



**Metro Denver Regional Partnership
Quarterly Narrative Progress Report
Submitted May 15, 2008**

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SECTION I: GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION

A. Grant Identification

Grantee: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment on behalf of the Metro Denver Region

Name of Project: *Growing our Own: A Model for Reducing Dependence on Imported Skills*

Grant Agreement Number: WR-15401-06-60; CFDA #: 17.261

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B. Summary of General Grant Activities

This narrative section is an important part of each report summarizing that quarter's activities including a general overview of project progress and results, new developments, promising innovations, and resolution of previous issues and challenges identified in the previous quarter(s).

General Activities

Revised Implementation Plan

Work has progressed on a revised Implementation Plan to cover WIRED's remaining two years, and is expected to be completed in May. The plan is based upon recommendations and continuing input from all industry, workforce, education and small business/entrepreneur panels.

US Department of Labor Visit

Gay Gilbert, US Department of Labor WIRED Lead for Metro Denver, met with the WIRED staff and panel conveners in Denver on February 12 to discuss project status, strategies and issues. Afterwards, she met with Linda Murphy and Joe Barela of the Workforce Board of Metro Denver to discuss recent and planned activities and strategies of the Board. Gay is planning to return to Colorado this summer for her annual WIRED site visit and to meet with members of the regions' Workforce Investment Boards.

Workforce Innovation Grant I

We issued an RFP in October of 2007 for Workforce Innovation subgrants. Of the 21 proposals received by the December 10th deadline, 14 passed an internal technical review and were forwarded to review teams. The 19-member review panel met on January 15th and recommended that ten proposals be forwarded for contract negotiation and grant award. Metro Denver WIRED staff undertook budget and contract negotiations with successful applicants during March, in order to complete contracts the beginning of April. Four of the ten grants have local workforce centers as the lead or fiscal agent. To avoid previous contracting difficulties experienced with state agency contracts, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment will contract directly with these agencies.

A summary of the ten grant awards is as follows:

- **Adams County Workforce and Business Center (ACWBC)**

Awarded: \$157,498

Program target: 175 trained, 158 placed

Recruitment and training of equipment operators, drivers and materials handlers for energy companies, through a partnership with Front Range Community College (FRCC) and the Center for Transportation Safety (CTS).

- **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!**

Awarded: \$483,412

Program target: 275 trained, 238 placed

An Expert Technician Academy (ETA) program for youth and adults to learn technical skills for all four industries. Will train 150 adults, 75 youth and 50 incumbent workers in certifications for IT industry, including: A+, Net+, Oracle and Electronics.

- **Arts Street's "Put Me On the Map"**

Awarded: \$178,200

Program target: 115 trained, 95 placed

IT training for 115 youth and young adults in GIS mapping, digital animation, digital video production, interactive communication media, visual informatics and web site content development.

- **Front Range Community College (FRCC)**

Awarded: \$192,108

Program target: 160 trained, 130 placed

An Energy Basic Training program that includes training for students in Basic Math Skills, Understanding Basic Statistics and Measurements, Introduction to Process Technology, and Working in Teams and Communication Skills in the Workplace. Curriculum designed with assistance from major energy companies such as Vestas, a European company that recently moved to the area and which is manufacturing wind blades. Vestas has an immediate need to fill 600 jobs, and has agreed to interview program graduates and to continue to work with Front Range to strengthen the program.

- **iCAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology)**
Awarded: \$389,226
Program target: 250 trained, 170 placed
 Will conduct Energy Efficiency Training for unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers referred by workforce centers in the WIRED region, that will include energy auditing for residential, commercial and industrial buildings; solar PV and solar thermal installation; insulation and air sealing installation and other energy savings devices installation, and HVAC installation. Will create and post three online course modules from the Energy Efficiency curricula. Program is in partnership with The Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) and E-Star Colorado.
- **SpaceDev**
Awarded: \$ 432,081
Program target: 68 trained and placed
 SpaceDev's Center for Space Entrepreneurship program has three components: a "Straight-to-Space" program to provide high school graduates and dislocated workers with technical training and placement within aerospace companies; a "Super Co-Op" program to engage University of Colorado engineering students with study, paid industry experience and pathways to careers in aerospace; and an Entrepreneurial Space Company Incubator that will place college students in internships with start-up companies to learn entrepreneurial skills.
- **The Goodwill Industries of Denver**
Awarded: \$215,100
Program target: 60 trained, 48 placed
 Goodwill is working with several energy companies to provide students in two local high schools with energy careers classes, paid apprenticeships and entry-level positions with energy businesses, as well as an "Energy Career Summer Camp."
- **The Employment Services of Weld County**
Awarded: \$334,768
Program target: 120 trained, 102 placed
 Job training and placement to 100 youth and adults through the Multi Industry Systems Technician (MIST) program. A partnership with Aims Community College, MIST is designed to remediate and develop skills for entry and mid-level employment in the Energy industry.
- **Turnabout, Inc.**
Awarded: \$284,552
Program target: 70 trained, 60 placed
 The program will provide 70 ex-offenders with training on Solar Panel Installation, Wind Power Installation and Equipment, OSHA certification, Industrial First Aid/C.P.R. certification, Commercial Drivers License (A and B) for the energy sector.
- **University of Denver**
Awarded: \$405,000
Program target: 100 trained, 75 placed
 Training and placement of unemployed and underemployed clients into higher paying jobs in IT, Aerospace and Bioscience industries.

Workforce Innovation Grant II

A major focus of activity for WIRED staff and coordinators during the quarter was the release of a second [Workforce Innovation RFP](#) on March 14th, to obtain additional training and placements in the WIRED targeted industries. The [Application Guide](#) and [Application Form](#) were both revised to reflect a greater emphasis on job training and placement outcomes. The proposal due date is May 2nd, with the review process scheduled for later that month, notification of successful applicants in June, and contracts completed in July. Contracts are required to be no more than 14 months duration to ensure completion, and performance outcomes, by September 2009.

It is expected that over \$4 million in total Workforce Innovation Grant funding will be awarded in response to the two Workforce Innovation Grant RFPs.

WIRED staff also developed [a complaint procedure document](#), based on the State of Colorado Procurement rules. This document is now available on the Metro Denver WIRED web site (www.metrodenver.org/wired).

Career Attitude Polling

Contract negotiations have resumed for the two High-Tech Career Attitude Polling RFPs ([Youth](#) and [Workforce/Community College](#)) that were released last fall. One firm, Hill Research Consultants, has been selected to conduct both polls, and work is expected to begin in May. The polls will assess the attitudes of the public workforce system, community colleges, and youth, parents, teachers and guidance counselors regarding career choices involving science, technology, engineering and math in the nine-county WIRED region. The scope of work has been revised to include other non-WIRED industry sectors identified by the *2007 Denver Regional Workforce Gap Analysis* augmented with funding from Denver's Office of Economic Development.

Staffing

Carol Young was hired March 3rd as WIRED's part-time Contracts Administrator. Carol has previous experience of WIRED as Contract Administrator with the City and County of Denver, and will provide support to WIRED's Contract Specialist.

WIRED's IT Industry Coordinator resigned in March to pursue other interests. Efforts are currently underway to recruit her replacement, with the possibility of revising the role to include a Communications/Marketing focus also.

Curricula Inventory

WIRED's Energy Industry coordinator is heading a project to catalogue information on existing curricula, and curricula under development, which are being delivered by WIRED subgrantees. The results will be disseminated among current and future training programs in this region and elsewhere.

Recruitment and planning for Solutions Teams

WIRED Industry Coordinators have worked extensively on refining the structure, meeting framework, and activity/funding delivery systems for four WIRED Solutions Teams. Each Solutions Team will include members from education, industry and the public workforce system. Its role will be a combination of think-tank, advisory committee, and knowledge resource group.

Each Team will focus on developing strategies and activities – using WIRED funds and leverage – that address recommendations developed by WIRED panels and research. Further

details on the four Solutions Teams and their Scopes of Work are included in Section IV of this report.

Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC)

WIRED industry material has been finalized for inclusion in the Small Business Resource Guide. 60,000 copies will be published, and it will include a section highlighting business start up information for WIRED industries. Due to the large amount of useful WIRED industry information collected as part of this process, the SBDC is also working on publishing a separate document to feature the more detailed information collected for the resource guide.

SBDC staff and WIRED industry coordinators have also finalized a survey for small businesses in WIRED target industries. Existing businesses in the four industry clusters will be surveyed to identify barriers and best practices for doing business in the Metro Denver area. The results will be utilized for revising and developing curricula and/or training programs to assist new businesses.

Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA), School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver/Health Sciences Center

CEPA's WIRED activity during this quarter has focused on: analyzing data for the preparation of a report on the first round of the Metro Denver WIRED Network analysis; research for WIRED on technology transfer; participation in the Creative Economy taskforce; implementation of the NGA Colorado STEM Centers grant; writing a successful grant proposal from the Colorado Department of Higher Education to the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education proposal to identify barriers to the adult learner (*NonTraditional Learners*); participation in the development of the WIRED Phase II Implementation plan; and recruitment of Higher Education experts for Workforce Innovation Grant application reviews and Solutions Teams.

New Developments

US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration SGA for the STEM Opportunities in the Workforce System Initiative

The Denver Office of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Development coordinated development of a proposal on behalf of the Front Range STEM Collaborative (FRSC). FRSC is an innovative partnership between business, education and government stakeholders from across the Front Range area (Denver and seven surrounding counties) to address the skilled workforce needs of employers by providing disadvantaged youth with the education and training they need to compete in STEM careers.

The five key elements of this project include: 1) launching a virtual STEM One Stop Workforce Center of Excellence; 2) hiring of 8 STEM Coaches and a STEM Program Coordinator and train the coaches to Global Certified Development Facilitator (GCDF) standards; 3) completing career blueprints for 720 youth participants; 4) recruiting and training of 40+ STEM Mentors from employer partners and the community; and 5) WFC staff will participate in technical assistance events, a peer-to-peer learning community, and collaborate in the development and implementation of best practices.

