



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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27 August 2009

Dear Colorado School District Leadership:

At the August 13, 2009 State Board meeting, Mr. Randy Dalton, Colorado State Coordinator of the Business and Education Talent Readiness Project (“The BETR Project”) presented an overview to the State Board on the Project’s programs and objectives. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and statewide Workforce Regions developed the BETR Project in May of 2007 to meet the demands of the state’s established and emerging industries. Those industries recognize that Colorado needs to grow its own highly-qualified workforce. This requires the connecting of PreK-12, higher education, workforce development, parents and businesses. To achieve this goal, the BETR Project has implemented five main programs:

- “Tuesday Tours”, which give teachers the opportunity to gain educational credit for visiting a business and learning about what services or goods that business produces, and describes the types of employment and skills needed by the highest qualified workers in that position. These tours are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month for 6 months during the school year.
- “REELBiz”, which provides an opportunity for businesses to be filmed and explains what job skills are needed, especially in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) area. These videos are about 10 minutes long and teachers, parents, and students can access them on-line to learn what it takes to be successful.
- “PREP Videos” are made available to students, which are videos of people who have overcome some kind of adversity. Their purpose is to encourage youth who may have experienced a similar hardship.
- “STEMWORKS” is an online mentoring system which will provide an opportunity for retirees, current workers, and current higher education students to mentor protégés, including students, parents and teachers. This mentoring will assist the protégé in gaining a greater understanding of the skills needed in various lines of work.
- Online shared lesson plans are provided by teachers from around the state to describe the methods used to teach the messages learned through visits to business.

Bob Schaffer
Chairman
4th Congressional District

Randy DeHoff
Vice-Chairman
6th Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff
7th Congressional District

Peggy Littleton
5th Congressional District

Marcia Neal
3rd Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District

The State Board was impressed with Mr. Dalton's presentation, and noted that these resources are made available free of charge. The State Board concluded that this innovative opportunity may assist educators, students and parents to more fully understand the real-world needs of business. The BETR Project also supports the State Board's goal to prepare Colorado's students for the business needs of the twenty-first century. The State Board of Education is pleased to write this letter of support for the BETR Project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Schaffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Schaffer
Chairman
State Board of Education

BS/mfn