



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

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## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces the Work in New Mexico Career Clusters Guidebook**

ALBUQUERQUE – Today, Governor Bill Richardson unveiled the Work in New Mexico Career Clusters Guidebook, which was created by the Governor’s Workforce Coordination and Oversight Committee to address the disconnect between the state and federal dollars being spent on workforce training here in New Mexico.

“This guidebook is going to be the bible for job seekers,” stated Governor Bill Richardson. “This simple guide outlines where the jobs are and what skills are needed to get these jobs. It is our goal to have this in the hands of everyone who wants to work in New Mexico.”

“We are identifying our high-growth industries, defining the skilled labor they need, and evaluating the training and education each job requires,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Success will no longer be measured by just earning a diploma. It will be measured by giving the students the skills they need to succeed in a career.”

In 2004, Governor Richardson established the Office of Workforce Training and Development. To support the efforts of this new department the Governor created a Workforce Coordination and Oversight Committee to help better align the state’s education and workforce development programs with the occupational demands of the future economy of New Mexico. This initiative is part of Governor Bill Richardson’s efforts to lower New Mexico’s high school drop out rate by providing career choices and opportunities after graduation.

“Somewhere along the line it became a dishonorable choice not to pursue a 4 year degree,” stated Terri Cole, President of Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Workforce Coordination and Oversight Committee. “We hope this system highlights that there is a career in New Mexico for everyone – where you can pursue a PhD, pursue an apprenticeship in the trades or earn an industry certificate and earn a living for your family.”

The committee has designed a career clusters system, which directs students and workers into training and education that gives them the right skills to be successful in today’s workplace and the committee has identified seven broad business sectors that are growing, and will need a workforce in industries that New Mexico wants to grow. The career clusters initiative creates the pipeline that provides highly qualified workers for New Mexico companies in these industry clusters:

- Arts and Entertainment
- Business Services
- Communications and Information
- Energy and Environmental Technologies
- Engineering, Construction and Manufacturing
- Health and Biosciences
- Hospitality and Tourism

“With this report, the state is making tremendous strides to educate New Mexicans on how to pursue various careers,” stated Vern Raburn, CEO of Eclipse Aviation. “It is great to see the New Mexico state government take the initiative to bring together the various different workforce agencies and entities across the state. I commend Governor Bill Richardson, Terri Cole and the entire Workforce Coordination and Oversight Committee for all of their hard work.”

Economists predict that in the future as many as 70% of all jobs will require higher education, and the Department of Labor estimates that 90% of current high-growth, high-demand jobs require education beyond high school. New Mexico has recognized the need to put in place a system that will help adults already in the workforce to receive additional college-level certificate or degree training that they need to compete for new jobs. And its public education and higher education departments are working together to implement a high school reform strategy that will ensure that all students are prepared for college-level learning and the demands of the modern workplace.

Members of the Workforce Coordination and Oversight Committee (COC) include:

Terri L. Cole, Chair; Len Malry, acting executive director, Office of Workforce Training and Development; Rick Homans, cabinet secretary, Department of Economic Development; Beverlee McClure, cabinet secretary, Higher Education Department; Conroy Chino, cabinet secretary, Department of Labor; Veronica Garcia, cabinet secretary, Public Education Department; Katie Falls, deputy cabinet secretary, Human Services Department; Danny Sandoval, deputy cabinet secretary, Department of Children, Youth and Families; Tom Battin, chairman of the Board of State National Bank, Ruidoso; Norman Becker, a consultant and former president and CEO of Lovelace Sandia Health System; Debbie Johnson, CEO of Rick Johnson Company; Joseph Semprevivo, CEO of Joseph’s Lite Cookies, Deming; Rebecca Rowley, Clovis Community College Interim President; Sue Cleveland, Rio Rancho Schools Superintendent; Chris Romero, President IUPAT; State Representative Brian Moore, State Senator Phil Griego, and President Pro-Tempore, Ben D. Altamirano

The Work in New Mexico Career Clusters Guidebook report can be downloaded at [www.workinnewmexico.gov](http://www.workinnewmexico.gov)