



# **New Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) Data Sharing Agreement Discussion Forum**



*November 28, 2006  
3:00 PM EST*

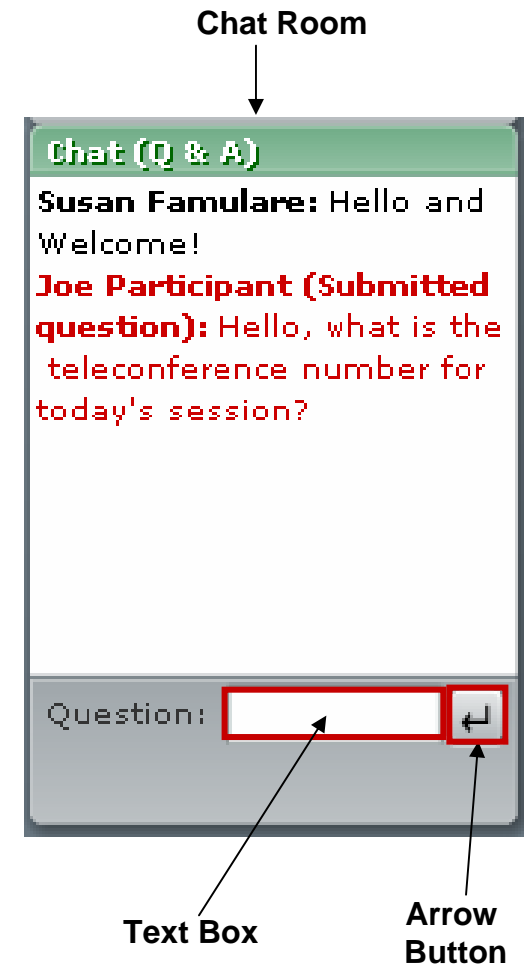
The screenshot shows a virtual classroom interface with a top menu bar containing 'Meeting' and 'Help'. Below the menu, there are two tabs: 'WF31\_Dial\_In\_Pod.jpg' and 'Manufacturing Competency\_Framework\_20060629\_.ppt'. The main content area is split into three vertical sections. The leftmost section is a sidebar with a 'workforce<sup>e3</sup>one' logo and contact information, an 'Attendee List (145)' section showing names like Gary Gonzalez, Kim Stein, and Pam Fruqoli, and a 'Chat (Q & A)' section with a message from Gary Gonzalez. The middle section is a large red area with a faint 'workforce<sup>e3</sup>one' watermark. The rightmost section is a presentation slide titled 'Advanced Manufacturing Competency Model Development' with the subtitle 'Tools for Talent Development' and a logo for the 'U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration'. Three yellow callout boxes with arrows point to the 'Attendee List', 'Chat Room', and 'Presentation Slide Area'.

**Attendee List**

**Chat Room**

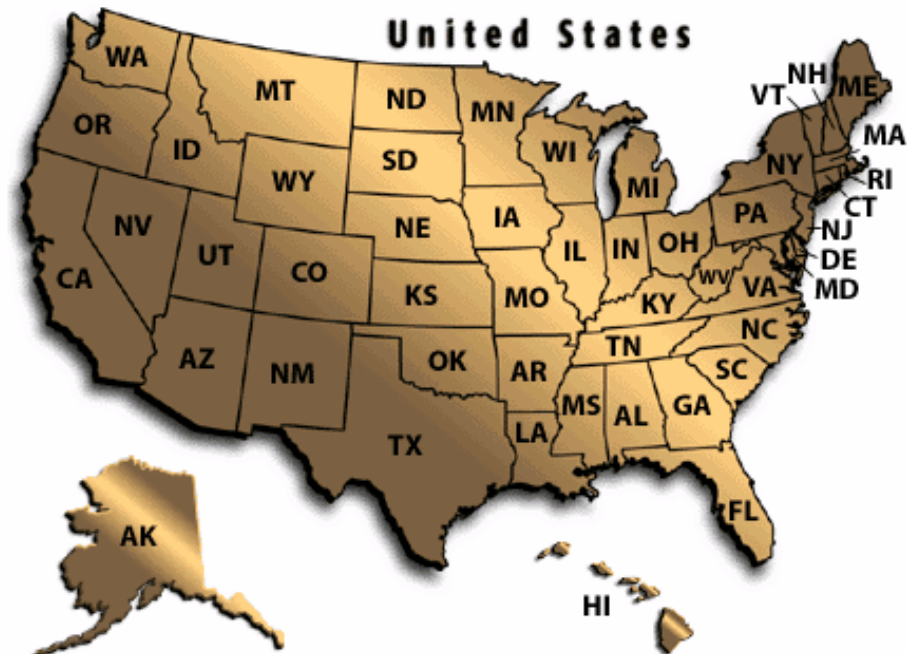
**Presentation Slide Area**

- Enter questions into the Chat Room (located in lower left corner of the virtual classroom).
- To submit a question or comment, type the question in the **text box** and click the **arrow button**.
- Your name, the text “(Submitted Question)” and your question will appear in **red** on your screen, indicating successful submission.
- Questions are directly transmitted to presenters – other participants will not see your questions.



