• Industries that deal with recreation / hospitality and retirement development
• Isolation: between Salt Lake and Denver / Barriers
• Lack of global understanding
• Lack of partnerships and collaboration between schools of higher education = to provide for students
• Medical schools
• Medical training – healthcare (basic science backgrounds)
• Medical training other than physicians
• Mining
• Need to diversify – pathways beyond on local economy
• Physical barriers (geography) / distance to education / training
• Postsecondary opportunities outside of higher ed (technology and other training)
• Resources / money(\$) / economy (students and education providers)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short term gain v. career path; jumped on the “boom” w/o education and therefore first to be laid off</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skills specific to our local business and economy (energy industry)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telecommunications infrastructure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The standard of living and [lack of?] opportunities make it difficult for college graduates to return. We lose our highly educated kids.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding and understanding of our rural culture</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of / access to education-based technology</li></ul>