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Ray Uhalde is a Vice President with Jobs For the Future, leading its Washington-based Workforce and Education Policy Group. This newly formed policy and advocacy group focuses at the intersection of education and the workforce, connecting practice with policy. The Policy Group plays an active role in developing and implementing national workforce development policy, high school reform and higher education policy. As a nonprofit research, consulting, and advocacy organization, JFF works to strengthen our society by creating educational and economic opportunity for youth and adults.

Mr. Uhalde served for six months in 2009 as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Labor, responsible for leading the department's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Previously, Mr. Uhalde was Director of the Workforce Development Strategies Group at the National Center on Education and the Economy. He led a small staff that provided a strong, respected nonpartisan voice on adult and youth workforce development policy issues, supporting Congressional and executive branch officials in Washington to ensure that the voices of state and local leaders in the field are heard. He also was staff director for the *New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce*, culminating in the Commission's widely acclaimed report on K-12 education reform, *Tough Choices or Tough Times*.

Mr. Uhalde served for over twenty-five years with the U.S. Department of Labor. As acting Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration for two years, he was the department official responsible for enactment of the Welfare to Work Act of 1997 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor from 1994 to 2002, Ray Uhalde oversaw an agency of 1400 people with a program budget of \$10 billion, with responsibility for the nation's unemployment insurance system, the One Stop Career Center network, Job Corps, foreign labor certification for immigration, and training programs for low income youth and adults, dislocated workers, seniors, people with disabilities, and other special populations. He testified frequently before Congress on budget, employment and training, and immigration issues. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ray Uhalde administered the agency's strategic planning, policy development, research, and demonstration activities. He joined the Department of Labor as a labor economist in the Office of the Secretary to help develop a work-based approach to welfare reform. For his government service, Mr. Uhalde was conferred the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive and the Department of Labor's Philip Arnow Award. In the private sector, he worked as an economist for a research and consulting firm.

Ray Uhalde holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in labor economics from Fresno State College and the University of Maryland respectively, and was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Special Forces.