Partners include the Adams, Arapahoe/Douglas Works; Boulder; Denver; Larimer; The Tri-County Area (Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson); and Weld workforce regions. Education partners include schools from: Adams County; City of Aurora; Denver; Jefferson County; St. Vrain Valley School District; Thompson Schools; Weld County; Community College of Aurora; Front Range Community College; and Red Rocks Community College. Business and community partners include: Eighth Continent Project; Northrop Grumman, Pinetree Peripherals; Red Canyon Software; Venoco; College In Colorado; Colorado Mathematics, Science, & Technology Education Coalition; Governor Ritter's Colorado STEM Network; Metro Denver WIRED Initiative; and the Workforce Board of Metro Denver.

US Department of Labor SGA for the Energy Industry and Construction and Skilled Trades in the Energy Industry

The Metro Denver WIRED region participated in the development of a statewide proposal for the SGA for the Energy Industry and Construction and Skilled Trades in the Energy Industry. Colorado's Energy Industry Workforce Development Build-Up Project addresses current and future energy and energy-related skilled-trades workforce shortages via a two-pronged approach: training and certification, and regional capacity building and coordination.

Training and certification activities include recruiting new employees from untapped labor pools; providing bridge soft and hard skills training to new industry recruits; expanding the capacity of apprenticeship and incumbent journeyman skilled trades energy-related training; and significantly expanding the energy sector training capacity of Colorado's rural Western Slope. The second prong of this project will expand and align existing energy workforce recruitment and training programs by working to formally link Colorado's many existing – but disconnected – workforce recruitment and energy related training programs.

The State's proposal is based, in part, on replicating successful training programs in Casper, WY; Chicago, IL; and Seattle, WA. Partners on the proposal include the Office of the Governor, CDLE, Metro Denver WIRED, The Workforce Board of Metro Denver, the Mesa County Workforce Development Center, the National Electrical Contractors Association, SAGE Technical Services, CUDD Energy Services, Excel Driver Services, Denver Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Committee, IBEW Local 68 Renewable Energy Committee, Denver Public Schools, Adams County Educational Consortium, Goodwill Industries, and the International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (iCAST). Based on the high level of interest from industry partners, this proposal is seeking \$485,919 in funding from the President's HGJTI, and providing leveraged funding in the amount of \$5.157 million – a 581% match.

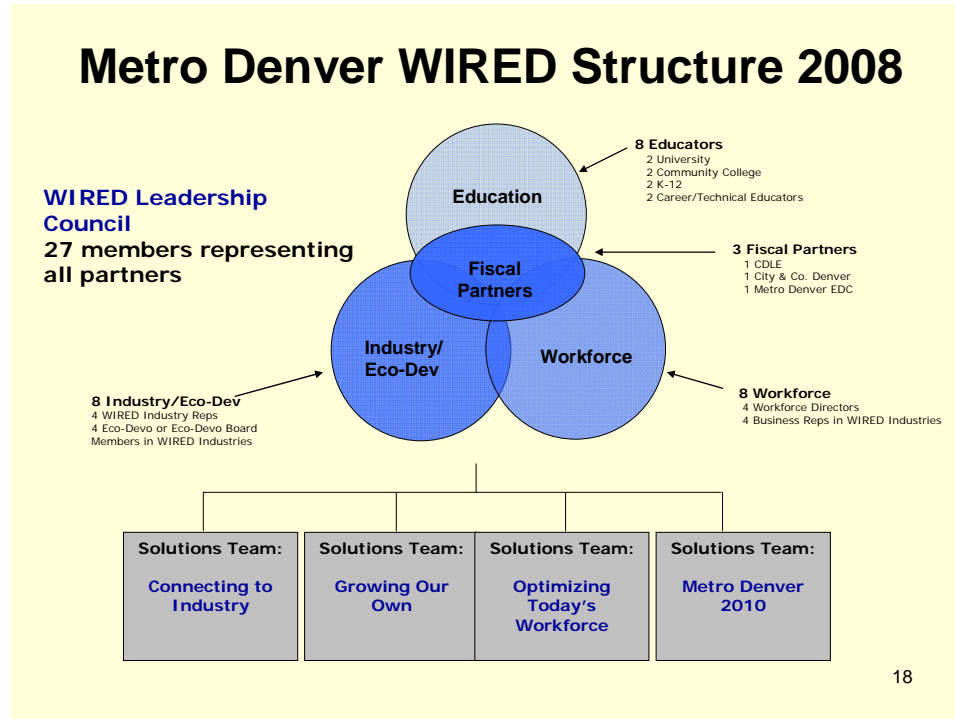
Meeting/Outreach Activity

Information Networking Session for WIRED JumpStart and Innovation Grantees

Building on the success and positive feedback from the first networking session held in November, a half-day information and networking session for WIRED grantees was held February 29. The event included four sessions: an Innovation Grantee Orientation, a Local Energy Grantees Community of Practice; a Communication Strategies Overview, and unstructured time for Networking Opportunities.

WIRED Leadership Council

The current WIRED Leadership Council membership had its final meeting on January 25 and concluded with a “WIRED Birthday” party networking reception that was attended by more than 100 WIRED partners and friends. A proposed new 27-member Leadership Council will be reconstituted in a slightly different membership format that will have more public workforce system representation. Details of the new WIRED structure are shown below:



Industry Coordinator Activity

WIRED industry coordinators have participated in many industry/education/workforce-related meetings and activities throughout the quarter. Key activities include:

Aerospace:

- Met with both Jefferson County and Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Center partners to discuss aerospace industry needs, potential project opportunities and share industry contacts.
- Met with three new aerospace industry contacts to discuss workforce and training needs: Broad Reach Engineering, American Automation Building Solutions, Inc, and Rosae Inc.
- Continued role as WIRED representative at COMSTEC and STEM-EC meetings.
- Briefed Kristi Allsman Shaffer, Sr. Vice President of Development, and Jenn Venerable of Junior Achievement on WIRED, and recruited Junior Achievement participation on WIRED Solutions Teams.
- Attended Future Exploration Leaders Reception at AIAA Space Exploration Conference.
- Represented WIRED on Community College of Denver “JumpStart Into Aerospace” panel at League of Innovation Conference.
- Briefed Dr. Didi Fahey, Denver Area Council, on WIRED and discussed WIRED support for a pilot STEM project at Abraham Lincoln High School.

- Delivered WIRED update to Elaine Thorndike and Sumer Sorenson at CAMT, and discussed possible partnership/grant opportunities for WIRED projects focused on manufacturing skills training (CAMT subsequently responded to the Workforce Innovation Grant II RFP).
- Represented WIRED at Colorado's First Robotics Regional Final as a Judges Assistant, and Pit Crew Support.
- Supported Metro Denver's regional collaborative application response to the United States Department of Labor STEM grant (identification of industry partners and letter of support).

Bioscience:

- Advised Warren Tech HS bioscience program and connected them with contacts at the nearby FDA laboratories in the Federal Center for possible student internship/shadowing opportunities.
- Attended CBSA biobreakfasts and other events, including Bioscience group meetings in Colorado Springs and Fort Collins.
- Facilitated WIRED national Bioscience Interest Group discussion regarding the agenda for the February 5-6 WIRED Bioscience Institute in Winston Salem, North Carolina and attended and was a panel presenter there. Also led pre- and post-Institute meetings for WIRED BIG participants on 5/5, 5/6 and 5/7. WIRED paid for four partner representatives to attend the Winston-Salem conference: representatives from community colleges, higher education (CCHE), and two workforce system representatives.
- Attended and presented at the Worthington, Minnesota Regional Bioscience Conference on March 26-28. Made a contact at the conference with staff of the University of Minnesota "Doorway" business access portal, a "concierge" service for university-industry relations.

Energy:

- Met with two renewable energy companies that recently relocated to, or expanded in, the WIRED region to discuss WIRED and assistance available through the Metro Denver EDC.
- Attended the Rockies Energy Workforce Collaborative (REWC) quarterly meeting and continued in role on the REWC steering committee.
- Helped host a delegation of Spanish renewable energy companies seeking to invest in the U.S.
- Participated in the Greenprint Denver Advisory meeting.
- Met with the assistant director of the Governor's Energy Office and the assistant director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education to discuss ways in which to work together, which resulted in an invitation to join the Green Collar Jobs Task Force.
- Was interviewed by the energy reporter from the *Rocky Mountain News* about the energy workforce.
- Toured the new Vestas wind turbine manufacturing plant in Windsor, Colorado.
- Met with the University of Colorado at Denver to discuss new Global Energy Management masters program and ways in which WIRED may collaborate.
- Attended a two-day conference on renewable energy instruction at the Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY, with three colleagues from Workforce Development (from Denver, Jefferson and Larimer counties).
- Met with a representative of Colorado Youth Corps and provided contacts in the energy industry that might have projects that Youth Corps participants could work on.
- Attended the New Frontiers in Energy conference hosted by Sen. Ken Salazar.
- Participated in region wide meetings to respond to US DOL SGA for Energy and Construction. Helped develop proposal.

Promising Innovations

Workforce Board of Metro Denver

In March, the *Metro Denver Driving Force Team* attended the Transformations Forum in Baltimore. The team consisted of members of the Workforce Board of Metro Denver including the Director, four local workforce Directors, a WIB member representing three local workforce boards and a DOL WIRED grant recipient for Special Populations, two representatives from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, and the Executive Director of the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative. The team agreed going into the forum that they would focus on identifying specific next steps to transform the regional talent development system and sustain this transformation beyond the WIRED grant.

At the end of the three day forum, the team agreed that the shared *vision* is to be the driving force behind a Talent Development System that leads to prosperity for the Metro Denver Region. The *mission* is to create and sustain the strategic alignment of resources to enhance talent development and the *goal* is to transition the current WIRED Leadership Council and the Workforce Board of Metro Denver into the Leadership Council for Regional Talent Development at the end of 18 months. Team members took the new plan back to their respective membership or leaders. Unanimous support was given by the State, Metro Denver WIRED Initiative and the Workforce Board of Metro Denver and all pledged to work together to achieve this goal.

