

Federal Agency Partners Support WIRED

In addition to seed funding made available through the Employment & Training Administration's (ETA) WIRED Initiative, WIRED regions have received funding, technical assistance and support from a growing number of federal agency partners. These federal partners, their resources, and their expertise are a critically important part of a region's economic and workforce assets. Through WIRED, regions are leveraging and aligning federal resources to support their regional economic and workforce vision.

Federal partners supporting the efforts of WIRED regions include:

➤ **U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development**

Two WIRED regions participate in a partnership with USDA focusing on rural development. The partnerships address a variety of workforce development issues including implementing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning strategies in rural communities and learning labs on rural development.

➤ **U.S. Department of Commerce**

The Department of Commerce supports WIRED regions through investments and programs that align with the regions' overall economic and workforce strategy. Leaders in the agency's regional offices are also counted among the multiple partners leading workforce and economic development efforts in WIRED regions. They include:

○ **Economic Development Agency**

EDA has been supportive of WIRED since the beginning. EDA has funded WIRED regions to enhance or build necessary infrastructure, encourage entrepreneurship, support regional economic development collaborations and efforts related to innovation and competitiveness.

○ **International Trade Agency**

In May, leaders and partners from WIRED regions participated in the Trade Winds Forum hosted by ITA. The forum brought together foreign businesses and representatives from WIRED regions to discuss prospects for future commercial partnerships.

○ **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)**

Eight WIRED regions participate in a pilot project with NIST's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, in which industry

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experts are located in each state to help meet the challenges of technology transfer and transition activities.

- **U.S. Department of Defense**
Three WIRED regions are impacted by recent BRAC activities and receive support from both DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment and existing DoD programs such as Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) funding. DoD is also actively engaged in STEM issues via its existing STARBASE education initiative.
- **U.S. Department of Energy**
Thirteen WIRED regions are partnering with DOE National Laboratories to increase WIRED region access to federally funded technologies at federal laboratories. In April, the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Golden, CO hosted these regions for a two-day renewable and biofuels institute.
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**
HUD is involved in ongoing efforts to identify activities and areas that would support regional economic development plans.
- **U.S. Department of Transportation**
Representatives of Generation I and II regions were engaged by DOT at a WIRED Academy meeting designed to explore mutually beneficial partnerships and projects.
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
WIRED regions are partnering with EPA and will receive additional support for research and development of biofuels. The agency's resources include intellectual capital, SBIR funds and direct support of commercialization activities. EPA also intends to provide a formal mapping of its resources to specific WIRED regions' needs and opportunities.
- **NASA**
Three WIRED regions receive support from NASA including the use of laboratories for knowledge creation, regional flight centers for research, and the development of NASA-driven degree programs in aerospace.



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- **National Institutes of Health**
NIH and DOL officials have begun working to connect WIRED regions with healthcare in their portfolios to opportunities for expanding local talent development strategies.
- **National Science Foundation**
Three WIRED regions are partnering with NSF and will receive special projects grants from the NSF Advanced Technology Education (ATE) program, through which each WIRED region receives extensive mentoring from ATE experts.

For more information regarding federal participation in WIRED regions, please visit www.doleta.gov/wired.

