WHEREAS, the quality of the workforce is one of the most important factors in the continued economic growth of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the quality of the workforce is one of the most important factors for all types of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's businesses and industries cannot continue to compete effectively in today's marketplace unless their existing and future employees possess the skills and abilities to cope with demands placed on them by technological changes in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the future productivity and profitability of South Carolina's businesses and industries rests with the ability of our public education and training systems to produce a competitive workforce that possesses the skills and abilities necessary to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of our schools in transitioning youth into the workplace will be dependent upon their ability to link youth development activities with employer and industry strategies for upgrading the skills of their existing workers; and

WHEREAS, the need exists for an equal partnership between labor and education to facilitate the development of programs to address the changing workforce needs of our State's employers; and
WHEREAS, fourteen (14%) percent of people over twenty-five years of age in South Carolina have completed nine years or less of schooling; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three (23%) percent of people over twenty-five years of age in South Carolina who are in the civilian workforce have nine years or less of schooling; and

WHEREAS, thirty-two (32%) percent of South Carolinians over the age of twenty-five have not received a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, those workers who have completed the ninth grade or less represent the population whose jobs are at risk of being changed beyond their ability level and who represent a base of South Carolinians who cannot raise their standard of living and income until they acquire the basic skills needed to improve or remain in their changing jobs; and

WHEREAS, there are three established providers of adult education/literacy programs: literacy councils, adult education, and technical colleges' developmental education; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Employment Security Commission performs the labor exchange function for employers across South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Employment Security Commission serves as the State Administrative Unit for the Job Training Partnership Act overseeing and coordinating the provision of training and services to businesses and citizens across South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, an official effort is necessary to effectively coordinate the design and effective delivery of adult education/literacy services from a variety of service providers throughout South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Initiative on Work Force Excellence was created by Executive Order 88-04 on February 11, 1988.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and laws of this State, I hereby transfer the South Carolina Governor's Initiative on Work Force Excellence (hereinafter known as the "Governor's Initiative for Work Force Excellence") from the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission will be responsible for planning, evaluation, administration, coordinating provision of services, and staff support to the
Governor's Council on Work Force Excellence. This Council is responsible for the overall policy development, long-range plans and recommendations, funding and evaluation of progress.

Further, the Council will be reconstituted to create an equal partnership between labor and education and will include the State Superintendent of Education or their designee, the Commissioner of the State Commission on Higher Education or their designee, the Executive Director of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education or their designee and the Executive Director of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. The Council will be assisted in its role by local business Roundtables who shall be responsible for creating equal partnerships at the local level between employers and education. The Roundtables shall make recommendations for service delivery to the workplace, evaluate the quality of service, identify the needs for additional services, and be advocates for the Initiative's mission.

The Governor shall appoint the members of the Council and the members of each Roundtable and all appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Council shall make annual reports of progress to the Governor at the end of each fiscal year. The Roundtables shall make periodic reports of their progress and recommendations to the Council.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 88-04 IS HEREBY AMENDED.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 90-31 IS HEREBY RESCINDED.


CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
GOVERNOR

JAMES M. MILES
SECRETARY OF STATE