

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 2007

TO: Ohio Mobility Agenda Roundtable

FROM: Terry Thomas, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Services to Employers

RE: Setting Ohio's Talent Agenda: The Strickland-Fisher Vision

The importance of talent development has never been greater. For Ohio to compete successfully in today's global economy, it must have a world-class, 21st century workforce.

This will require a **demand-driven** workforce development system – supporting sectors of the economy that are growing good jobs at a rapid pace, and engaging aggressively with businesses to support them and build partnerships that bolster the state's economy and its regional economies in areas of strength.

Setting Ohio's Talent Agenda explores specific workforce development issues as they relate to the connection between workforce and economic development. It charts a bold agenda – consistent with the Strickland-Fisher Turnaround Ohio plan and vision:

Ohio will be a leader in talent development – in giving the state's employers a competitive edge by meeting and exceeding their needs for customized, flexible and industry-driven skills training, and in helping workers acquire the knowledge, skills and dispositions that will allow them to get good jobs that pay family-sustainable wages and to succeed in the 21st century global economy.

This vision is reflected in the attached action agenda, which builds on the thinking and recommendations of 20 educators, workforce development professionals and policymakers who gave freely of their time and expertise during the first weeks of 2007. This action agenda is designed to:

- Improve Ohio's ability to meet and exceed employers' and workers' needs.
- Make system innovation and learning a workforce development priority.
- Make better use of Ohio's education and workforce training resources.
- Improve the design and operation of Ohio's talent development system.

Ultimately, the value of this plan will be judged by our success in transforming the words on these pages into action that benefits both Ohio businesses and their employees – and that contributes to the growth of Ohio's economy. I look forward to working with you and would welcome your thoughts on our vision and priorities.