ARIZONA SKILL STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

An Executive Briefing

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Career & Technical Education

ASU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Workforce Education & Development Office
(WEDO)

Arizona Department of Education in partnership with Arizona State University

Partnerships

► **ADE and ASU with**

- Arizona Industry/CECi

- VTECS/Pitsco

- University of Arizona

Impetus for Action

► **State mandate**

- Arizona Joint Technological District (JTED) 2006 legislation requires that CTE programs lead to industry certification by Spring 2008.

► **Federal legislation**

- Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006 requires that CTE programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels lead to industry certification.

The Vision

- Statewide
- Assessments based on industry-validated standards
- Valued by stakeholders – business, education, students, and parents
- Online delivery with "real time" feedback
- Comprehensive
- End-of-Program
- Expandable
- Credentials students
- No cost to students

Key Decisions

► **Technical Knowledge and Skills**
  - occupational specific knowledge and skills

► **Cluster Knowledge and Skills**
  - pathway knowledge and skills

► **Employability Knowledge**
  - across clusters and pathways

Key Decisions

► **Delivery System**

- 21st Century Delivery
- Online – across the state
- In "real time" with immediate feedback to
  - student
  - teacher
  - school
  - district/JTED
  - stakeholders
- Written assessments
  - multiple choice (initially)
  - scenarios
  - simultaneous/streaming video
- Move toward performance/authentic assessment

Organization

► **The Arizona Skill Standards Commission**

- appointed by State Superintendent
- top business/industry leaders
- preside over the system

► **Stakeholder Committee**

- appointed by ADE
- teachers/leaders – secondary & postsecondary
- ensures system usability – makes recommendations

Organization

► **Business/Industry Associations**
  - certification/licensure
  - "seal of approval"

► **Incumbent Worker Validation Committees**
  - validate employability, pathway, and technical standards

► **Item Bank Development Committees**
  - teachers, leaders, and industry

Action

► **Process of continuous improvement**
- validate standards
- adapt, adopt, develop items
- input items into online delivery system
- pilot assessments
- analyze data
- refine assessments

► **Expand by launching process into**
- new and emerging pathways
- other prioritized pathways

Results

▶ **Product to date**

- 32 pathways and technical skill sets
- 13 pilot assessments to test connectivity and item efficacy
  - Accounting and Related Services
    - 10 sites
    - 51 students
    - 62-item assessment
  - 12 other assessments
    - 100 sites
    - Nearly 4,000 students
    - 80-item assessments

Work-in-progress

► **Analysis of Pilots and Data**
  - post-pilot survey
  - gap analysis on standards and measurement criteria
  - item analysis – difficulty index
  - "next steps" designed to address
    - deficiencies
    - modifications
    - additions to item bank
    - expansion of item types to scenarios, etc., as appropriate

► **Pilot of Employability Skills Assessment**
  - validate with Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
  - launch at ACTE AZ Conference (July 2008)

Action Ahead

► **Continuing "work-in-progress" on 19 other assessments**

► **Reassembling committees to implement "next steps" on 13 pilot assessments**

► **Establishing standards for new and emerging STEM areas**
  - Engineering
  - Bioscience

Action Ahead

▶ **<u>Initializing</u> the process for additional pathways**

- Drafting and Design Technology
- Fashion Design and Merchandising
- Interior Design and Merchandising
- Precision Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Education Professions

Action Ongoing

► **5 ½ units of academic credit – English, mathematics, science, and economics**

► **Crosswalk of higher math (Algebra II+) in**

- Drafting and Design Technology
- three other pathways by September 2008

► **Report on CTE academic embeddedness**

- Governor's P-20 Committee
- CTE Advisory Board
- State Board of Education

Immediate Goals

► **Address pathways**

- 13 pathways – Summer 2008+
- additional pathways – Fall 1008/Spring 2009

► **Implement assessments**

- 13 pathways – Fall 2008
- pilots in 12-15 additional targeted pathways – Fall 2008
- assessments in 20 programs – Spring 2009