

**Joint Resolution on Career Readiness**

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) was created by the state Legislature to provide planning, coordinating, evaluation, and policy analysis for the state training system as a whole and to provide advice to the Governor and the Legislature concerning alignment of the training system in cooperation with the agencies that comprise the state training system and the Washington Student Achievement Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Workforce Board is a unique partnership of business, labor, education, and training organizations dedicated to creating a highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of Washington businesses and workers; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education consists of members both elected by school directors and appointed by the Governor, charged with advocacy and strategic oversight of public education, implementing a standards-based accountability framework, providing leadership in personalizing education and ensuring respect for diverse cultures and abilities, promoting achievement of basic education goals, and articulate with higher education, workforce, and early learning, coordinating and unifying the public education system; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the goals of Basic Education is for every student to develop the knowledge and skills essential to understanding the importance of work and finance; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, citizenship, and gainful employment and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner; and

**WHEREAS**, recent surveys of Washington employers have found that employers struggle to identify and recruit an adequate number of qualified candidates in-state with employability skills and attributes, such as time management, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education and the Workforce Board jointly endorse collaboration to define career readiness and identify policy frameworks that build pathways to economic self-sufficiency for Washington students, while ensuring that employers have access to a skilled workforce;

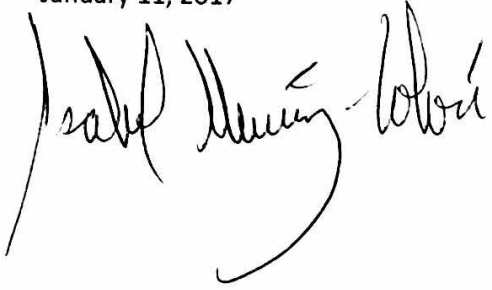

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Workforce Board and the State Board of Education, along with partners and stakeholders, will work to align the education system to support all students becoming career ready by:

- Requesting that the Legislature create and empower a Career Ready Policy Work Group to identify and recommend career readiness learning standards to help guide educators, students and parents in preparing all students for gainful employment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Working together to develop a high school credit-bearing course incorporating High School and Beyond planning, career exploration, career connected learning, and to explore Career and Technical Education equivalency with social studies civics or financial literacy.

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- Focusing advocacy in the upcoming legislative session on the importance of adequately funded career and technical education programs and creating multiple pathways for students to develop skills and achieve economic self-sufficiency

January 11, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Steyer". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, featuring a large, prominent loop at the end.