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TO: Chairs Mertz and Thomas  
Economic Stabilization Task Force

DATE: August 7, 2020

FROM: Rorie Watt, City Manager

RE: Workforce Development

A number of States are implementing or exploring workforce development as part of their responses to the COVID19 pandemic. News links include these:

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/coronavirus/gordon-announces-new-scholarship-program-for-workers-impacted-by-covid-19/article\\_74715948-bf31-53a0-a7ff-a8df8de96ff5.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/coronavirus/gordon-announces-new-scholarship-program-for-workers-impacted-by-covid-19/article_74715948-bf31-53a0-a7ff-a8df8de96ff5.html)

<https://www.cbs19news.com/story/42430344/new-scholarship-program-to-help-some-students-impacted-by-covid19>

<https://mha.org/Newsroom/ID/2549/Davenport-University-Offers-New-Scholarship-for-Employees-Affected-by-COVID-19>

The Mayor and I had a very preliminary conversation with interim President Pitney on this topic, and we offered to begin work at the local level. While our focus is on CBJ citizens and on UAS, our hope would be that our efforts could be the beginnings of a template for programs across the State.

As part of our long term recovery strategy, please consider a program that would enable some or all of the following (or other similar concepts):

1. Workforce skill development for unemployed or under-employed
2. Completion of degrees or certificates
3. Workforce training for emerging and ongoing needs including in the fields of health care, health policy, child care, emergency services and technology.