State of Iowa

Executive Department

In The Name and By The Authority of The State of Iowa
Executive Order Number Eighty-eight

WHEREAS, closing the skills gap will secure a more prosperous future for all Iowans; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of our state depends on more skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, many students need more support to meet the expectations of world-class schools and complete 12th grade adequately prepared for college or career training; and

WHEREAS, such support should focus on reducing the socioeconomic, ethnic and racial achievement gaps in elementary and secondary schools and increasing equity in the attainment of a postsecondary degree or other workforce credential; and

WHEREAS, many adults would benefit from additional education or training, including workers with some college credit who want to complete their college degree or another workforce credential; and

WHEREAS, increasing the education and employment of parents or guardians of children living in or near poverty would improve opportunities for their children; and

WHEREAS, many employers throughout Iowa have difficulty hiring enough skilled workers, and Iowa would benefit from better alignment of education, workforce and economic development systems to develop more robust career pathways; and

WHEREAS, it is essential postsecondary institutions produce the credentials employers need and put more Iowans on a path to the middle class and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, declare Iowa will be well-served by establishing the goal of 70 percent of our workforce having education or training beyond high school by the year 2025. This is called the Future Ready Iowa Initiative. To develop and recommend the strategic plan to accomplish this goal, I hereby order the creation of the Governor's Future Ready Iowa Alliance.

1. **Purpose**: The Future Ready Iowa Alliance will develop and recommend a strategic plan to accomplish the Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by the year 2025, including postsecondary degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials. The plan shall be submitted to the Office of the Governor by October 31, 2017.
2. **Organization**: The Alliance shall be comprised of members appointed by the Governor. Each member will serve at the pleasure of the Governor without compensation and in an advisory capacity.
    i. **Members**: The Governor may appoint any of the following individuals to the Alliance:
        1. Representatives committed to strengthening Iowa's workforce to enhance opportunities for students, adults, employers and communities, including but not limited to the following: business and industry; labor; preK-12 and higher education, including the State Board of Education, career-technical education and school counselors; students; apprenticeship programs; vocational rehabilitation programs; veterans programs; student financial aid

agencies; human resources professionals; human services agencies; human rights agencies; public health agencies; economic development organizations; chamber organizations; community leaders; technology associations; workforce boards; nonprofit organizations; and state and local governments.

2. Two members of the Iowa Senate to serve as non-voting, ex-officio members, one majority party member and one minority party member.
3. Two members of the Iowa House of Representatives to serve as non-voting, ex-officio members, one majority party member and one minority party member.
4. Any other individuals that the Governor may appoint.

ii. **Co-chairs**: The Alliance shall be co-chaired by the Lt. Governor of Iowa and another member of the Alliance selected by the Governor. The co-chairs may direct the Alliance to form subcommittees to address particular issues within the mission of the Alliance. The makeup and nature of each subcommittee shall be determined by the co-chairs.

iii. The Department of Iowa Workforce Development, in coordination with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Department of Education, shall provide staff support to the Alliance, as needed, to enable the Alliance to fulfill its responsibilities. All agencies, departments and boards of the State of Iowa shall cooperate fully with the Alliance. The Alliance may seek the expertise and services of individuals and entities outside its membership for research, advice and other needs, as required to accomplish its mission.

3. **Executive Committee**: The Alliance shall be led by an Executive Committee appointed by the Governor. The Executive Committee may include the following members appointed by the Governor, or their designees:
   i. Lt. Governor of the State of Iowa;
   ii. Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority;
   iii. Director of the Iowa Department of Education;
   iv. Director of the Iowa Department of Workforce Development;
   v. Six representatives of employers, including at least one with an apprenticeship program;
   vi. Labor union representative with an apprenticeship program;
   vii. President of one of the Regent institutions;
   viii. President of a community college;
   ix. President of an independent college;
   x. Representative of prekindergarten through 12th grade education;
   xi. Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Regents;
   xii. Executive Director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council; and
   xiii. Any other individuals the Governor may appoint.
4. **Goals and duties**: The Future Ready Alliance shall have the following goals and duties:
   i. Hold regular meetings to develop and recommend a strategic plan by October 31, 2017, to accomplish the goal of 70 percent of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by the year 2025; and
   ii. Determine metrics and benchmarks on a time line to demonstrate progress toward the 70 percent goal. Those key measurements shall include, but not be limited to:
      1. Progress toward reducing the socioeconomic, ethnic and racial achievement gaps in kindergarten through 12th grade and increasing equity in postsecondary enrollment;
      2. Progress toward increasing the percent of traditional-age students and adult learners who earn postsecondary degrees, certificates, or other credentials; and

3. How well post-secondary degrees, certificates and other credentials awarded by Iowa postsecondary institutions align with high-demand job needs, and job-placement rates.

iii. Reach other goals and objectives as requested by the Office of the Governor.

5. This Order shall apply prospectively as of the date of the signing of this Order. This Order shall be interpreted in accordance with all applicable laws. It is not intended to supersede any law or collective bargaining agreement.
6. If any provision of this Order, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions, as applied to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.
7. This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the State of Iowa, its Departments, Agencies, or Political Subdivisions, or its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 29th day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE