

Top Priorities from the 2005 Governor's Summit Policy Forum Making Nebraska Competitive in the Global Economy

Background: The Governor's Policy Forum took place Nov. 10th, 2005. The goal of the forum was to develop priority issues for the state to address. The results of the forum are being shared with the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board so that board members may make potential policy recommendations to the Governor's Office.

Attendees: Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy, Stan Carpenter, Dennis Baack, Dr. Joseph Mancusi, Jim Linderholm, Dr. Robert Sweeney, Chris Tribsch, Tom Whalen, Ray Weinberg, Butch Lecuona, Connie Eichorn, Dan Mauk and Kim Johanns

Priority Issues:

1. Diversity and Immigration continue to change the landscape of the Nebraska Workforce.
 - Increase the value of education in immigrant populations
 - Literacy Issues
2. Marketing what our state has to offer is pivotal to recruiting and retaining quality workers.
 - Focus on what makes Nebraska unique.
 - Be a trendsetter, instead of benchmarking ourselves to surrounding states.
 - Sell Nebraska to Nebraskans and then let them sell the state.
3. Future Force Nebraska should be given high priority in closing the skills gap.
 - Business, economic development, labor and education need to make sure there are tracks for education to meet the needs of businesses when students graduate.
 - Connect Future Force to the high needs industries
 - Communicate to students that what you major in matters.
 - Expand entrepreneurship
 - Information revolution/ education content

Next Step: The Nebraska Workforce Investment Board, in a policy advisory capacity, is being asked to develop specific action steps to address these issues. Action steps will then be issued to the Governor's Office for consideration.