Equipped for the Future
Business and Labor Pioneers

Maine:
National Retail Federation
Aroostook Centre Mall
Sears
J. C. Penney
Forteous
Ruby Tuesday's
Hannaford Bros. Co.
American Pulpmood Association
Maine AFL-CIO

Vermont:
Lamoille Mental Health
Southern Vermont Home Health
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
Rutland Regional Medical Center
Copley Health Systems
Fletcher Allen Health Care
Vermont AFL-CIO
AFT Local 5086

Virginia:
Nabisco Inc., Richmond Facility
Interbake Foods, Inc.
National Fruit Products Company, Inc.
WLR Foods, Inc.
Virginia AFL-CIO
Bakery, Confectionary, and Tobacco Workers
International Union

North Carolina:
Piedmont Triad Center for Advanced Manufacturing
Amp, Inc.
Burckhardt American
Newman Machine Company
National Institute for Metal Working Skills
North Carolina AFL-CIO

Ohio:
Ohio Stamping and Machine
AFSCME Ohio Council 8
Ohio AFL-CIO
Whirlpool Corporation
Horsburgh & Scott Company

Defining what adults need to know and be able to do to be effective workers for the 21st century.

A National Institute for Literacy funded Initiative
Equipped for the Future asked:
What do adults need to achieve the National Education Goal 6?

By the year 2000 every adult American will be literate and possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the right and responsibilities of citizenship.

Adults answered by redefining adult literacy as:
- gaining access to information so they can orient themselves in the world;
- giving voice to ideas, so that they will be heard and can have an impact on the world around them;
- making decisions and acting independently;
- building a bridge to the future, by learning how to learn in order to keep up with the world as it changes.

Equipped for the Future wants to make sure the adult education and training systems enable adults to achieve the above four purposes and become members of a world class workforce.

Effective Workers and Employers know best what it will take to compete in the global economy of today and the future.

Equipped for the Future Development Partners will host feedback sessions with:
- High Performance Workers
- Small and Large Companies
- Employer Associations
- Union Representatives
- Education and Training Providers
- Customers of the Education and Training System
- Other Stakeholders

Session Participants will:
- Provide input to identify skills needed for worker and workplace success
- Keep Equipped for the Future customer-focused
- Contribute to the development of national standards
- Make sure education and training meets worker and employer needs

Participants in Equipped for the Future will:
- Meet and network with others within your industry.
- Position your company or union as a leader in literacy and workforce development initiatives.
- Explore the skills workers need to succeed in the workplace of the future.
- Help shape a new national initiative for the 21st century.
- Influence the direction and effectiveness of the adult education and job training systems.

You have to use tools and systematic thinking. You have to decide on the problem; locate information; analyze whether the information is helpful and will meet the need; and use the resources, tools, and technology necessary to complete the job.
- Maine Worker

You have to communicate -- listen, speak, ask questions, work with others -- to understand the problem. You have to understand the problem and know how to problem-solve in order to solve it.
- Oregon Worker

You organize, you create a vision for the completed project as a way to decide what to do next and what is really important.
- North Carolina Worker