WIRED UPDATE
June 30, 2006

November 18 – Governor's Letters were sent out announcing the WIRED Initiative SGA. Each Governor was invited to submit up to 3 proposals.

January 5 – Due date for WIRED applications. ETA began two-tiered paneling process. ETA formed WIRED Policy and Project Teams. ETA put world class technical assistance on contract: Council on Competitiveness, New Economy Strategies, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, Arizona State University with the logistics support of MH West.

January 31 – WIRED Collaborative workspace hosted by Arizona State University goes LIVE.

February 1 – The 13 winning WIRED regions were announced. ETA assigned senior executives to each region. WIRED materials were developed including a WIRED fact sheet, a one-pager on each of the regions, a one-pager on the technical assistance team. These materials, along with others, were the beginning of the WIRED folder, which is available in the Office of Outreach.

WIRED Regions:
Coastal Maine – 11 counties including Augusta, Bangor, & Brunswick

Northeast Pennsylvania – 9 counties including Scranton, Wilkes-Barre,

Allentown, and Reading

Upstate New York – 9 counties including Rochester and Finger Lakes region

Piedmont Triad North Carolina – 12 counties including Greensboro & Winston-Salem

Mid-Michigan – 13 counties including Lansing, Flint, and Saginaw

Western Michigan – 7 counties including Grand Rapids

Florida's Great Northwest– 16 counties including Tallahassee and Pensacola

Western Alabama & Eastern Mississippi – 17 counties in Ala. including

Tuscaloosa and Selma & 19 counties in Miss. including Meridian and Starkville

North Central Indiana – 14 counties including Lafayette

Greater Kansas City – 10 counties in Missouri and 8 counties in Kansas including Topeka

Denver Metro Region – 8 counties including Denver, Boulder, and Ft. Collins

Central & Eastern Montana – 32 counties covering mostly rural areas

California Innovation Corridor– 13 counties including Oakland, Los Angeles, and San Diego

February 22 – The partners from each of the 13 WIRED regions were invited to Washington, DC for a Town Hall meeting. Highlights included: U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao; Deborah Wince-Smith, President, Council on Competitiveness; Allan Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Santanu Baruah, Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, U.S. Department of Commerce; Thomas Luce, Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education.

Early March – ETA federal agency liaisons named. Assistant Secretary Emily DeRocco sent letters to 9 colleague Assistant Secretaries asking them to partner on WIRED and name a liaison in their respective offices to help map their federal resources into WIRED regions. These federal resource maps will later be shared at the WIRED academy and made available on the collaborative workspace.

Agriculture/Rural Development
Commerce (Economic Development)
Commerce (International Trade Administration)
Education
Interior
Small Business Administration
Housing and Urban Development
Transportation
Energy
Defense

Health and Human Services
National Science Foundation (added June 2006)

Early March – ETA also named ETA Issue Area experts in 14 cross-cutting issue areas. These "experts" are researching their respective areas, collecting information, creating working groups and posting their "tool kits" on the shared collaborative workspace.

Adult Literacy
K – 12
New Organization Structures
Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs)
New Market Development
Entrepreneurship
Math & Science Education (STEM)
Cluster Management
Leadership Academies
Long Term Sustainability
Small Business Development
Career Ladders
Philanthropic
Investor/Angel Networks

Mid-March – ETA Assistant Secretary sent a letter to the Governors of the next 13 highest scoring WIRED proposals inviting them to participate in the Virtual 14th Region. All accepted the invitation. The invitation offered a $100,000 planning grant, coaching sessions with the Resource Group, a day-to-day ETA liaison, access to the shared documents, federal resource mapping and issue area tool kit material on the collaborative workspace, outreach regarding future ETA SGAs or other agency RFPs, the opportunity to leverage and partner with other federal agencies, participation in WIRED Academies and Workforce Innovations.

WIRED Virtual 14th Region:

Eastern Puerto Rico – 7 rural municipalities

Southwestern Connecticut – Fairfield County including Bridgeport

Northern New Jersey – 8 counties stretching from NYC to Pennsylvania border

Greater Philadelphia – 7 counties in Penn, 5 counties in NJ, 1 county in Del.

Southern & Eastern Ohio – 29 counties stretching from Cincinnati suburbs nearly to Youngstown

Greater Detroit – 9 counties surrounding Detroit

No. Alabama & So. Tennessee – 12 counties in Ala. & 1 in Tenn. Including Huntsville

Southwestern Indiana – 9 counties including Evansville

Greater Milwaukee – 7 counties surrounding Milwaukee including Racine & Kenosha

Eastern Arkansas – 12 counties across the Mississippi from Memphis

South Texas – 4 counties including Brownsville

Greater Salt Lake City – Wasatch Range including Provo

Northern California – 21 counties stretching from above Sacramento to Oregon border

Beginning March 16 and ending May 26, Assistant Secretary Emily DeRocco, ETA senior executives appointed as regional leads, ETA's new and emerging leaders appointed as 2nds to the regions, and the technical assistance team or Resource Team traveled to each of the 13 WIRED regions for a 1 ½ day "kick off" meeting. A template agenda was developed to maintain consistency across all regional kick off meetings. Most, if not all, had a media event with elected federal, state and/or local officials. The rest of the agenda was a "roll up the shirt sleeves" discussion about the regional demographics, their proposal, the partners at the table and those that were missing and the most important topic of regional transformation—the goal of WIRED. Below is the WIRED road tour.

March 16-17 Destin, FL
March 23-24 Los Angeles, CA
March 27-28 Greensboro, NC
March 29-30 Tuscaloosa, AL
April 17-18 Lansing and Flint, MI
April 19-20 Grand Rapids, MI
April 24-25 Augusta, ME
May 1-2 Bethlehem, PA
May 8-9 Kokomo, IN
May 10-11 Rochester, NY
May 15-16 Denver, CO
May 16-18 Billings, MT
May 24-25 Kansas City, MO

June 12-13 – WIRED's First All-Region Academy was held in Atlanta, GA at Georgia Tech. Two hundred regional leaders and partners from the original 13 WIRED regions and the 13 regions in the Virtual 14th region participated in interactive discussions on 5 key, cross-cutting issues: Defining Success/Performance Metrics, Collaborative Leadership & Social Networking, Regional Communications and Media Strategies, Entrepreneurship, and Trade as a Business Tool.   Issue area tool kits and federal resource maps are made available to original 13 WIRED regions at academy.

Coming up July 11-13, the original 13 WIRED regions and the 13 Virtual WIRED regions will be participating in Workforce Innovations.