

**Learning and Earning:
Raising Labor Market Skills of Low-Income
Adults and Youth**

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The Current Situation: Discouraging Facts and Evidence

- Federal Workforce Programs (WIA, etc.): Declining Funding, Mixed Evidence
- Higher Education: Rising Funding (\$160B+), esp. for Pell Grants
- But: 1) Very High Rates of Noncompletion
2) Not Always High Earnings;
(Certificates, AA, BA...)
- Need to Improve Outcomes but Also Efficiency of H. Ed. Expenditures

Some Approaches

1. High-Quality Career and Tech. Ed. (CTE) and Work-Based Learning
2. Sectoral Training and Career Pathways
3. Reform Remediation and Financial Aid in Higher Ed.
4. Better Integrate H. Ed and Workforce Services, Making Both More Responsive to the Labor Market

Hi-Quality CTE

- Not Voc-Ed or Tracking...High Quality options preparing students for college and career
- Teaching academic, technical and employment skills in contextual and applied setting
- Models: Career Academies, High Schools That Work, Linked Learning
- Also Work-Based Learning: Apprenticeships, etc...esp. with Low Youth Employment Rates!

Sectoral Training and Career Pathways

- Evaluation Evidence: Maguire et al., Roder and Elliott (Year Up)...Also ISIS
- Targeting training to sectors with good-paying jobs and high demand
- Career Pathways also...start in HS or CC and proceed...
- State efforts to scale! Success??? (CET)
- Other Limitations: 1) Not for hard-to-employ; 2) Mix of General and Specific Skills (Stackable Credentials and Portability...)

Reforming Remediation and Financial Aid for College

- Remediation: Can Actually Be Harmful!
- Best: When Accelerated or Linked to Job Market (ASAP, I-BEST, LaGuardia GED Bridge)
- Financial Aid: Impacts Thin, Weak Outcomes for Pell
- Best: When Transparent, Performance Requirements, Supports
- College Board Report on Pell Reform

Integrating Higher Education, Workforce Services and the Job Market

- Better Information for Students, Incentives for Institutions (Performance-Based Aid)
- Colocation of Job Centers (One-Stops) and CCs
- Competitive Grants: TAACCCT, Workforce Innovation Funds
- Grants to States to Do This (Hamilton Proposal)

Conclusion

- Benefits of Improving Work-Based Learning and H. Ed. Links to Workforce Services and Labor Market
- Caveats: 1) Weak Labor Demand; 2) One Size Doesn't Fit All; 3) Replication and Scaling; 4) Limited Public Funding
- Still worth moving ahead