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Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director

Contact Information:

Margaret Gunter

(334) 242-2204

Margaret.gunter@ache.alabama.gov

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Governor's College and Career Ready Task Force Established in Alabama by Executive Order

An executive order has been signed by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley establishing the Governor's College and Career Ready Task Force, a statewide combination of educators, lawmakers and business leaders who will focus on helping students better prepare for successful careers.

The Governor will chair the Task Force and the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President Pro Tem and the Secretary of Commerce will serve as co-chairs.

The co-chairs will report the status of the Task Force's progress to the Governor's Office as needed or requested and make recommendations to the Governor based on its findings.

"The result is that more students will be college and career ready, and more people will be able to find good, well-paying jobs," said Bentley. "As we continue to strengthen our workforce, that will also help us attract more new companies and more new jobs for the people of Alabama."

The announcement was made at the Shelby County School of Technology, which already offers students a variety of Career Technical Academies. The academies are a strong example of how the education and business communities can work together to produce a more highly-skilled

workforce. The College and Career Ready Task Force will encourage similar partnerships in additional schools throughout Alabama.

The collaborative effort was well-received by the education and business communities.

Alabama's Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield said the work of the task force will compliment Accelerate Alabama – the state's long-term, strategic economic development plan.

“One of the goals of the Accelerate Alabama partnership is to close the gap between the skills employees have and what employers need. This task force will tighten our focus on this goal and make it reality,” said Canfield.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education Executive Director Greg Fitch said the establishment of this task force is in line with the state's current five-year plan for higher education.

“A goal identified in *Forging Strategic Alliances, State Plan for Alabama Higher Education*, emphasizes this type of coordinated partnership to emphasize students becoming successful at all levels of education and exiting the system prepared for the workplace,” said Fitch.