Bioscience Workforce Committee

The Workforce Board of Metro Denver, including the Director, four local workforce Directors and WIB/local economic development leaders, and the WIRED Bioscience Coordinator began meeting in early January with the Executive Director of the Colorado BioScience Association (CBSA) to begin discussions on ways to raise the profile of the workforce development system within the Bioscience sector. These discussions resulted in a subsequent meeting with Battelle to identify questions, leaders and groups that they would include in their role as consultant to the CBSA in revising their 2008 Colorado Bio Science Plan. The information will be used to strength partnerships and talent development for the Bioscience sector in Metro Denver.

During the first quarter of 2008, the Metro Denver workforce regions have launched several pilot programs intended to standardize the delivery of services in our Metro Denver region. Two of these include:

Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) Partnership

Earlier this year the Metro Denver workforce regions identified three local regions to pilot a CRC partnership that could be replicated throughout the entire Metro Denver region. The pilot, officially launched in late March, will establish consistency in career readiness standards, performance and accountability when marketing this certificate. The regions received discretionary funding from the State to assist in marketing the CRC.

WY-CO Partnership:

Three northern Metro Denver workforce regions and the southern Wyoming workforce region have partnered to pilot a regional business service project. Their most recent venture was a Professional Job Fair that attracted more than 100 employers and 800 job seekers. The Partnership specifically targeted employers that offered STEM jobs that began at \$34,000 per year and that represented the IT/Software, Bioscience and Energy sectors. The WY-CO

Partnership will follow up to report out on the number of hires, sectors and wages in future reports. Three other workforce regions in the central and southern part of the Metro Denver region have recently formed a collaborative which will replicate some features of the WY-CO Partnership and focus on the Aerospace, Bioscience and IT/Software sectors.

Resolution of Previous issues and challenges:

Work continues between the City, State and the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative to streamline the contracting process. One resolution aiding this constant challenge has been the State accepting being the direct contracting agent with any Metro Denver WIRED subgrantees that are local workforce centers.

C. Status Update on Strategic Partnership Activities

This narrative section of the report captures critical aspects of your partnership activities during the implementation of your grant. Please describe how the partnership is working together to adopt a comprehensive workforce and economic development approach for transformation (as outlined in the SGA) - document the dynamic growth and development of your partnership, rather than list every partner meeting or communication. It should also describe the partnership activities related to measuring performance and other outcomes.

The provision of this information allows you to reflect critically on your own partnership and contributes to broader discussions among grantees on partnership development and management. This section may: (1) Discuss how partners have been engaged during the current phase of the project; (2) Outline specific roles and contributions of each partner during this quarter; (3) Identify any challenges encountered/resolved in the development and management of the partnership; and (4) Report new partners that may have been brought into the project.

WIRED Governing Structure

Representatives of the three fiscal partners met in mid-January. The partners will conduct future periodic meetings as needed. At their January meeting, they approved the Workforce Board of Metro Denver scope of work, discussed contracts management and budgets, reviewed the draft proposed Leadership Council structure and the recent RFP release and grant awards.

Front Range Funders Collaborative

The Denver Office of Workforce Development and Mile High United Way (MHUW) convened a meeting of the nine Metro workforce regions, employers, labor, P-20 representatives, local foundations, community organizations, state and local government to discuss the formation of the Front Range Workforce Funders Collaborative. Workforce funds were used to contract with Jack Mills, National Network of Sector Partnerships and Stephanie Powers, Council on Foundations, to talk about sector initiatives. MHUW, workforce development system partners, local foundations and others at the meeting have taken steps to form a sectoral collaborative, designed in part to sustain the work begun with the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative.

In January, the membership of Workforce Board of Metro Denver agreed to establish two new alliances/work groups targeting the Energy and Skill Trades Sector and STEM. The original intent was to develop two unified proposals in response to the recently released DOL SGAs. More importantly, the Board's goal was to establish the Workforce Board as a convener of a

Metro Energy Workforce Group and a Front Range STEM Alliance. Regardless of the outcome of the SGA awards, the Workforce Board has succeeded in solidifying relationships with the State Energy Representative, the Governor's Energy Office, WIRED conveners, and STEM Compact leaders. It has also added new partners (including employers, local school districts, post-secondary education, community based organizations and organized labor union representatives) and continued to refine regional asset maps and identify new promising practices. The groups continue to meet on an on-going basis, with a member of the Workforce Board of Metro Denver serving as the convener.

Governors Jobs Cabinet Regional Meetings

Governor Bill Ritter officially convened his Jobs Cabinet in March 2008. The Jobs Cabinet will “work to align the state’s economic development, workforce development and education programs to develop a 21st century workforce that meets the evolving needs of industry in a competitive global economy.” The Governor has included the four WIRED industries in his list of key economic sectors. Specifically, the Jobs Cabinet will:

1. Identify opportunities for more effective alignment of current programs in education, workforce training and economic development....;
2. Recommend priorities and improvements to utilize existing resources and economic development strategies and launch new programs to identify, educate and train our workforce to support a vibrant economy in each region of our state; and
3. Propose structural changes and improvements where appropriate to assist in the implementation of these strategies and programs.

The workforce system is playing a key role in assisting the Jobs Cabinet in their first steps. The Larimer County Workforce Director, Joni Friedman, has been identified as the Metro Denver Regional Cabinet Lead and has been charged with convening a meeting to gather local input and develop strategies to meet the needs of the Metro Denver Economic Region.

University of Colorado at Denver/Health Sciences Center, Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA)

CEPA continues to work with various stakeholders, *e.g.*, Colorado Department of Higher Education, Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, Colorado Creative Economy Taskforce. Its work with the Colorado P-20 Coalition continues to widen exposure of Metro Denver Wired to more practitioners and policymakers as they see WIRED’s logo and read its materials.

Colorado WIN Partners, University of Colorado Denver

Judy Emery, from Colorado WIN Partners/UCD attended all of the weekly WIRED meetings during this quarter. She was a reviewer for the Innovations RFP and attended the committee meeting where all of the RFPs were formally reviewed and discussed, and recommendations for funding were made. She also attended the JumpStart and Innovations reception on February 29. Training and technical assistance was offered to all of the grant recipients to ensure effective outreach and recruitment efforts to underrepresented populations and provide effective accommodations and service strategies for this population. Ms. Emery was a team member for Colorado’s Transformation Team and attended the “Driving Transformation: Innovation Fueling Tomorrow’s Workforce System” meeting hosted by the US Department of Labor in Baltimore in March.

National Governors Association STEM Grant

Metro Denver WIRED is funding the Colorado STEM Network, based in Governor Ritter's Office of Policy Initiatives. The network is staffing the Governor's P-20 Council, which has actively been involved in legislation and policy around increasing the rigor of standards in K-12 education. State work includes a new website, www.Coloradostemeducation.com. Regional work in the WIRED nine-county area includes: convening sessions of parents, business leaders and policy makers to discuss issues to be faced over the next ten years; determining what will define our success in STEM education and what steps are needed to get there; primary barriers to vision of STEM and actions needed to overcome them; negotiating tension around issues of local and state control of education policy; providing feedback to state-level policymakers on STEM education. Planning continues for a major, WIRED-sponsored "[STEMapalooza](#)". This event will represent a "living asset map" of the region's STEM resources, and include two full days of student STEM demonstrations, educator workshops, panel discussions, and mini-WIRED job information booths.

P-20 Education Council

The Colorado legislative session was a very successful one for the Governor's P-20 and STEM legislative agenda. Several new laws are expected to support WIRED's STEM education goals of increasing the rigor of high school standards (including those for STEM), supporting alternative compensation for teachers to help recruit math and science teachers, and creating a unified education data system that can support the improvement of STEM education programs. At the same time, staff from the Governor's Office of Policy Initiatives and P-20 Council have been giving presentations to a Colorado STEM Network Compact in the WIRED region to enlist support for Governor's STEM education agenda. The P-20 Council leadership is now planning its agenda for the remainder of 2008. New additions are expected to increase the P-20 Council's focus on STEM education issues.

Colorado Energy Coalition (CEC)

The CEC was formed with two objectives: to address policy issues impacting the energy industry; and to grow the cluster. CEC approved a "Book of Asks" that is focused on growing the cluster, and will be presented to Colorado's federal delegation in May. The scope of work for this objective includes ensuring the region's ability to provide the classroom equipment and instructors for training, and the ability to recruit students to energy careers. Using research being conducted by WIRED to understand students' perceptions of careers in the energy industry and where they obtain career information, CEC will develop a strong public relations program targeted at middle and high school students. In addition, CEC will actively support increased funding for higher education.

Colorado Space Coalition (CSC)

WIRED's Aerospace Industry Coordinator presented an update on WIRED activity at the CSC's January meeting. CSC members were pleased to learn of the two recently awarded Workforce Innovation Grants that focused on Aerospace career training (SpaceDev and the University of Denver). The presentation prompted CSC members to request that the group explore ways in which STEM education and workforce development might be more formally integrated within the CSC's remit.

Kauffman Pilot Project

WIRED's Bioscience Industry Coordinator coordinated planning and proposed implementation of the Kauffman Pilot Project, a technology transfer acceleration program that leverages WIRED funds with Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and NIST/MEP funds for a two region (Kansas City and Metro Denver) WIRED pilot project in facilitating and accelerating increased technology transfer and commercial development between universities, federal labs, and private IP holders and industry development. WIRED will leverage a \$125K grant to Eureka Ranch from Kauffman Foundation, as well as a \$200K grant from Kaufman to Western Tech Set, a group of smaller tech transfer offices led by the University of Denver, and more than \$100K of investment from NIST/Department of Commerce/MEP.

Update on Strategic Partnerships Activities for JumpStart Grant Recipients:

Full details about each of the ten JumpStart grant recipients' strategic partnership activities can be accessed through each grantee's [Quarterly Report](#). Highlighted examples of partnership activities and issues include:

Community College of Aurora (CCA)

- A/D Works and CCA prepared a successful, joint proposal for a presentation on Bioscience (What is Bioscience in Colorado and What Skills are Required by Industry?) at the upcoming Rocky Mountain Workforce Development conference (May 21-23, 2008). A copy of the PowerPoint will be available via the CCA WIRED website following the presentation. The Bioscience DVD will be shown as part of the presentation and all participants will receive a copy to take back to their workforce center.
- The Colorado Bioscience Association has continued in its role as lead partner, providing funding for a scholarship for two of the WIRED high school teachers to conduct a paid internship with two bioscience companies in Colorado.
- The UC-Denver and Health Sciences Center will partner with CCA for the summer teacher workshop by offering graduate credit to teachers who participate.

Denver School of Science and Technology

- 16 new internship partners have been recruited, including: University of Colorado Health Sciences Departments of Cancer Development and Pathways, Cellular Development, Vision/Drosophila of Fruit Flies, Cell Hibernation, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance; Chris Shears Architecture; Children's Hospital radiology and cardiology; HDR Engineering department of transportation and bridge building; IP 5280 Telecommunications; Farrell B. Howell School in DPS; Concerts for Kids; Swallow Hill; ArtHouse Graphics and Design; and Museum of Nature and Science Department of Entomology.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

- JAG-Colorado is working with College in Colorado to ensure that all JAG students are fully exposed to postsecondary opportunities. College in Colorado trained JAG staff in use of the CIC website and half of JAG schools have hosted CIC staff as guest speakers.

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

- MESA has developed a new relationship with Goodwill through Goodwill's role in the Denver Youth Development Initiative.

Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)

- RRCC has developed a new partnership with Venoco Oil. The partnership's goal is to produce paid internships for students, scholarships, board memberships potential, and shared recruitment ventures. Venoco has also developed media materials for use in RRCC's Mobile Recruitment Center.
- Venoco has indicated RRCC's existing process tech and construction tech curricula meet company requirements for engineering and geology techs. The company has four openings in their Denver office for techs, and has indicated it would like to hire RRCC students.

Regis University

- An Articulation Agreement between Regis University and the Community College of Aurora (CCA) has been signed by both parties. The Agreement enables CCA students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Computer Information Systems, Networking, and Computer Science to transfer up to 90 semester credit hours to Regis University in order to complete a Bachelor of Science degree program. In addition, CCA students that earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business with a concentration in Computer Information Systems can transfer up to 90 semester credit hours into the Regis BTM program for degree completion. This makes college very affordable for students using the three years at the community college + 1 year degree completion at Regis model. A student can obtain a CIS/BTM degree for a total **\$14,950** as compared to over \$100,000 for a degree from Regis College (traditional undergraduate program). The CCA/Regis degree plan "crosswalk" agreement" lays out the sequence of courses from both the community college and Regis.

In addition to the type of information your WIRED Region would normally provide in this area, ETA requests that your region include a special update on the status of collecting data to enable reporting on the Common Performance Measures, including:

- a. Have you begun the collection of data to enable the calculation of the Common Measure performance outcomes for your region?*
- b. Describe the processes that have been established for tracking and collecting performance data, including the data necessary to calculate the Common Measure performance outcomes.*
- c. Have the local and state workforce partners been engaged to assist in this process?*
- d. Which entities are collecting the necessary data?*
- e. Is your region co-enrolling participants in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs, tracking WIRED participants separately, or a combination of the two?*
- f. If your WIRED strategy includes providing services to Youth, are there plans to collect information to enable the calculation of outcomes using the Youth Common Performance Measures?*

Common Measures Baseline Data

As noted in Metro Denver WIRED's previous quarterly reports, common measures for workforce programs are compiled by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) for each workforce region. The most recent data collection of common measures is for Program Year 2006, beginning in July 2006 through June 2007. This represents the number of workforce clients that have exited programs during that time period. However, key data to comprise the calculated common measures is derived from data gathered between April 2005 and September 2006.

As also noted in previous Quarterly Reports, baseline data to be used for the WIRED Initiative to compare pre- and post-WIRED program effectiveness will be calculated by using data collected by CDLE at a later time that better reflects the current job market in the nine county WIRED region. To be most effective and accurate, it is important to measure the progress made by the WIRED Initiative using data reflecting economic conditions just prior to the awarding of the first round of WIRED Jumpstart grants (i.e. April-September 2007).

Another issue WIRED must address when collecting baseline data on common measures is that CDLE's Common Measure data is collated and presented at the state level, i.e., it does not include a breakdown for the Metro Denver Region. WIRED staff will therefore need to extrapolate this data by extracting and processing quarterly performance data from individual workforce regions within the WIRED region. However, although an extra exercise, the data extracted will also prove valuable to members of the Workforce Board of Metro Denver, whose Director has offered to work with WIRED staff in collecting this data for the WIRED Region.

During Q2 2008, WIRED staff will work with CDLE staff and regional Workforce Center partners to address the above issues and establish accurate baseline data for Common Measures.

Tracking Grantee Performance

Where possible, WIRED intends to track the first round of grant clients to determine several years from now which grant programs have been most effective in keeping students in school, directing them toward higher education and STEM careers, and ensuring a successful career in the workforce. The most viable tracking system for students participating in the JumpStart programs is through registration on JobLink. Because this requirement was not initially requested of JumpStart grantees (and therefore not a contractual obligation), tracking this first round of WIRED participants is dependant upon the ability of individual grantees to institute this requirement. The extent to which they have been successful will be known upon completion of individual programs.

The focus of Metro Denver WIRED's second and third round of grants (The Workforce Innovation Grants I and II) is on training and placing adults in WIRED industries, rather than the capacity building of the JumpStart grants. As such, future grantee performance metrics will involve collecting the necessary information on entered employment, job retention, and wage gains for adult participants. It is expected that collecting this data will be much facilitated by:

- Where possible, co-enrolling participants into the WIA program, and
- Tracking clients via JobLink (for which two members of WIRED staff have recently received training).

It is expected that this tracking of program participants will provide more complete information on program success and better demographics of the WIRED population.

It is intended that the Workforce partnership requirement for Workforce Innovation Grants I and II will ensure accurate reporting of Adult Common Measures, and any Youth Measures where applicable. A reporting framework for both sets of measures has been incorporated into the subgrantees' monthly reporting document.

D. Status Update on Leveraged Resources

This update should describe the cumulative amount of leveraged resources provided by the grantee and partners along with expenditures each quarter. Leveraged resources are those resources that you and your partners may be providing to support your WIRED funds in the implementation of your grant activities. Leveraged resources may take the form of cash or in-kind donations and may include federal funds such as WIA, TAA, as well as other public or private investments.

Total Funds Leveraged by end of Q1 2008: \$2,387,377

Please note: leveraged funding amounts from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment are being finalized and will be included in the next quarterly report. *Amount also includes Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation estimated leverage costs to be finalized during Q2-08.

- Funds leveraged Q1-Q4 2007 (excluding Subgrantee leverage): **\$968,286**
- Funds leveraged during Q1 2008 (including Subgrantee leverage to date): **\$1,419,091**
Breakdown:
 - \$130,000: Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education grant to identify barriers to the adult learner (\$65,000 + 1:1 in-kind match from Department of Higher Education and staffing contribution).
 - \$6,000*: Colorado Space Coalition funding for production of Colorado [Aerospace brochure](#), promoting the region's aerospace industry and talent base.
 - \$19,700*: CSC funding for production of [Colorado in Space video](#), promoting the State's aerospace industry and talent base.
 - \$20,000*: CSC funding for redesign and update of Colorado Space Coalition web site, featuring Metro Denver WIRED information and providing a platform for Aerospace workforce, education and industry connection and activity (www.spacecolorado.org)
 - \$1,243,391: JumpStart grantee leverage **to date**: By the end of Q1, 2008, JumpStart grantees had leveraged a total of (or approximately 44%) of total projected leverage for JumpStart projects. This is less than the 61% reported in for Q4 07, due to an error by Math Engineering Science Achievement's reporting of leverage funds during that quarter.

The table below provides a breakdown by grantee:

JumpStart Grantee	Reported WIRED Expenditures as of 03/31/08	WIRED Grant Award	Leveraged Expenditures as of 03/31/08	Total Projected Leveraged Amount
Community College of Aurora	\$395,874	\$430,000	\$121,898	\$154,219
Community College of Denver	\$146,714	\$360,000	\$61,928	\$393,180
Council for Adult & Experiential Learning	\$179,332	\$350,000	\$92,246	\$110,350
Denver School of Science & Technology	\$125,312	\$160,000	\$ -	\$ -
Jobs for America's Graduates	\$157,138	\$350,000	\$214,070	\$212,475
Math Engineering Science Achievement	\$226,939	\$350,000	\$284,524	\$944,033
Red Rocks Community College	\$59,464	\$400,000	469,87	\$425,400
Regis University	\$269,957	\$450,000	\$20,150	\$71,622
Thompson School District	\$304,612	\$400,000	\$326,893	\$305,709
University of Denver	\$378,263	\$450,000	\$121,682	\$187,809
TOTAL	\$2,243,605	\$3,700,000	\$1,243,391	\$2,804,797

Workforce Innovation Grant I

Subgrantee leverage from the ten recently awarded Workforce Innovation Grant I programs is expected to total \$8,734,438.

Other leverage:

- Continued development, planning meetings, phone calls, and a phone conference with Denise Brown of CBSA and others to implement WIRED and workforce system participation in the Batelle updating of the CBSA Bioscience Strategic Plan. (Using WIRED funding/ sponsorship to leverage Workforce System participation in a \$196K Batelle study of the Colorado Bioscience cluster.)
- Provided seed editorial content for the Bioscienceregions.net website (<http://www.bioscienceregions.net>), a common workspace for WIRED bioscience-interested communities, as part of leadership for the WIRED Bioscience Interest Group (BIG). Bioscienceregions.net provides a context for discussions of best practice for bioscience efforts in WIRED regions.

SECTION II: REGIONAL METRICS

This section should provide information on all education, training, economic development, employer, key innovations, and grant deliverable results each quarter, as described in your grant agreement. This data is very important as we track the success of grantees each quarter and compile cumulative information about all WIRED grantees.

- **WIRED Performance Measures and Results**

Please list your regional performance metrics/measures and the outcomes associated with them. This information can be provided in the narrative progress report itself, or as an addendum. A template that grantees should consider as a model for this addendum is provided at the end of this Appendix.

