

The President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

In remarks to operating engineers on Labor Day 2003, President Bush laid out his groundbreaking approach for closing skills gaps: "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."

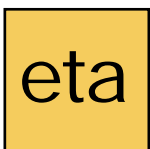
This initiative represents the first step in a series of actions that the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has taken to engage business, education and the workforce investment system to work together to develop solutions to the workforce challenges facing high growth industries. Fields like health care, information technology, and advanced manufacturing have jobs and solid career paths left open due to a lack of people qualified to fill them. The High Growth Job Training Initiative targets education and skills development resources toward helping workers gain the skills they need to build successful careers in these and other growing industries.

To put this approach into action, ETA identified 14 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:

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

The High Growth Job Training Initiative continues to invest in national models and demonstrations of workforce solutions in these sectors designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- Targeted investment of workforce development resources and support for private and public sector partnerships to ensure the development of workers' skills in occupations where industry has identified needs.
- Increased integration of community and technical college efforts with business and the public workforce system activities to meet the skills training needs of high growth industries.



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- Increased opportunities for employers to use apprenticeship training as skills development methodology, combining on-the-job training and academics, to ensure a pipeline of skilled workers.
- Providing workers with paths to career enhancing opportunities in high growth occupations.

By expanding the local workforce system's capacity to be market-driven, responsive to local economic needs, and a contributor to the economic well-being of the community, the Employment and Training Administration is promoting workforce quality, enhanced productivity, and economic competitiveness.

During 2006, the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative's evolution will continue along competitive lines established in 2005 with the health care and biotechnology sector competition. This year competitions are expected for talent development investments in the advanced manufacturing, construction, energy, and homeland security industry sectors.

