

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan**  
**Adult Education/Workforce Partnership Group Meeting**  
March 10, 2010

**Meeting Summary**

Meeting attendees:

- Tim Amthor (Pikes Peak Workforce Center)
- Cheri Arfsten (Pikes Peak Community College)
- Mike Boyd (Colorado Technical University)
- Terry Brubaker (Fort Carson)
- Jackie Harriman (DoD State Liaison Office)
- Kate Hatten (Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments)
- Peter Heinz (Colorado Technical University)
- Bill Houth (Webster University)
- Terence Jackson, (Pikes Peak Workforce Center)
- Cynthia Mallet (Troy University)
- James Malm (CSU-Pueblo)
- Ursula Miller-Waldrup (Fort Carson)
- Josh Sidon (BBC Research & Consulting)

**Growth Plan Phase 2 Status**

Dr. Josh Sidon reviewed the draft Adult Education/Workforce section of the Growth Plan developed by BBC Research & Consulting. The latest version of the draft includes only minor changes from the previous version distributed previously via e-mail. The report provides an overview of on- and off-post providers and current and projected demand for adult education for both Soldiers and spouses. The most significant increases in demand are projected for the current time frame, based on the recent troop increases at Fort Carson; modest growth is projected to continue through FY 2013, the time frame for the study. The report also addresses the need for linkages with workforce requirements in the region. Dr. Sidon noted that the purpose of the report is to serve as a tool to help providers meet adult education demands, as well as educate the community about adult education/workforce needs in the region related to Fort Carson growth.

Key issues include the continued need for larger, upgraded educational facilities on-post and additional staffing, as well as the need for more detailed data on military students/spouses and their educational needs/desires. In addition to expectations of continuing increases in enrollments, the group discussed the currently-halted MyCAA program, which is highly demanded by spouses. Because of MyCAA and the post-9/11 GI Bill, there is an increasing number of spouses pursuing training/degrees.

It was noted that Fort Carson's education center now focuses solely on adult/continuing education (as opposed to military training); however, additional language requirements for Soldiers may impact ACES staff. Staffing concerns were also raised, particularly as wait times to see education counselors increase.

Portability of licenses/certification was also discussed. It was noted that, while Colorado is better than many states, additional legislative changes are needed to assist spouses in obtaining employment while stationed in the region.

Recommendations discussed included the need for a larger, upgraded education center on Fort Carson, including examples of creative financing for educational facilities at other installations, such as Fort Hood. Moving programs that are not part of the Education Center's mission out of the current facility was also proposed as an interim, short-term solution to current space limitations.

It is also recommended that schools collect more data on Soldiers, spouses, children and veterans in order to better understand and meet military student needs; mechanisms for data collection discussed included changing requirements of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. It was noted that the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) will conduct a survey in the near future which will include questions about areas of interest related to education. Additionally, the Army Continuing Education System may upgrade its database capabilities, which may assist in collecting better information.

Other recommendations include aligning regional job growth goals with adult education (including separating troops who might stay in the region if job opportunities exist) and pursuing legislation to support career portability, such as recognizing out-of-state licenses for certain professions.

#### **Other Business**

Terence Jackson indicated that the Pikes Peak Workforce Center still has limited funds available as part of the pilot CAA program (which may be an interim solution to the halting of the MyCAA program). However, the funds must be spent by June 2010, with coursework/training completed by September. The PPWFC has requested an extension, but no determination has been made at this point.

The draft report and recommendations will be revised and sent to the group via e-mail for review and comment. A draft of all components of the Growth Plan is expected to be opened for public comment in mid-April and will be publicized at the 16 April Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall. Details on the Town Hall will be sent in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.