



## WIRED UPDATE February 2007

Beginning last fall, the Assistant Secretary and 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation leads began site visits to the 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation WIRED Regions. Below is the WIRED Road Tour:

October 20 Arkansas Delta, West Memphis, AR  
November 15-16 Central-Eastern Puerto Rico, Caguas, PR  
November 30 Southeastern WI, Milwaukee, WI  
December 5 Southeastern MI, Detroit, MI  
December 6 Southwest CT, Bridgeport, CT  
December 14 Northern, CA, Chico, CA  
January 18 Tennessee Valley, Huntsville, AL

On January 17, we announced a \$65 million investment in the 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation WIRED Regions. These regions include: Central-Eastern Puerto Rico; Southwestern Connecticut; Northern New Jersey; Delaware Valley; Appalachian Ohio; Southeast Michigan; Tennessee Valley; Southwest Indiana; Southeastern Wisconsin; Arkansas Delta; Rio Grande Valley; Wasatch Range; and Northern California. We had added this set of regions--then known as the Virtual Regions--to the WIRED community in April 2006. At that time, they each received \$100,000 planning grants, were given access to tools and resources, and were invited to participate in WIRED activities. With January's award, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation WIRED Regions are becoming fully engaged in the WIRED process and we look forward to learning from their experiences, as well as those of all WIRED Regions as we strive to incorporate talent development into regional economic development strategies.

In addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation announcement, WIRED reached another milestone in January. Last week, we launched the WIRED Web site. Located at [www.doleta.gov/wired](http://www.doleta.gov/wired), the site provides a myriad of information and tools, including PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, the WIRED Framework, and 5-step WIRED process. This site is a valuable resource for WIRED regions, the workforce system and its education and industry partners.

February 5 – The Administration released its FY08 Budget Proposal. The entire ETA Budget Package can be found at <http://www.doleta.gov/BudgetFY08.cfm>.

Feb 13 - We released our WIRED Initiative Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of WIRED regions. Each Governor may submit up to two applications. The grant award is \$5 million over the course of three years. Applications are due by April 13, 2007. The SGA can be found on our website at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

March 1-2 – WIRED's 3<sup>rd</sup> All-Region Academy will be held in Dallas, TX. A portion of the WIRED Academy agenda will be dedicated to entrepreneurship in support of the Kauffman Foundation's Entrepreneurship Week USA, which is February 26 through March 2.

In March and April, the WIRED Road tour continues with trips to Northern New Jersey, Southwestern Indiana, Delaware Valley and Wasatch Range, UT.