

## WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE DISCUSSION INFORMATION: STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) DIRECTORS

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**Date:** January 4, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30PM EST

**Phone:** 1-888-850-4523 Passcode: 842348

**Link:** <http://spra.na5.acrobat.com/leadershipdiscussion/>

**Overview:** Kristin Wolff, Alison Gash, and Trace Elms will facilitate a discussion of workforce leadership with State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Directors and the US Department of Labor. This discussion will take place using a web-based environment (Adobe Connect) and a conference phone line.

**Goal:** We seek to gather information and insight from participants about workforce leadership. We're looking for examples, challenges, and opportunities as well as specific actions participants are taking to build workforce leadership capacity within their own programs and agencies, boards, or states and communities, and what they think would help them in this effort.

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### Key Questions to Guide Discussion:

*Introductions/Testing web-environment:* Participants will be asked to enter the following information:

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Geographic location
- One leadership quality essential for today's workforce leaders

1. In your view, what are the *primary goals* of workforce development?

In your experience, have these goals (or their importance) changed over time? If so, how and why? (discuss)

2. What are the key roles *you/your staff* play in workforce development? Please list as many roles as you can in one minute. (chat)

Where do you feel your leadership in workforce development is *most important? Most effective?* (discuss)

3. Thinking broadly – across business, government, and third-sectors – *what other organizations, agencies, or people do you see playing critical leadership roles in workforce development in your state?* We are looking for either *organizations* (colleges or non-profit organizations, for example) or *people*, such as leaders associated with a banks, NGOs, workforce, or economic development agencies. (chat)

What is the *most important* work they are doing? (discuss)

4. Name a significant workforce development policy/legislative initiative that has made a positive difference in your state/community. (chat)

In this case, *who were the key leaders and why were they effective?* What leadership skills/knowledge were essential to the success of this initiative? (discuss)

5. In your view, what are the *three most important things workforce leaders need to know/what skills* do they need to have to play an effective role in workforce development today? (chat)

6. What is being done to *build leaders/leadership capacity on workforce issues* in your state/community? (chat)

Are there organizations, institutions or networks workforce leaders your state look to for help (peer networks, training programs, consultants, etc.)? What else do you need in order to build leadership capacity in your state/communities? (discuss)

7. If you could do *one thing to improve workforce leadership* at any level, what would it be (and at what level)? (chat)

#### **Optional Questions** (Time/opportunity-permitting)

8. What does it mean to be a leader in workforce development? How have expectations of workforce/community leaders changed during your career? (discuss)

9. What trends have you observed in your tenure that will be important for emerging workforce leaders to understand? (discuss)

#### **Poll**

Finally, we will ask participants to complete a brief poll asking which of the following ways they would like to continue the conversation:

- E-mail project updates (via NCSL, etc.)
- Podcasts or videos
- Webinars
- Narrative reports
- Face-to-face presentations
- Peer-to-peer discussion sessions
- Blogs and other social media/
- Social networks (e.g. LinkedIn)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_