



Texas Workforce Investment Council

Policy News Highlights

Issue 19, Quarter 3, October 2012

Texas Workforce Investment Council – *Policy News Highlights* is a quarterly review of selected reports relevant to the policy and research functions of the Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council). Federal and state agency websites, in addition to numerous public policy and educational databases are scanned monthly for relevant and emerging issues. Reports are catalogued and stored electronically in the Council's Information Repository (IR).

The IR is divided into 11 topic areas that correspond to priority issues supporting the Council's current strategic plan. They are: adult education; apprenticeship; career and college readiness; career and technical education; clusters and sector strategies; competitiveness; data; disabilities; dropout prevention; green initiatives; and training.

Policy News Highlights is organized as an annotated bibliography with short summaries of recent articles grouped according to their topic area. Not every topic area is addressed each quarter.

Adult Education

The Adult College Completion Tool Kit, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, August 2012

A collection of strategies, resources, and technical assistance tools, this tool kit is designed to connect state administrators and local practitioners to information that supports identification and implementation of state adult education priorities. The tool kit focuses on three key areas: access, quality, and completion. It recommends strategies for improving transitions and persistence through postsecondary education programs. Information is categorized by four target student populations: veterans, adult basic education students, incarcerated individuals, and skilled immigrants.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/resource/adult-college-completion-tool-kit.pdf>

Graduating to College: Three States Helping Adult Education Students Get a College Education, The Working Poor Families Project, August 2012

This policy brief profiles Kentucky, Maine, and Minnesota – three states that are demonstrating success in aligning adult and postsecondary education – with an overview of common features, distinctive policy choices, achievements, and remaining challenges. Policy recommendations for creating more effective postsecondary transition opportunities for adults who lack strong literacy and numeracy skills include a call to establish goals and develop a data analysis system.

<http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/policybrief-summer2012.pdf> ★

Apprenticeship

An Effectiveness Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Registered Apprenticeship in Ten States, Mathematica Policy Research, July 2012

This study, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor examines registered apprenticeship programs in ten states, including Texas. The states were selected based on differences in program features and labor market characteristics. Findings show that registered apprenticeship participants have substantially higher earnings than non-participants. Estimated social benefits appear to significantly outweigh the social costs. Researchers also found that while women view the programs as beneficial, they participate at a lower rate than men. Finally, the study recommends changes to promote women's success.

http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2012_10.pdf

Registered Apprenticeship – Community College Consortium: Framework to Articulate Apprenticeship to College Credit, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Apprenticeship, March 2012

This presentation outlines why registered apprenticeship is important to the education community and emphasizes accelerated pathways over parallel tracks. It also proposes a consortium model to facilitate college credit for program graduates and to more broadly support increasing postsecondary completion and articulation agreements that advance national scalability.

<https://21stcenturyapprenticeship.workforce3one.org/command/view.aspx?look=2001208263533364192&mode=info&pparams=> ★

Career and College Readiness

Taking College Courses in High School: A Strategy for College Readiness, Jobs for the Future, October 2012

This report studied tens of thousands of Texas students who completed college courses in high school to evaluate the effectiveness of dual enrollment. Research supports growing evidence that allowing students in high school to complete even a single college class could significantly increase their chances of attending college and completing an Associate's degree or higher within six years. The findings were promising for all racial groups and students from low income families.

http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/TakingCollegeCourses_101712.pdf

Building Blocks for Change: What It Means to Be Career Ready, Career Readiness Partner Council (CRPC), October 2012

This short information piece presents a joint definition of what it means to be career ready from the diverse perspectives of the CRPC. An important step in leveraging current efforts to transform education and workforce development, the development of a joint statement establishes and articulates a common goal to guide practitioners.

<http://www.subnet.nga.org/downloads/CRPCStatementPrint.pdf> ★

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education: Five Ways That Pay Along the Way to the B.A., Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce, September 2012

This report positions the postsecondary CTE system as a unique, flexible, and underutilized path to advanced education and retraining for career mobility. It provides an overview of the five major CTE pathways at the sub-baccalaureate level: employer-based training, industry-based certifications, apprenticeships, postsecondary certificates, and associate's degrees. Policy recommendations emphasize: creating a Learning and Earning Exchange; reallocating resources to improve alignment between secondary and postsecondary programs; reducing duplication and remediation; allowing for dual enrollment; and creating more opportunities for students to learn and earn.

<http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/CTE.FiveWays.FullReport.pdf>

The Crosswalk Validation Project: Final Report, National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE), October 2012

A joint effort between NRCCTE and the National Association of State Director of Career-Technical Education Consortium, this report describes the process used to produce a national crosswalk that links education programs using the Classification of Instruction Program (CIP) codes to Standard Occupational Codes (SOC) with Career Clusters and Career Pathways. The resulting crosswalk is a foundation for more standardized accountability requirements expected to be a focus of future legislation.

http://www.nrccte.org/sites/default/files/publication-files/nrccte_crosswalk_validation.pdf ★

Clusters and Sector Strategies

The Search for Skills: Demand for H-1B Immigrant Workers in U.S. Metropolitan Areas, Brookings Institution, July 2012

This 2001 through 2011 geographic analysis of H-1B visa reveals that visa requests vary by the number, the H-1B cap status, and the number of STEM occupations of the employers in metropolitan areas with the highest demand for H-1B workers. It also found that H-1B visa fees designated for skills training and STEM education have not been proportionately distributed to those metropolitan areas requesting the highest number of H-1B workers. The report recommends development of an independent standing commission on labor and immigration that can adjust the cap for H-1B visa applicants based on local employer skills needs and regional economic indicators, as well as focus skills training in areas that are currently being filled by H-1B workers.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2012/07/18-h1b-visas-labor-immigration#overview> ★

Competitiveness

Growing State Economies: A Policy Framework, National Governors Association, July 2012

This report highlights economic policy areas that can be refined to improve the conditions for job creation. These drivers of state economic growth are identified as entrepreneurs, education and skills, innovation and technology, private capital, global markets and linkages, and industry clusters. The report provides lessons learned for designing policies to foster progress in each area.

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/11HEINEMANFRAMEWORK.PDF>

Report to the President on Capturing Domestic Competitive Advantage in Advanced Manufacturing, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, July 2012

Issued by an advisory group of scientists and engineers appointed by the President, this report makes recommendations focused on increasing innovation, improving workforce development, and enacting tax reform. Proposals include establishing a national network of manufacturing innovation institutes and increasing support for related community college programs.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_amp_steering_committee_report_final_july_27_2012.pdf

Preparing for 21st Century Risks: Revitalizing American Manufacturing to Protect, Respond and Recover, The Alliance for American Manufacturing, July 2012

This comprehensive analysis of the United States' growing reliance on a complex system of global suppliers highlights the nation's potential vulnerability. The analysis outlines vulnerabilities such as aging infrastructure and the growing frequency of major catastrophic events, man-made and natural, as well as new threats like cyber attacks or a pandemic to promote the importance of a strong domestic manufacturing sector. Recommendations include increasing investment in the workforce to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and to supply a larger, more modern manufacturing sector to ensure America's ability to prevent, mitigate, recover from, and rebuild quickly in the wake of catastrophic events.

<http://ridgeglobal.com/news/view/report-u.s.-too-dependent-on-foreign-suppliers-in-crises>

Put Us to Work: Responding to the New Jobs Creation Imperative, Monitor, June 2012

This paper examines the problem that in an increasingly globalized and information-based economy, a company's value production has less immediate connection to job creation. The paper offers recommendations for industry to put job creation on the strategy agenda including the need to: highlight skills and flexibility; pursue coordinated government and business action; make government relations a core strategic function; and provide a clear and high-level point of view that informs policy.

http://www.monitor.com/Portals/0/MonitorContent/imported/MonitorUnitedStates/Articles/PDFs/Monitor_Put_Us_to_Work_June_2012.pdf

