

Building Effective Education and Workforce Development Systems: Alignment with State and Local Economic Demand

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Outline

- Why Education and Workforce Development Should be Integrated with Each Other and Aligned with Economic Development
- The Local Context: Regions, Cities and Neighborhoods
- What Works??? Program Evaluation Evidence
- Some Encouraging News
- Policy Recommendations
- Some Caveats

Why Integrate Education/Workforce and Align with Ec. Development?

Poor Outcomes Without That!

- Supply of Education Skills Lags Behind Demand Growth in the US – esp. among disadvantaged
- Outcomes: Hi Dropout Rates (HS and College), Weak Earnings of (Some) Completers
- Many Reasons....But Lack of Information/Incentives to Link with Economy among them

The Local Context: Regions, Cities, and Neighborhoods

- US Cities and Regions: Highly Segregated By Race and Class, Uneven Growth Between and Within Metro Areas
- Effects on Achievement, Educational Attainment, Behavior and Employment
- Strategies: Residential Mobility, Local Economic Development, Metro-Wide Access ...Link Local Schools and One-Stops to Economic Development and Employers Throughout the Region!
- Intermediaries, Data Can Play an Important Role

What Works? Evaluation Evidence

- High School: High-Quality CTE – Career Academies!
- Community Colleges: Hi-Demand, Technical Fields of Study Generate Hi Wage Returns
- Sectoral Programs for Adults and Youth – PPV, Year Up
- WIA: One-Stop Services and Training
- Place-Based Programs: MTO, Jobs Plus, Youth Opportunities
- Also: I-BEST, Apprenticeships, Incumbent Worker Training

Some Encouraging News

- States: Development of Sectoral Models, Integrated with Ec. Development and Labor Demand
- Cities/Regions: NFWS, TAACCCT and other grant programs
- Foundation Efforts: Shifting Gears, etc.
- Metropolitan Development Strategies (Sustainable Communities; Transit-Oriented Development)

A Policy Proposal

- Hamilton Project Paper (Brookings, 2011)
- Competitive Grants to States and Regions
- Would Fund a Range of Activities and Services to Integrate Higher Ed. With Workforce and Align with Ec. Development
- Evaluation Important
- Remember to Include Employers!

Caveats

- Efficacy of Economic Development at State/Local Levels
- General v. Specific Skills; Unanticipated Demand Shifts
- How Good are our Data and our Projections?
- Weak Labor Market: Great Recession and Beyond
- Fiscal Austerity...