- **Discussion of Results**

It is critical that the results or outcomes of grantee activities are sufficiently documented. Grantees should provide narrative information on the measures negotiated with ETA. In addition, grantees also may describe other important outcomes, including employer measures, captured during the quarter.

The purpose of many WIRED investments is to improve the capacity for education and training institutions to provide training linked to employer demand, to provide support for entrepreneurship, and networks that will facilitate regional economic growth. This section of the quarterly report also may be used to describe changes in policy, systems, and operations that have been made as a result of WIRED activities.

Progress Report Metrics and Results Addendum:

WIRED staff has revised the example Progress Report Metrics and Results Addendum Template provided by ETA, to capture additional performance measures and results that will be outcomes of JumpStart, Workforce Innovation I and Workforce Innovation II grant activity. The [Metro Denver WIRED's Progress Report Metrics and Results Table](#) currently contains current and projected program numbers for JumpStart grant activity in both Education/Training and Capacity Building performance categories, in addition to projected program numbers for Workforce Innovation Grant I.

Summary of Year 4 Performance Targets (excluding Workforce Innovation Grant II targets currently under development):

- 1,424 enter training
- 1,140 complete training
- 1,054 placed in target industry employment

The Table also provides baseline data (and details of data's source) for the Economic Indicators suggested by ETA. Baseline data was sought from timeframes as close to the start of the grant period as possible and appropriate. The baseline data is obtained from a number of sources, and so the baseline year/date is not uniform. Where restrictions exist for baseline data collection (i.e. available only for the Colorado, rather than WIRED region), these are noted under the "Source" section of the table.

Work continues on developing improved regional data accuracy for baseline and annual reporting data for the following economic indicators:

18. Number of new jobs created, by industry
19. Average Wage, by industry
27. Number of new business startups or expansions
28. New seed and venture capital investments

WIRED staff will work with the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation and Development Research Partners and revised data is expected for inclusion in WIRED's Q2 2008 report.

WIRED staff will continue to work with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment on a breakdown of baseline and annual Common Performance Measures for the Metro Denver WIRED Region.

Monitoring of Subgrantees

The WIRED Initiative began the monitoring process of the JumpStart grantees the first quarter of 2008. In March, a monitoring instrument was compiled using information and formats based on those used by the City and County of Denver and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The monitoring instrument has three components: reviewing financial procedures and internal controls, reviewing agency administrative and personnel procedures, and verifying actual performance of the grantee based on the Scope of Work that was contained in each JumpStart contract. The monitoring team comprised of three WIRED personnel visited each grantee site and met with the grantee's executive and program management. Most reviews lasted one day or longer.

For the reporting quarter, two JumpStart grantees have been visited. They are:

- Community College of Denver (CCD), JumpStart into Aerospace
- MESA/CMEA (Colorado Minority Engineering Association), MESA WIRED Project.

Seven other JumpStart grantees have been visited during the month of April. No major findings were identified. Some minor observations were noted, and recommendations for resolution will be included in final monitoring reports in May.

Subgrantee Performance Outcomes

All JumpStart grantees reported project activity during Q1. Full quarterly reports submitted by each JumpStart grantee can be accessed [by clicking here](#). In addition to the performance metric numbers referred to above, highlights of JumpStart deliverables and performance outcomes completed this quarter include:

Community College of Aurora (CCA)

- Developed resources to help teachers visit companies, secure internships, and find speakers. A listing of companies willing to participate is posted on the project website: <http://ccaurora.edu/bioscience/docs/Teacher%20List%20for%20web.doc>;
- Kit distribution is underway for teachers to use in class to present hands-on laboratory experiences and career information, with over 6,000 served during October 2007 – March, 2008.
- The Project Advisory Council (a committee of representatives from industry, education, economic development, and workforce development) met in January, and the committee has received email updates on activities in the period from January-March.

Community College of Denver (CCD)

- Produced and distributed aerospace career pathway information and opportunities to 874 Denver public Schools, incoming and existing CCD students.
- “JumpStart into Aerospace” (JSA) [full page color advertisement](#) featured in 3 issues of student newsletter, [flier](#) developed for summer program, brochures produced for [high school students](#) and [college students](#), and Aerospace bulletin boards posted on campus.
- Promoted JumpStart into Aerospace at six career fairs during the quarter.
- Produced contextualized curriculum:
 - CAPBES Introduction to Aerospace Engineering
 - Career education center CSAP curriculum
 - MESA Introduction to Aerospace Engineering curriculum (in process)
- To date 129 students have participated in a FastStart@CCD Math/Science cohort (remedial math and English course combined with career exploration in STEM careers. 14 gained one year of numeracy and 115 gained 2 years numeracy per semester by passing 2 levels of math.
- Colorado Students and Mentors Applying Research and Technology in Space (CSMARTS): recruited 12 CCD and Metro State College of Denver (MSCD) students for the course, which was designed by the Director of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and features many experiential opportunities, including the design and launch of a satellite and a site visit to GeoEye.
- [WIRED Satellite Project](#): developed a curriculum model for an interdisciplinary group of students working on a project that simulates processes in the aerospace industry (physics, project management, mechanical drafting and QA and systems engineering) in the design, draft, manufacture and assessment of model satellite based on Mars Global Surveyor
- Two CCD students partnered with four MSCD students to [intern at Lockheed Martin](#).
- JSA, ACES and, MSCD collaborated on two seminars to expose students to aerospace careers.
- JSA students assisted on astronomy research projects for NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and GAVRT Space Flight Center, assisting with an electromagnetic investigation of Jupiter and quasar and black hole investigations using NASA deep Space Network radio telescopes via remote access.

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

- 40 students in 5 schools received educational career and skills assessment/planning.
- 11 students were provided with information on industry-related associate and bachelor programs, i.e., Bismarck State College and Red Rocks Community College and a list of scholarships with energy-related emphasis.
- An additional 82 students received information about the energy industry and the online "Light Up Your Future" program.
- During the quarter, 30 students are enrolled in the Virtual High School (VHS) in “Light Up Your Future: Applied Math and the Electric Power Industry” math elective course online courses for a total of 60 students enrolled for the year. There will be a numeracy gain by at least 48 students completing the online math course.
- Nine students enrolled in Bismarck State College online energy-related courses:
 - 6 students enrolled in the Orientation to the Electrical Industry course
 - 3 students enrolled in the Industrial Aptitude course.
- One teacher from Brighton High School has enrolled in the VHS NetCourse Instructional Methodologies (NIM) online course. Successful completion of this course is required before a teacher can teach an online course with VHS.

- Several career connection activities took place, including career panels and presentations. Both Xcel Energy and IBEW 111 have provided on-going career connection planning meetings which will continue throughout the next quarter. This planning is focused on laying the groundwork to implement all of the career connection activities for high school students in the metro Denver area.
- Through the end of March 2008, a total of 178 students have participated in career connection activities.

Denver School of Science and Technology

- 36 new internship partners have been added to date in the expansion of the current 11th grade internship program (particularly in the aerospace, bioscience, energy and information technology industries).
- The intern training program for students and mentors was expanded through Junior Achievement providing internship training and supplies for mentors and interns each trimester.
- 109 out of the 109 interns have been placed from March-May 2008 for Trimester 3.
- 36 pipeline partnerships are currently active as a continuum from education to industry focused on careers in STEM fields.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

- Most deliverables will not be completed until June 2008 because the JAG program operates on a school-year basis. All participants are expected to stay with the program for a minimum of twelve months.
- Training activities have been completed as follows:
 - Participation in the National Student Leadership Conference for JAG students and staff;
 - The Chief Executive for the purpose of implementing an accredited JAG Model State Organization (on-site training);
 - Specialists (both new and experienced) for implementing the JAG Model Program Applications (on-site training);
 - The annual Program Development Institute designed for new and experienced managers to improve understanding of the JAG Model as well as developing leadership, coaching and management skills;
 - Refresher training for those who implement the JAG Model using one or more of the JAG Program Applications.
- Students have received an average of 89 hours of model services contact to date toward a goal of 120 hours total (including summer activities).
- JAG students must go through a core of 37 employability skills developed to prepare themselves for entry into a career. These competencies are integrated into mathematics, language arts and science courses. WIRED JAG students have attained an average of 26 competencies to date.
- Each student works with their Specialist to devise an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which outlines the student's barriers to success, identifies specific action steps the student must take to overcome each barrier, and also identifies the support needed for the plan to succeed. The following is a list of top barriers that have been removed to date:

Barrier	Percent Removed
Pregnant	75
Documented substance abuse	57
Family environment not conducive to education or career goals	38
Needs transportation to and from school and work	33
Lacks motivation or maturity to pursue education and/or career goals	27

- In addition to their role as a teacher mentor, JAG school specialists serve students as a career advisor and, when necessary, connecting students with appropriate professional counseling services. Specialists have provided an average of 3.89 hours of guidance to students to date.
- March was the tenth month in the follow-up cycle for the JAG Class of 2007 and so far, 81% of graduates have achieved a positive outcome (placement in jobs, postsecondary education, and/or military service). 90% of seniors from the Class of 2007 earned a high school diploma or GED, and 65% went on to postsecondary education.

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

- Colorado Energy Science Center information is currently being presented throughout the 2007/2008 school year. For this quarter, seven school presentations were given to 541 students: 301 males/240 females.
- A number of MESA students from the St. Vrain school district attended the Workforce Boulder County Job Fair in Longmont.
- University Mentor statistics for the quarter:

<u>CU-Boulder</u>		
Mentors Count	Schools Impacted	Student Contacts
21	15	1397
		Latino: 601 (43%)
		African American: 87(6%)
		Caucasian: 544 (39%)
		Asian: 121 (9%)
		Native American: 33(2%)

<u>CU-Denver (including Franklin Middle School Greeley-Weld County)</u>		
Mentors Count	Schools Impacted	Student Contacts
7	8	336
		Latino: 114 (34%)
		African American: 44 (13%)
		Caucasian: 174 (52%)
		Asian: 4 (9%)
		Native American: 0 (0%)

- As of April 7, 2008, we have 1446 middle and high school students enrolled in MESA P-12 Program, exceeding MESA's original WIRED program goal of 1309 students by 135 students.

Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)

- 97 adults completed training in energy career, of whom 23 have so far been placed.
- 118 youth are currently receiving training for energy careers, with number of successful completers to be reported in May 08.
- During the quarter, 14 electrical and mechanical craft persons from Coors attended weekly RRCC classes in the Electro Mechanical Program. These workers are piloting the industrial maintenance course work and are providing input to RRCC faculty to ensure currency of the curriculum. Workers have completed 12 courses to date and received pay increases of \$2.00 per hour for completing the course work.
- RRCC has been offering new hire training for process operators at the request of Suncor Energy USA. The new hires complete intensive training in distillation basics. On December 3, 2007 Suncor launched a new initiative whereby RRCC provided incumbent operators, with an average of 10 years experience training in Distillation Principles and Boiler Operations. 9 incumbent operators completed the Boiler Operations training with an average increase in post test scores of 32%. 6 Operators completed the Distillation Principles with an average increase in post test scores of 38%.
- 3 incumbent technicians from Ball Beverage Container are enrolled in industrial maintenance courses at RRCC. Ball is paying tuition costs and allowing technicians to work shifts that allow class attendance. Ball is promoting college certificates and degrees among incumbents to improve quality and plant efficiency.
- Lesson plans were developed for the Introduction to Process Technology that "pull out" and reinforce mathematics competencies used in energy and advanced manufacturing processes. Please refer to the [Jefferson County School District website](#) for student and teacher manuals of curricula completed to date. (Username "processtech", Password "jeffco")
- Accuplacer was administered as a pilot to students from Jefferson High School enrolling in PRO 100 and ENY 101 in the fall of 2007. Lower than expected results in mathematics and writing competencies are being used to plan after school study skill workshops conducted by RRCC faculty.
- The student WIRED tracking self report data base has been completed. View [Self Report printout](#) for Spring 2008 for details.
- Colorado School of Mines Continuing Education Department has consulted with the high schools and Red Rocks faculty team to introduce petro chemical science labs in the Process Technology I and Process Technology II Science Courses that have been taught as dual enrollment high school courses.
- Three modules of Algebra II for Process Sciences have been completed. The course is expected to be offered as a co-requisite for high school process technology students.
- Through a partnership with renewable energy companies in Jefferson County, the Jefferson Economic Council has produced a video that promotes renewable energy employment and education preparation for these jobs at Red Rocks Community College.
- A Power Generation video has been produced in partnership with process industry partners and RRCC students.
- [The Introduction to Renewable Energy Technology A YEAR-LONG SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COURSE FOR 11TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS](#) has been completed.

- Using the Colorado Model Content Standards, the Petroleum Technology Module was completed. The module will be taught as part of the expansion of the Process Technology Science Lab to a full year science course for 11 and 12 grades. (See Faculty Guides [ONE](#) and [TWO](#).)

Regis University

- Hired a full-time bilingual Enrollment Counselor;
- Collateral materials developed in both English and Spanish for the Business Technology Management Degree (BTM);
- Fully functional web-based advising and support rolled out across the College of Professional Studies;
- Developed many relationships and performed outreach events for the Hispanic Community;
- Completed all BTM course development;
- Increased BTM enrollment to 47 students (far exceeding goal of 15);
- Initiated two projects with the WIRED budget modification funds: Math 101 Online Workshop and Latino Portal web site;
- Awarded seven Hispanic students scholarships from leveraged funds (Daniel's Fund);
- Completed articulation agreement with one Front Range community college (CCA) and continued working on several others;
- Installed and configured Accuplacer testing system;
- Increased annual enrolment of Hispanic students by 17% (target is 25%).

Thompson School District (TSD)

- The superintendent, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, and two teachers completed the final two days of the 5-day training in Math-in-CTE. At the training session, the Colorado Community College System announced its support for the Math-in-CTE pilot. TSD has proposed recommended commitments to the Thompson Board of Education regarding expenditures for a planned two-year math implementation which has been influenced by work conducted under this grant.
- A Geometry in Construction seminar for teachers at Mt. View High School promoted interest in the contextualized approach to math, and TSD is recommending funding in the 2008-2009 budget to allow a two member team of teachers from Mt. View High School to teach a Geometry in Construction class at Loveland high under the mentoring of the current teachers. This will allow TSD to expand Geometry in Construction to Mt. View in 2009-2010.
- Implemented a math software program in several high schools and in one middle school through a district effort, and provided training and support for 9th grade academies in each of TSD's high schools focused on improving students' math and literacy skills, developing better work habits, and developing personal connections with a significant adult. This process has been coordinated with the International Center for Leadership in Education's Successful Practices Network.
- 16 gifted and talented teachers/administrators received critical thinking training, 11 participated in leadership training for gifted and talented work, and 13 participated in training for flexible grouping for gifted and talented students.
- Two new teachers at Loveland High School trained to teach hands-on construction/business classes. Two Geometry in Construction teachers were trained through the National Center for Career and Technical Education to support multiple

Math-in-CTE classes at Thompson and within a consortium of Front Range school districts.

- Introductory training provided for two teachers from Mountain View High School in Geometry in Construction, and monthly Geometry in Construction seminars conducted for seven teachers at Loveland High. TSD has recommended to the Board of Education funding of two teachers from Mountain View to teach a section of Geometry in Construction next year under the mentorship of the Loveland teachers.
- Two teachers trained in Project Lead The Way at Berthoud and Mt. View High Schools.
- The teacher funded on Special Assignment to expand critical thinking training continued to meet with seven schools throughout the quarter.
- 15 TSD students at Berthoud High School are participating in dual credit courses in science and math through Aims Community College during the 2007-2008 school year. 62 TSD students are taking College Composition I and 32 are taking College Composition II. Since Berthoud High is a small school that has some difficulty funding AP courses, these numbers indicate that the partnership may be paying dividends in areas other than science and math.

University of Denver

- Completed curriculum development for summer camp and high school implementation. 122 students completed training on the DU campus.
- 60 student participants anticipated for Summer 2008 camp.
- 93 high School students from partner schools were trained this quarter. A projected 200 more students from partner schools will be trained by April 25th.
- To date, 18 (of 32 total) teachers have been trained to deliver engineering curriculum, for which they will earn 3 graduate credits. DU is also working to obtain career development accreditation for the program for teachers in Douglas and Denver Counties.
- Project evaluation to assess enhanced STEM skills and matriculation into community college or university has been completed for students at the Gold Crown Foundation and for freshmen students at the university level. Castle View High School has completed partial assessments addressing the issue of college and student interest in engineering. Assessments are in progress at Montebello High School and Denver School of Science and Technology.
- One confirmed camper has applied to an undergraduate engineering program.
- One student from Montebello High School has been accepted to the engineering program at the Colorado School of Mines.
- The recruitment process of students for the Summer 2008 sessions is successfully underway (www.du.edu/secs/moe).
- Student participant exam data from summer exit exams for meeting skills outcomes (percentage correct):
 - Robotics 71.4%,
 - Mechanics/Materials 66.2%,
 - Computers 61.9%
 - Aerospace 64.6%.
- Data from the first year engineering course broken down into subject area are as follows: Aerospace 51% and Mechanics/Materials 61.4%.

SECTION III: CHALLENGES to PROJECT PROGRESS

This section provides an opportunity to highlight challenges and barriers that may slow project progress as well as any actions that are being taken to address challenges and barriers. ETA is fully committed to providing support to WIRED grantees to help them successfully achieve the goals and objectives of their project. To that end, please describe any specific technical assistance (TA) needs that you have currently or anticipate in the future in this section. Examples of TA may include: requesting assistance connecting to the workforce investment system, creating innovation networks, receiving clarification on grant management requirements, or requesting advice on leveraging third-party resources.

Contracting

The lengthy contracting process continues to be an issue for sub-grantees and other contracted programs. However, it was determined that CDLE would take responsibility for contracting directly with WBS for four of the ten Workforce Innovations Round 1 subgrants awarded this quarter. Metro Denver WIRED Initiative will contract with the other six Round 1 subgrantees. Almost all of these are already fully executed. Modification of the CDLE-OED and OED-Metro Denver EDC master contracts to account for the additional year no-cost extension and change in scope of work, deliverables and budgets in PY3 and PY4 should be completed by next quarter.

Partner Participation

Several of the WIRED industry coordinators and panel conveners continue to report challenges in retaining active interest from industry and education partners during the period between developing recommendations for future WIRED activity, and implementation. However, the formation of the four “Solutions Teams” (referred to in Section 1) has proved a successful vehicle for re-engaging the participation of previous WIRED panel members, and generating interest and participation among new WIRED contacts.

Challenges Identified by Subgrantees:

Complete reports are included in each subgrantee’s individual quarterly report, which can be accessed [by clicking here](#). The following is a summary of the main challenges identified by JumpStart subgrantees during the quarter.

Community College of Denver (CCD)

- **WIA Requirements:** CCD continues to experience difficulty recruiting WIA students into its program. It has held many meetings with the Office of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development (DWD) in an attempt to develop new pathways for WIA clients to enroll in CCD, and CCD Aerospace students to enroll in WIA. Though the WIA component was originally written into the WIRED grant as a mechanism to provide tuition support for Aerospace students, this mechanism has failed due to:
 - Ineligibility of existing CCD students for WIA funding
 - ITAs requiring program accreditation through Navigator, and a training charge to be introduced for the Aerospace Systems technology Skills Training (non-currently exists)
 - Lack of qualified candidates recruited by DWDCCD is heavily recruiting from the WIA Youth for its summer program, so numbers may potentially increase (although the program is free so there remains no use for the ITAs). However CCD reports that in terms of achieving the goals and objectives of its WIRED grant, the WIA requirement is more of a hindrance than a catalyst.

- **Citizenship Status Collection:** CCD has (as has every sub-grantee) been instructed to collect the Citizenship Form (Exhibit E) from all program participants. The large number of participants CCD works with, together with the large range of degrees of involvement has resulted in varying success in collecting forms from every student. CCD has been advised that Citizenship Forms must be collected from students who benefit directly from grant funding who are to be counted in program numbers. Wherever possible, CCD is also encouraged to collect Citizenship Forms from Students who are indirectly impacted by JSA's work that involves leveraging/improving existing programs, instigating new programs with different partners. CCD will identify numbers of students indirectly impacted by WIRED for whom it has not been possible to collect Citizenship Forms. CCD will also encourage student participants to register on Connecting Colorado to facilitate the collection of citizenship information.
- **Grant Logistics:** CCD reports the time needed to meet of the reporting requirements of the WIRED grant (WIRED audit, the 3rd Quarter Report, the budget amendment process, and the leverage fund request) has restricted the time spent on completing grant objectives during this past quarter.

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

- Providing the VHS NetCourse Instructional Methodologies (NIM) online course has been a challenge. One teacher from Brighton High School has enrolled, but other teachers at partner high schools were not able to commit to the time required to complete the ten week long online course during the school year. In addition to the time commitment, some of the teachers did not get the full support from school administration.
- Student participation in the online mathematics of electricity course is another challenge for CAEL. In some cases, the students' participation rate is low due to the high school not providing class time during the normal school hours in their school day. In this case, in addition to the students' regular scheduled daily classes, they need to schedule additional time to complete the online mathematics of electricity course and some students are having a difficulty managing their time to complete all of their assignments in a timely manner.
- Xcel and IBEW 111's Joint Diversity team has faced some challenges with securing all the resources required, such as a sufficient number of employees willing to work with a summer intern, to hire a full 30 high school students for the Job Shadow summer 2008 program. CAEL is waiting to learn how many positions will actually be available.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

- Many of the training opportunities originally proposed for the JAG's JumpStart grant were not offered by JAG during 2007, or JAG-Colorado was unable to take advantage of them due to the timing of hiring staff.
- Cash flow issues remain a concern for JAG, due to the reimbursement structure of the JumpStart grant. JAG reports addressing this problem by invoicing frequently and the situation has been helped by the prompt payment of invoices by WIRED's accounting specialist.
- JAG has had success working with the IT industry especially and to some extent with Energy Industry contacts. Contacts with Aerospace and Bioscience have proved more challenging, though Specialists have succeeded in engaging a number of guest speakers.

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

- **Greeley 6/Weld 6:** MESA has continued to experience difficulties in recruiting the Greeley school district. Despite positive indications during meetings, conversations, emails, this has

not happened. However, MESA and will be open to provide opportunities for the high under-represented student population in their district if individual schools request.

Regis University

- The Regis University JumpStart program has been challenged by the general downturn of enrollment experienced by the University as a whole. However, Regis's enrollment estimates for the coming year are promising.

Thompson School District (TSD)

- TSD reports its greatest challenge to project progress has been the resistance to organizational change, in particular: 1) people's desire at all levels of the organization to continue doing what they know how to do best and to assume that someone or something else needs to change and 2) the deep complexity of structural, philosophical, and political "givens" that must be confronted in order to implement a more rigorous and relevant curriculum. TSD has experienced outright resistance to the Geometry and Construction program from multiple levels of the organization. The Math-in-CTE is also meeting resistance from CTE/electives teachers who see it as jeopardizing the way they do business currently.
- With the impending change in superintendent leadership brought about by Superintendent Dan Johnson's retirement, there will be some natural pause in the momentum toward many of these projects. They have been built into the fabric of the organization, but they may become more segmented and less systemic in nature than they were designed to become as a result of this grant.

University of Denver (DU)

- DU sees its main challenges in sustaining the program within its partner high schools, and adding to the teacher training and equipment in the second year. It is addressing these issues by focusing teacher recruitment for the 2008 camp to be only from the four partners that implemented the program in the 2007-2008 academic year.
- Comments from participating partners:

Denver School of Science and Technology:

"The hardest part about implementing the robotics curriculum is that we only meet for 50 minutes 3 times a week. It seems like by the time the kids start building and getting into things it's almost time to start cleaning up."

"The other labs haven't been incorporated due to the fact that we teach physics to 9th graders and camp content is beyond the level of many of our students. The problem is having to differentiate among our students and exclude some from participating. I am recommending that our new 12th grade physics/engineering teacher attend the camp or build in some of the camp curriculum into the regular curriculum."

Gold Crown Foundation:

"Our biggest challenge during the implementation period was getting our members to show up consistently. The majority of the robotics program participants were recruited directly from our drop in after school program, the Computer Clubhouse. Because our program is drop in, many members don't associate our program with set schedule (ie. committing to attend robotics every Thursday for eight weeks). We started with 12 participants, and by the end of the program we were down to 6. A few participants had trouble with getting transportation to the Field House, while others had scheduling conflicts that required them to leave the program early. Although we lost some members before the completion of the program, we gain other "drop-in"

participants throughout the program who were able to gain exposure to the robotics.”

Montebello High School:

Teachers felt they would have benefited from, and made more progress, through better prior training and hands-on experience with the lab work.

SECTION IV: PROMISING INNOVATION PROCESSES and SUCCESS STORIES

This section provides the grantee an opportunity to illustrate the positive effects that the initiative is having on regional economic transformation.

A. Promising Approaches, Processes, and Lessons Learned

As applicable, describe any promising approaches, innovative processes, and lessons learned to date. *The discussion can revolve around the following elements, among others relevant to your regional strategy: (1) project implementation; (2) project administration and management; (3) new and innovative solutions to economic and workforce development challenges; (4) strategic partnership relationships; (5) leveraging resources; (6) sustainability; and (7) replication.*

WIRED Bio Interest Group (BIG)

The WIRED Bio Interest Group, a special interest/information sharing group among bio-interested WIRED regions, continues to develop, with the WIRED Bioscience Industry Coordinator directing its communication activities. WIRED BIG has continued to hold monthly telephone conference calls for information sharing and to discuss a WIRED BIG group meeting agenda (around the topic of best practice) for the WIRED Policy Academy in Boston May 1-2 . The Coordinator distributed a BIG Group best practice word document template for reporting activity at the meeting.

WIRED Solutions Teams

As note in Section I (B) of this report, WIRED Industry Coordinators have continued to develop the “Solutions Forum” concept for smaller-scale WIRED investments to fulfill WIRED Initiative goals. The Four Solutions Teams will meet monthly (May-September 2008), and will be convened by WIRED’s Aerospace, Bioscience and Energy Coordinators and WIRED’s Higher Education Panel Convener. Each Team will be co-chaired by a WIRED partner, and will address the following scopes of work (based on recommendations identified by the WIRED Leadership Council):

1) Connecting to Industry

- Develop ways in which information and access to internships, externships, apprenticeships and similar work-based experiences can be accessed by students, teachers, incumbent workers, out-of-school-youth, etc.
- Develop policies to provide incentives to:
 - Higher education institutions for retaining graduates in Colorado,
 - Support collaboration between academics and industry, and
 - Encourage individuals from industry to go into academia.
- Foster the creation of long-term partnerships between industry, education and the public workforce system.
- Promote connections among entrepreneurs in the targeted industry clusters.

2) Growing Our Own

- Stimulate K-12 and higher education students’ engagement in STEM, as well as business skills (e.g. critical thinking, teamwork, presentation).
- Support initiatives that promote a more rigorous K-12 STEM education.
- Promote the development or replication of program/s that will increase the number of students who graduate from high school.
- Promote partnerships between the public workforce system’s youth programs and high schools.

- Foster development of Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers.
- Address training needs of out-of-school youth.
- Work with Small Business Development Centers on Youth Biz initiative to encourage K-12 students to explore small business ownership in the targeted industries.
- Increase use and replication of existing models that support multiple career pathways to employment in target industries.

3) Optimizing Today's Workforce

- Identify and develop programs – or partner with existing programs, special projects and grants – to provide employment and training resources for untapped sources of talent (e.g. ex-military, “Boomers,” incumbent workers, unemployed/underemployed workers, ex-offenders, underrepresented populations, etc.).
- Create recruitment programs to attract these untapped sources of talent to targeted industries.
- Increase target industries’ use of region’s Workforce Development system.
- Increase use and replication of existing models that support multiple career pathways to employment in target industries.

4) Metro Denver 2010

- Begin process of identifying entities/partnerships/networks to sustain WIRED work after grant ends.
- Identify and leverage existing and/or secure new source/s of funding to provide sustainable support to this successor entity.
- Address any policy issues impacting target industries, education, and/or workforce, and identify policy initiatives and appropriate parties for moving initiatives forward.

Promising Approaches, Processes and Lessons Learned from Subgrantees:

Full details are included in each subgrantee’s individual quarterly report, which can be accessed [by clicking here](#). The following section highlights key promising approaches, processes and lessons learned identified by JumpStart subgrantees during the quarter.

Community College of Aurora (CCA)

- Nicole Buyck, a teacher in Cherry Creek Schools, has taken one course in Spring semester and intends to complete the Biotech certificate program as a step toward establishing a Biotech program at her high-school.
- CCA is entering into partnership with Castleview High School to offer concurrent enrollment for Castleview Biotech courses, so that their students will receive credit for CCA’s “Intro to Biotech” class by taking that class.
- The Colorado BioScience Association’s Education Committee voted to use proceeds from CBSA’s annual golf tournament to provide two paid internships to teachers who have participated in CCA’s WIRED project so that they may develop a better understanding of the needs/workings of the bioscience industry and share their experiences with students in the future. Four teachers submitted applications to participate and two will be selected in April.
- Due to the enormous popularity of the CCA WIRED Bioscience project lab experiment kit distribution at the five districts in the grant, CCA President Linda Bowman has approved CCA’s Science Department to continue the workshop this summer at no cost to teachers (CCA will scholarship them). CCA will be requesting a no-cost extension for the remaining

grant funding to cover the cost of the workshop and teacher stipends to attend. UC Denver has agreed to continue to offer graduate credit for the workshop.

- David Mayorga, CEO of Global Quality Assurance, served on both the WIRED Round Two Feasibility Committee and as an interviewee for the Bioscience DVD. As a result of CCA's relationship (initiated through WIRED), David has proposed the production of an on-line class to teach basics of quality assurance to CCA students interested in pursuing a career in the biotech industry. CCA is currently seeking a funder for the project.