The Competition that Really Matters: Comparing U.S., Chinese, and Indian Investments in the Next-Generation Workforce, Center for American Progress, August 2012

This report describes the state of the U.S. across key indicators of human capital development: education; health, family income and childhood poverty; and pro-family workplace policies. Findings show that job-shadowing, apprenticeships, and internships are strongly associated with better educational and work outcomes, even when accounting for differences in parental household income. Recommendations urge policymakers to set realistic, yet ambitious national education goals to prepare students for college and for the careers of tomorrow.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/USChinaIndiaEduCompetitiveness.pdf> ★

Data

Balancing Passion and Practicality: The Role of Debt and Major on Students' Financial Outcomes, TG Research and Analytical Services, August 2012

This report to the Texas Legislature from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation examines the relationship of student debt to income and how the choice of educational major affects this ratio. Analyzing results from six case studies – three Texas institutions and three non-Texas institutions – its key findings suggest that academic major is a more precise predictor of future income than level of education. It also suggests that greater numbers of students may seek advanced degrees when

informed about lifetime earnings and loan repayment ratios for demand occupations. Finally, it recommends that predictive debt-to-income ratios should be used to encourage responsible borrowing and career planning through customized loan counseling, especially for low income or first generation students.

<http://www.tgslc.org/pdf/Balancing-Passion-and-Practicality.pdf>

Education, Job Openings, and Unemployment in Metropolitan America, Brookings Institute, August 2012

The unemployment challenges facing the nation throughout the recession have helped to expose a trend emerging across metropolitan labor markets – that even at a time when job seekers are plentiful, businesses claim that they can't find skilled workers to fill job openings. To provide policy makers with a better sense of the specific issue, the analysis examines trends in the demand for educated labor and how a gap between education supply and demand is related to unemployment. Next, it attempts to distinguish between cyclical and structural effects before turning to an explanation of how an education gap might affect both effects by limiting job creation. It concludes with a discussion of the implications of these findings for public policy.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/08/29-education-gap-rothwell#M10420>

Higher Education: Gaps in Access and Persistence Study, Institute of Educational Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, August 2012

This congressionally mandated report documents the gaps in access to and completion of higher education by sex and race/ethnicity. This statistical analysis includes 46 indicators and identifies student, family, and institutional factors that are significantly associated with the odds that a student will immediately enroll in a postsecondary institution after completing high school and the odds that a student will attain an associate's or bachelor's degree within six years of beginning postsecondary enrollment.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012046>

Workforce Data Quality Campaign, National Skills Coalition, August 2012

This presentation of the Workforce Data Quality Campaign project outlines the campaign to improve labor market data gathering and reporting. Goals and implementation strategies include: alignment of data for all student pathways and programs with all jobs, credentials earned, employment, and other outcomes; delivering labor market information to policymakers, programs, and students; and incorporating student feedback for improvement.

http://lmiontheweb.org/lmipub/WDQC_Presentation_to_LMI_TI_8-12.pdf ★

Green Initiatives

Green Jobs and Career Pathways: An Arranged Marriage in Service to a 21st-Century Workforce Development System, DOL, Employment and Training Administration, August 2012

This qualitative study examines the early start-up experiences of two DOL energy training partnership grant recipients that use different career pathways models. The research highlights policy implications, including the need to build workforce development capacity to respond to the needs of industry.

http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2012_13.pdf ★

Training

Houston Manufacturing Roundtable, The Manufacturing Institute, August 2012

This presentation to manufacturing executives reviews the economic impact, domestic interest and perceptions, statewide employment, shrinking workforce pipeline, and skills gap issues that current challenge the manufacturing industries. Recommendations for improving the talent pipeline include new workforce strategies such as developing regional public-private partnerships, hiring military veterans, and implementing skills certification programs.

(Report maintained in IR) ★

The Texas Workforce Investment Council promotes the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas and advocates a workforce system that provides quality workforce education and training opportunities.

For more information, visit:

<http://governor.state.tx.us/twic/>