In the chat room,  
please type:

- Your name
- The name of your organization
- Your State
- Whether you are a PACIA or SUIA representative.



Please enter this information for each individual in the room who is attending the session with you today.

- Materials and presentation slides used in this webinar will be available for download from the **Research & Information** section of the Workforce<sup>3</sup> One Webspace.
- All webinars are recorded and available for viewing after the event. Recorded webinars will be posted to the **Multimedia Information/ Self-Paced Learning** section of the Workforce<sup>3</sup> One Webspace.

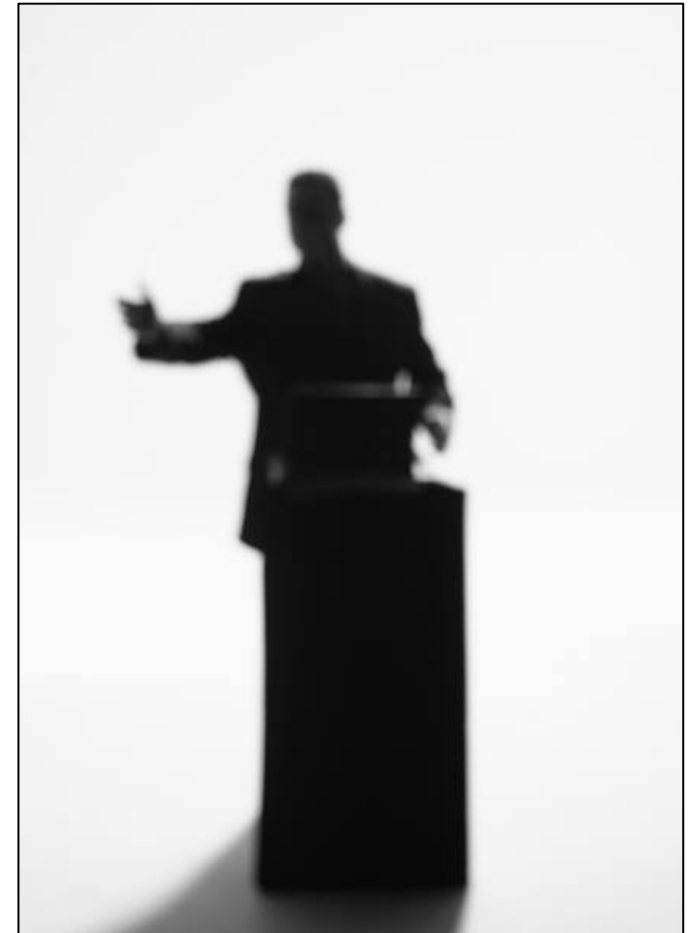


Greg Hitchcock

Team Leader, Division of System  
Accomplishments and Accountability,  
Office of Performance and Technology,  
Employment and Training Administration

## Presenters:

- **John R. Beverly, III**, Administrator, Office of Performance and Technology, Employment and Training Administration
- **Karen Staha**, Director, Division of System Accomplishments and Accountability, Office of Performance and Technology, Employment and Training Administration



John R. Beverly, III  
Administrator,  
Office of Performance and Technology,  
Employment and Training Administration



- Opportunity for States to pose questions about the new WRIS Data Sharing Agreement
- Opportunity for ETA to gain insight about where States are in the process of signing the Agreement to re-engage in participation in the WRIS

<b>November 7, 2006</b>	ETA sent States a new WRIS Data Sharing Agreement (by FedEx)
<b>November 28, 2006</b>	ETA hosts webinar forum with States about new Agreement
<b>December 31, 2006</b>	Target date for States to sign new Agreement and submit to ETA through their regional office

- New WRIS Data Sharing Agreement
- Side-by-side comparison of the previous and newly proposed Agreements
- List of Frequently Asked Questions

*\*\*All documents available on ETA's website at:*

[www.doleta.gov/performance/WRIS.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/performance/WRIS.cfm)

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**Q:** What will be the governance structure for the WRIS?

**A:** Resolution of WRIS issues that were previously mediated through the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) will **not** be unilaterally resolved by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). ETA will consult with States on the best approach to structuring collaboration on resolving WRIS issues. The consultation will seek to identify the most cost effective and administratively efficient approach to issue resolution.

**Q:** How will WRIS policy be developed and approved?

**A:** The WRIS will continue to operate under policies previously established under NASWA's stewardship. Any changes to existing policies would be made through the new governance vehicle once established.

**Q:** How will monitoring be performed to ensure proper use of the WRIS data?

**A:** States will continue to engage in self-monitoring, using the self-assessment process they used in the past. In addition, periodic on-site monitoring will be conducted by ETA regional offices to ensure data confidentiality is maintained. These reviews will be conducted as part of the ongoing reviews of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs. A schedule of reviews and the results will be posted on the WRIS section of [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov) ([www.doleta.gov/performance/WRIS.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/performance/WRIS.cfm)) and arrangements will be able to be made to allow interested States to participate in the portion of State reviews that pertain to confidentiality compliance if desired.



