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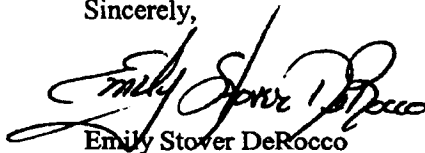
Dear Colleague:

The shift of the workforce investment system to become more demand-driven requires that programs have more and better workforce information. For example, a sharper focus on state and local economic and labor market dynamics, high-growth industries, and emerging skill requirements, and an understanding of employer needs are essential to prepare and connect workers for current and future jobs. The foundation for this sharper focus must be a system of labor market and workforce information that better informs decisions of all those engaged in the workforce investment and One-Stop service delivery system.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has developed a strategy and new business model for effecting significant changes in the current labor market and workforce information system. As a first step in developing the strategy, ETA commissioned this environmental scan to examine documented customer demand for workforce information and to identify some of the most common and widely consulted sources and types of labor market and workforce information available from public, private, and research institution providers. The scan also identifies an array of Internet-based information delivery systems to illustrate examples of improved and innovative access to workforce information.

The environmental scan is not intended to provide an exhaustive inventory of all information sources, but it is a solid sampling of the types of information currently available. I hope that you will find this document to be informative and a departure point for researching and identifying other sources of relevant labor market and workforce information to inform your decision making.

Sincerely,



Emily Stover DeRocco