



July 22, 2009

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to announce the launch of the Workforce Acceleration Grants Program. This program is intended to assist unemployed workers and low-income participants in overcoming the barriers that can hamper educational advancement and job placement.

The Workforce Acceleration Grants Program will use Federal Stimulus funds to cover some unfunded costs of education, including the federally-determined Expected Family Contribution for eligible students. To be eligible for Workforce Acceleration Grants, an applicant must be either an unemployed worker or a low-income adult. Additionally; an applicant must be seeking an Associate Degree or post-secondary certificate that will lead to a high-wage or high-demand occupation.

With the assistance of your financial aid office, this program will help a considerable number of your students with the cost of education, and we seek your assistance to implement this important program. The financial aid administrator will be asked to refer eligible applicants to WorkOne offices and to help determine the unfunded cost of education for each applicant. Grants of up to \$3,000 per academic year will be awarded to eligible applicants.

To further explain the Workforce Acceleration Grants Program, the Department of Workforce Development will host a webinar for financial aid on Wednesday, July 29. The webinar will include both a short presentation about the program and substantial time for questions. Information about the time, web-address, and registration process for the webinar will be forthcoming in a letter and an email to your institution's financial aid administrator.

The Workforce Acceleration Grants Program is certainly an exciting opportunity for Indiana. Today's economic landscape has necessitated exceptional changes in the lives of many Hoosiers, and the Workforce Acceleration Grants Program will help ease the costs of education. I am confident that this program will be a great benefit to both your students and your institution and I sincerely hope that you will strongly encourage your financial aid administrator to participate. I look forward to collaborating with you as we implement this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa L. Voors".

Teresa L. Voors
Commissioner, Indiana Department of Workforce Development