

News Release



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Assistant Secretary of Labor DeRocco Participates in Kickoff of California Innovation Corridor's WIRED Initiative

SAN FRANCISCO — Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco visited El Segundo today to participate in the California Innovation Corridor's kickoff of the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) initiative.

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Victoria Bradshaw; California Space Authority Executive Director Andrea Seastrand; Microcosm Inc. President Dr. James Wertz, and Assistant Secretary for Workforce Strategies of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Jaime Fall joined DeRocco for the event.

“California’s Innovation Corridor was chosen to participate in this national initiative because of its excellent potential to develop the region’s workforce talent and create high-skill, high-wage jobs for its citizens,” said DeRocco. “With WIRED, the state’s rich history of aerospace innovation will continue to change the way Americans do business in the classroom, on the launch pad and in space. WIRED is an expression of President Bush’s belief that developing and applying the American people’s skills in productive and innovative ways are critical to keeping our nation competitive in the global economy.”

California’s Innovation Corridor WIRED project addresses three workforce issues: entrepreneurship development; global competitiveness in manufacturing and the supply chain, and creation of the next generation of innovators and technicians for the aerospace industry.

The California Space Authority (CSA) -- a nonprofit organization representing the state’s space community in the commercial, civil and national security sectors -- will lead the Innovation Corridor project. CSA is the state’s designated Spaceport Authority and works closely with industry, government, academia/education and workforce entities.

On Feb. 1, the department selected California’s Innovation Corridor as one of 13 regions to take part in the \$195 million WIRED initiative as a complement to the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative. Participating regions will be awarded \$15 million over three years.

WIRED aims to expand employment and advancement opportunities for American workers and spur the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities throughout the country. Regions selected for WIRED seek to improve their competitiveness through the transformation of their economies and the systems and structures that support them. Regional economies in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, Florida, Alabama/Mississippi, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Montana and California are participating in WIRED.

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