**Q:** Will confidentiality compliance reviews be conducted, and if so, by whom?

**A:** The answer to this question is covered in the response to FAQ #3.



**Q:** Who will decide what is an appropriate research purpose for which data obtained through the WRIS can be used?

**A:** Per subparagraph 5 of paragraph C of Section V of the WRIS Data Sharing Agreement, ETA will develop and coordinate a process for the distribution of research proposals to the impacted WRIS states for consideration. ETA will initially subject the research and evaluation proposals and justifications (which must specify the uses to which the WRIS data will be put) against the “direct benefit to one or more of the programs described in subparagraphs 1 through 4 of paragraph C in Section VI of the Agreement” criteria. If a proposal appears to meet the criteria, ETA will convene the states impacted by the proposal to put them in touch with the proposing researcher to negotiate appropriate means to provide them with data as appropriate and allowable.

**Q:** Who will be the WRIS Operations Contractor?

**A:** The WRIS infrastructure continues to be operated through the same cooperative agreement with the State of Maryland that is used to operate the Interstate Communications Network (ICON). Maryland currently contracts with Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) to operate the ICON and the WRIS.

**Q:** Has the Agreement been reviewed by ETA's Unemployment Insurance (UI) staff for conformity with UI laws in the Federal-State partnership and the new confidentiality regulations?

**A:** ETA's UI program staff was consulted during the drafting of the new WRIS Data Sharing Agreement and provisions referencing the new UI confidentiality regulations at 20 CFR Part 603 were inserted into the Agreement where needed to be consistent with the regulations, per the guidance of UI program staff and comments provided by the Department's Office of the Solicitor during the Agreement drafting process.

**Q:** How will the Agreement be amended once signed?

**A:** Once the Agreement has been signed, it will be subject to the amendment procedures specified in Section IX of the WRIS Data Sharing Agreement. Any amendments that are adopted through the procedures detailed in Section IX, (i.e., providing wage record data to local areas/Workforce Investment Boards, or expanding use of the data to other programs), will be documented in an amendment to the Agreement that will be signed by both a State's SUIA and PACIA officials and ETA, in the same manner as the original Agreement.

## Which of the following governance options appeals to your State?

1. One representative per State to an overarching advisory group
2. Two representatives per State (one to a policy advisory group and one to a technical advisory group)
3. Two to three State representatives to participate in an overarching advisory group per ETA region



### What are the significant issues that must be resolved before your State can ratify the Agreement?

1. None
2. Governance issues
3. Confidentiality Compliance Reviews
4. Other (please specify the specific issue in the chat room along with the State you are representing)



**Will your state be able to sign the new WRIS Data Sharing Agreement by December 31, 2006?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not Sure

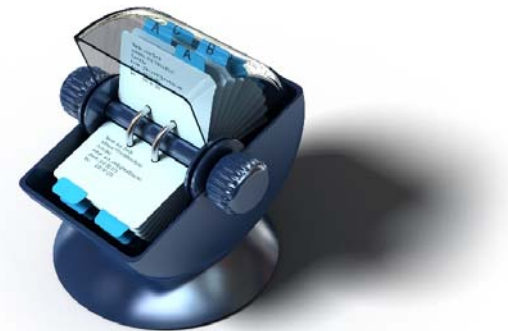






**Please enter your questions into the Chat Room!**

- Primary contacts in ETA:
  - **John R. Beverly, III**, Administrator, Office of Performance and Technology
  - **Karen Staha**, Director, Division of System Accomplishments and Accountability
    - Phone: 202-693-3420
    - Email: [wris@dol.gov](mailto:wris@dol.gov)
  - ETA Regional Administrator



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## Share Content

Would you like to contribute your content database?

Workforce<sup>3</sup> One is a tool created by YOU and for YOU – the success of critical contributions made by Community Members. Share your success more with others! We welcome suggestions for **documents to share**, any **relevant news** or information that you would care to share with your system colleagues.

### Frequently Asked Questions :

1. What are acceptable items to share for posting to the Workforce 3 One site?
2. What type of documents can I share with the community?
3. What is the maximum file size permitted for submission?
4. What happens during the document approval process?

### What type of content would you like to share?

Web Address  Document

Title :

\*Please enter the title as you would like it to appear on the Workforce<sup>3</sup> One Integrated Webpage.

Url :

If you are submitting a website, please type the address of that site in the URL field.

You can also e-mail us your ideas! [Click here](#)

Simply log on to Workforce<sup>3</sup> One and look for the “Share Content Icon” in red located on the left side of your screen.

Share your demand-driven strategic plans, models, innovations, resources, and ideas!

**Submit your content to Workforce<sup>3</sup> One at:**  
**<http://www.workforce3one.org/members/sections/suggest/>**

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## Workforce<sup>3</sup> One:

- Communities of practice
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- Register for updates!



## For more information about the workforce investment system:

- Visit [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org)
- Call 1-877-US2-JOBS



**Thanks!**

[www.workforce3one.org](http://www.workforce3one.org)