

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 2-01
	DATE January 25, 2002

**TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
 ALL STATE WORKER ADJUSTMENT LIAISONS
 ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
 ALL ONE-STOP CENTER SYSTEM LEADS**

FROM: GRACE KILBANE 
Administrator, Office of Workforce Security

SUBJECT: Operational Changes in the Workforce Excellence Network

1. Purpose. (1) To inform the workforce investment system that, as of February 1, 2002, the management of the Workforce Excellence Network will be transferred from the U.S. Department of Labor to the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB); and (2) to inform the workforce investment system that the U.S. Department of Labor continues to be a partner of the Workforce Excellence Network.

2. Background. The Workforce Excellence Network (WEN) was created in January 2000 as a public-private partnership to promote excellence and continuous improvement in the workforce system. Since its inception, WEN has been funded and operated almost entirely by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). ETA initially assumed this major funding and operational role to help launch this important initiative and to provide a smooth transition from the Enterprise and other quality initiatives sponsored by ETA. However, the Planning Committee that developed the blueprint for the Workforce Excellence Network prior to January 2000 and the current group of WEN Stakeholders had a stated goal that WEN should ultimately be independent of DOL and supported by both the public and private sectors of the workforce community, in order to effectively meet the needs of all partner entities.

3. WEN Management Changes. Under its current legislative authority in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), the U.S. Department of Labor issued a grant to transfer the operational support for WEN outside of DOL. Authority for the grant is based on Section 170 of the WIA, which directs the Secretary of Labor to provide, coordinate, and assist in the development of appropriate technical assistance to States and localities under the Act, and to award grants to provide such technical assistance.

NAWB has received a small grant to provide technical assistance and is currently engaged in strategic planning for WEN's future operation. A 12-person WEN Board of Directors has been appointed to provide advice on the operation of the Workforce Excellence Network. The WEN

Board of Directors is composed of six members from the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs and six members from the National Association of Workforce Boards.

4. **Effective Date of Transfer and Contact Information.** NAWB will assume the full leadership and operational responsibility for WEN on February 1, 2002. For a couple of weeks in February, a small staff will be available at DOL to conduct transition activities. After February, the Workforce Excellence Network will no longer be housed in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Robert Knight, President of NAWB, is responsible for fulfilling the scope of work identified in the grant document. William Kamela, Executive Vice President of NAWB, has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director of the Workforce Excellence Network. You may reach Mr. Kamela at the address and telephone number listed below. Contact information for WEN as of February 1 is as follows:

Address: Workforce Excellence Network
1201 New York Avenue, NW; 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202) 289-2930

Website: www.workforce-excellence.net

5. **Action Required.** Please share this Notice with system staff and partners to ensure that interested parties are aware of the management and address changes for the Workforce Excellence Network.

6. **Inquiries.** Questions regarding future operations of the Workforce Excellence Network may be directed to NAWB at (202) 289-2930 or the U.S. Department of Labor at (202) 693-2990.