Community College of Denver (CCD)

- **Wind Tunnels:** CCD proposes to purchase two wind tunnels, bringing one stationary tunnel to its Auraria campus and a small portable wind tunnel with wing cutter to be utilized by MESA's advisors in numerous high schools, the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES), and CCD's summer program. Curriculum and projects will be developed surrounding the wind tunnel for both high school and college students. The wind tunnel will not only be an asset to a wide range of classes within the aerospace curriculum, but will also be a focal point bringing student groups such as CAPBES and MESA onto the Auraria campus.
- **Interdisciplinary Aerospace Projects:** The WIRED Satellite project has generated much excitement at CCD and Metro State College of Denver among students, instructors and administrators. Numerous Academic Deans have expressed interest in institutionalizing the Interdisciplinary Aerospace Project model, so increasing numbers of students will be impacted in future years. One lesson learned from CCD's first attempt at this type of project is that the numerous sub-projects need to be included within the framework of courses. Where the sub-project is an assessed portion of a course, it is much easier to get student involvement (as opposed to relying on extracurricular involvement from students, which is the case with the Machining and Welding program currently). Beyond student participation, at a pedagogical level, it is a superior model if a student's assessed coursework is connected with experiential opportunities that simulate the practices of industry.
- **CCD Campus Connection:** As part of JSA's marketing strategy, the *CCD Campus Connection* – a student newspaper – will produce a feature article on the students, activities, and opportunities of the Aerospace program at CCD.
- **Introduction to High Powered Rocketry:** Based on the success of Jim Moravec's Astronomy 102 course, CCD anticipates that his "Introduction to High Powered Rocketry" inter-term course will be a great opportunity inspire students and connect them with experiential learning Aerospace projects. It is also the precursor to continued rocketry courses and larger, more sophisticated rocket launches.
- **PSEO and CSMARTS, Astronomy:** With the success of attracting PSEO students to Astronomy 102 during the Spring 2008 semester, CCD aims to expand the number of PSEO students involved with Aerospace courses. For the Fall 2008 semester, CCD will recruit PSEO students for both Astronomy and for CSMARTS.

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

- In an effort to obtain feedback on its online courses, CAEL developed a student and site coordinator evaluation to assess both the on-site coordinator and the students' perspective of the online courses. These assessments will help CAEL make improvements in the program. CAEL will be providing these evaluations to both the site coordinators and the students at the end of the program.
- Through its on-going career connection activities, CAEL scheduled a female engineer from Xcel Energy to provide a presentation on energy generation to two groups of students in

- CAEL's involvement in Xcel Energy/IBEW 111 Joint Diversity meetings has been extensive. One of the main purposes of the Joint Diversity team is to coordinate the high school career connection activities. CAEL's participation has been influential in the planning of the career connection activities, i.e., career presentations, Xcel Energy career day, and the job shadowing.

Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST)

- DSST reports that creating a successful high school internship program takes a great deal of pre-planning and leg work in order to establish partnerships with organizations. Industry partners need to be willing to provide a mentor to take the time to supervise and guide a high school student through a meaningful 12-week internship and this is a time commitment and risk on their part. However, DSST has also learned that if students perform well and provide good projects for the industry partners, businesses start to instigate requests for interns. Providing training for the interns and the mentor prior to the internship starting has been critical in setting clear expectations and standards at the outset.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

- A number of JAG Specialists are planning, or are engaged with, other entities in planning career fairs for their schools. These opportunities will allow the entire student bodies at JAG partner schools to explore career opportunities. As a school-based program dedicated to personal development and workforce preparation for at-risk youth, JAG emphasized the following elements of success for Colorado students:
 1. A positive relationship with an involved adult
 2. Membership in a student-led organization
 3. Nationally developed employability skills curriculum
 4. Partnerships among schools, community agencies, parents, and employers
 5. Work-based and community service learning activities
 6. Ongoing activities designed to connect students with employment leading to careers and postsecondary education opportunities
 7. Twelve months of intensive follow-up services post-graduation
 8. Accountability in the form of a national web-based data management system that allows JAG to track data on students served, services delivered, and outcomes achieved

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

- MESA's continued alliance with the Rocky Mountain Middle School Math and Science Partnership (RMMSMSP) has provided more exposure for Colorado MESA through participation in the upcoming STEMpalooza event in October, where MESA will be showcased.
- Plans to collaborate with the *National Renewal Energy Laboratory (NREL)* for delivering two WEBINARs on renewable energy have been revised to develop a presentation that MESA can publish on the web. This approach will provide more exposure and opportunities for outreach, by having the material available to the teachers when needed. MESA also plans to film the presentation and provide it on the web also.

Regis University

- Regis has found that providing marketing material specific to the BTM program outside its traditional university marketing program has helped increase its new BTM program enrollment. In addition, in order to build a successful recruitment program, a successful retention program needs to be in place. This includes the following best practices:
 - Enhancing Math and English support and tutoring
 - More education/information about financial support
 - Faculty and peer mentoring
 - Self-identity/cultural support
 - Family support and involvement
 - Community support and involvement (especially in the case of Hispanics)
 - Increased collaboration and outreach with local community colleges

Successful programs for recruitment and retention need to be university/school based partnerships that start early in the individuals' higher education schooling process, involve families, include enculturation information, and provide discipline specific mentoring programs.

B. Sharing "Success Stories"

As applicable, highlight any "success stories" resulting from WIRED activities. For example, these stories may be about a new business start-up, an individual participant moving from unemployment to a successful career in a high-growth industry, or other relevant successes. We ask that you include a photo with the story as appropriate and ensure that the business entity or participant has granted express written permission for use of the story.

Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education/Lumina Foundation for Education Award

The implementation of the NGA Colorado STEM Centers grant continues to generate successful outcomes. The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education/Lumina Foundation for Education award to the Colorado Department of Higher Education to identify policy solutions to deal with challenges to higher education success of the adult is a new success story. The capacity to envisage and implement these projects can be directly traced to the WIRED Higher Education and K12 panels.

Success Stories from JumpStart Grant Program Activity:

Community College of Denver (CCD)

- Instructor Jose Lopez and the group of nine students started their site visit in the GeoEye boardroom, where they listened to the history of GeoEye and an overview of its current satellite operations. GeoEye has several satellites orbiting the Earth that the company uses to take pictures, including the Orbview-2, Geoeye-1, and Ikonos satellites. The different satellites complement each other in technical capacity. [Click here for the full story.](#)
- Metro State and Community College of Denver have partnered to build a brand new, state of the art STK Lab on the Auraria campus. "STK is where you want to go; it is the industry standard," asserts Jim Benedict, an engineer at Northrop Grumman working in tactical analysis. For students interested in a career in the Aerospace field, proficiency in the use of STK is incredibly important. [Click here for the full story.](#)

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

- Comments from some of the students that attended the career presentations:
 - The process of how electricity is made is interesting.
 - Nuclear power can be safe.
 - Energy keeps me warm at night.
 - I learned how the lights in our house work.
 - I learned that power plants release clean air back into the air.
 - Xcel Energy is really interested in helping the environment.
 - Working for this industry pays a lot.
 - If you want to do this for a career, you would need to be good in math and science.
 - I took a course through CAEL and I know most of this information.

Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST)

- Evan White worked at Junior Achievement and assisted with a fundraising event for the organization. He also created a database of collateral media material for them. The work experience turned him around and helped him to realize importance of college and school, rather than a life spent playing video games.
- Melanie Lindhal spent her internship with an emergency room doctor, Scott Bentz, M.D., and fully experienced life in an urban emergency room setting. She now plans to pursue a career in medicine.
- Luke Gallione worked with Mortenson Construction building a micro solar panel and worked on a grant to get solar panels for DSST's new middle school.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

- Bryan Archbell is a student at Arvada High School. Bryan is in foster care and must rely on friends for transportation to extracurricular activities such as JAG events, church, and social events. Bryan was elected President of his Career Association and attended the JAG-Colorado Leadership Development Conference in October 2007 at the YMCA of the Rockies. Bryan has an intense fear of heights, which he overcame after three attempts at the high ropes. Bryan interviewed for the MWH Global internship. MWH staff had such a hard time deciding between him and the eventual intern that they tried to find another position for him in the company. Bryan says of the JAG program, "Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) has taught me the importance of being professional and how to be prepared for my future life. The program has also helped me train for important interviews, and because of this program, I now understand how to interact in an interview. JAG benefits students by helping them become aware of the real world."
- Vanessa Mirabal is a sophomore at Standley Lake High School. She came to the JAG program with a history of disciplinary infractions and low academic performance. Through her participation in JAG, Vanessa has been exposed to a number of occupations, discovering that she has an interest in information technology. Vanessa was the student selected as an intern at MWH Global, which she started in March, and has become an ad hoc spokesperson for JAG-Colorado, speaking at a Jefferson County School Board meeting March 6 and at the Arvada Rotary March 26.

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

- NIKE Fridays: MESA collaborated with DYDI and EAST High School to create "Nike Fridays". Several students were interested in MESA, but were apprehensive to join an established group. A new group was created to attract students using the Nike Shoe Design

Contest. This is an introduction to MESA and will serve as a feeder to the regular program and as a stand alone program. At least 20 students attended the first meeting.

- Choices Challenges and Images (CCI): Michele Towers, University of Colorado Center Director, opened opportunities to CCI, a primarily African American Charter School in Denver Public Schools, to recruit more African Americans students in MESA. They will also compete in the upcoming MESA Middle School competitions.



- America's School: MESA developed a new relationship with Jared Polis' New America School, which seeks to extend the benefits of English literacy and a high school liberal arts education to immigrant your adults and families in Colorado. The students will compete in our Spring High School Jamboree Competition at the Colorado School of Mines.



Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)

RRCC's [Power Generation video](#), featuring students and power generation employers is now available.

University of Denver

- One student from Montebello High School has been accepted to an engineering program and the Colorado School of Mines.
- One of the campers has already matriculated to an undergraduate program starting Fall 2008
- For Denver School of Science and Technology, this elective has now become a feeder program for their after-school robotics team that competes in the FIRST competition. It builds enough basic skills so students feel comfortable in trying to work on bigger robots.