

The President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

President George W. Bush laid out the main objectives of his ground-breaking approach for closing skills gaps during remarks to operating engineers in Ohio on Labor Day 2003: "The High Growth Job Training Initiative in this administration is aiming to give workers the skills they need to realize their dreams. It's a collaborative effort to help team up people with the jobs that are needed, to make sure that the changes in our economy don't leave people behind."

This Presidential initiative is a strategic effort to prepare workers to take advantage of new and increasing job opportunities in high growth, high demand and economically vital sectors of the American economy. Fields like health care, information technology, and advanced manufacturing have jobs and solid career paths left untaken due to a lack of people qualified to fill them. The High Growth Job Training Initiative targets worker training and career development resources toward helping workers gain the skills they need to build successful careers in these and other growing industries.

Partnerships are the foundation of this initiative. Partnerships include governors, economic development leaders, business and industry, and educators, who work collaboratively to develop solutions to the workforce challenges and labor shortages facing these industries.

- Industry representatives define and design workforce solutions, e.g., getting career and skill information to young people charting their education and career courses; accessing new labor pools; defining core competencies for success on the job; training workers; building the capacity of educational institutions to train workers.
- Community colleges and other education providers assist in developing courses and curricula to build skills and train workers.
- The public workforce system accesses human capital (youth, unemployed and dislocated workers) and places prepared workers in jobs.

To put this approach into action, the High Growth Job Training Initiative identified 12 sectors that fit within the following criteria: (1) they are projected to add substantial numbers of new jobs to the economy or affect the growth of other industries; or (2) they are existing or emerging businesses being transformed by technology and innovation requiring new skills sets for workers. The sectors include:

- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Biotechnology
- Geospatial Technology
- Automotive
- Retail
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Construction
- Transportation
- Hospitality
- Financial Services
- Energy

