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IL Trustees’ Meeting
September 14, 2012
About Jobs for the Future

Based in Boston, MA
A National Non-Profit Intermediary – 1983
Funded by philanthropic and federal grant resources
Develop and promote education and workforce strategies that expand opportunity and success for youth and adults
43 states and over 200 communities
Close to 100 staff working in four primary areas:
- College Ready
- College Success
- Career Advancement
- Policy Solutions
Today’s Agenda

Brief Overview of Accelerating Opportunity

Illinois Accelerating Opportunity Plan

Implications and Opportunities for Trustees
A National Need for Pathways to Marketable Credentials

- 93 million adults with basic or below basic literacy
- 13% of adults ages 25-64 have less than a high school credential
- 29% have a high school credential but no college.
- By 2018, only 36 percent of total jobs will require workers with just a high school diploma or less
- Since 1979, investments in adult education and workforce development programs have declined in real terms by more than 70%.
- Postsecondary credentials are the gateway to family-supporting wages that those credentials are critical to breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty in America.
What Problem are We Trying to Solve?

- IL has a significant population of low skill, low wage individuals with the need to acquire the right skills

- Many jobs in IL go unfilled because there are not enough trained workers

- IL must focus attention on the full continuum of workers – especially the lowest quartile (25%) in order to raise overall economic and workforce indicators
Accelerating Opportunity: $18.5 Million Initiative

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, and The Open Societies Foundations
- Four year initiative (Oct. 2010-Oct 2014)

Goals:
- 11 states engaged in a design phase (March – November, 2011)
- IL, KS, KY, NC, and LA chosen for implementation - testing integrated basic skills models
- State policy framework
- Program costs
- Evidence to build a national movement
WA, which is a partner in this initiative, Adult Basic Education is also governed and delivered by the community college system.
Promising Models: Washington’s Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST)

- Basic Academic Skills
- Certified Vocational Skills
- Support Services

At least 50% overlap
Team Teaching is the Heart of AO

- I-BEST pairs a basic skills instructor and a career and technical instructor in the same classroom to jointly plan, teach, and assess students’ learning and skills development.

- This allows students to earn college and workforce credentials at the same time.
Does it Work?

On average, I-BEST students were **15 times more likely** to complete their I-BEST skills training than were comparison ESL students (44% vs. 3%)

I-BEST students earned an average of 10-12 college credits, compared to 2-3 by comparison ESL students

I-BEST students language skills gains were similar to comparison ESL students
Columbia University’s Community College Research Center found that I-BEST students in comparison with other basic skills students in workforce programs were:

- 3 times more likely to earn college credit
- 9 times more likely to earn an award
Research and Evidence
Source: Columbia University

Illinois Accelerating Opportunity Ambitious State Transformation Efforts

- Commitment to over 2,500 credentials by 2014

- Over 200 in demand workforce certificates attained already

- Policy win to include Adult Basic Education students into a state-wide performance funding framework

- Leading work in the country to leverage professional development to influence culture shift

- Commitment to working with employers – only state with an employer engagement strategy

- Scaling strategy that is starting now! 16 colleges on board by 2013
Implications for trustees:

1. Support your college’s Accelerating Opportunity Initiative by ensuring resources/policies/college leadership is engaged:

- Danville
- Daley
- Elgin
- McHenry
- Lincoln Land
- Lake Land
- Lewis & Clark
- College of Lake County

New campuses:

- Parkland
- Il Central
- Blackhawk
- Kishwaukee
2. Assist in the brokering of employer engagement at your home college to help foster understanding of employer needs and job placement

Identify business contacts, introduce colleagues, work your business network
Implications for trustees:

3. Include this initiative in terms of “what gets measured” at your college.
   - Ask for initiative updates
   - Ask to see data periodically
   - Ask about how or in what ways expansion and scale are happening
   - Ask about how the financing is going to institutionalize the re-design
Final Message

- Illinois has the opportunity to build on a strong foundation of programming already started – expand, deepen, and focus on evidence based models to support your students, employers, and communities!
Thank You!

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