



The Newsletter of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources

In This Issue

[Center News](#)

[Project Updates](#)

[Recent Publications](#)

[In the News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Quick Links

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Facebook](#)

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[Support the Center](#)

Recent Publications

Promoting Two-Generation Strategies; A Getting-Started Guide for State and Local Policy Makers

This paper is intended to serve as a getting-started guide for state and local policymakers as they begin to develop and implement two-generation strategies in their areas. It begins with an overview of the most

Issue 17

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[Center News](#)

Greg Cumpton Highlights Positive Education Trends in Austin American-Statesman Article

An article in the Austin American-Statesman titled, "**Little Progress In Effort to get more Austin-Area students to College**" cites data from the **Central Texas Student Futures Project**. The article attempts to shed light on why college enrollment rates in Central Texas have been stagnant for the last 6 years. **Greg Cumpton**, Research Associate at the Ray Marshall Center and Co-Principal Investigator of the Student Futures Project is quoted in the article and explains that there has been a surge in the number and share of lower-income students who are typically not as inclined to go to college.

The Student Futures Project is a research partnership of the Ray Marshall Center and currently 12 Central Texas independent school districts (ISDs). The project is documenting and analyzing the progress of Central Texas high school students as they move onto colleges and careers. It relies on a combination of student surveys and linked administrative records to improve feedback and policy and program alignment for Central Texas ISDs in preparing students for the demands of adulthood and for success in the workplace.



Despite stagnant enrollments rates, Cumpton explains that there are reasons for optimism; the share of low-income high school graduates transitioning to college increased by 7 percentage points between 2008 and 2011. **The Austin Chamber of Commerce** has worked with local school districts and the Ray Marshall Center to incorporate programs such as the Summer Melt program into the toolbox that educators and administrators have to help students enroll and successfully attend college. Thus far, Central Texas has managed to avoid the drop in enrollment rates that other parts of Texas are currently experiencing.

recent family of innovative two-generation programs and provides several examples of the model that illustrate different approaches to a two-generation strategy with strong workforce and/or education components.

Trends in Low-Income Enrollement and Outcomes in Central Texas for School Districts and Campuses, 2008 through 2012

This report provides tables with statistics for graduating seniors in Central Texas.

Initial Postsecondary Enrollment Statistics Through December 2011 for Class of 2011 Central Texas Graduates

This report provides tables with statistics for graduating seniors in Central Texas.

Upcoming Events

Greg Cumpton will Present at AERA in Philadelphia

Research Associate Greg Cumpton will present results of research on two projects at the AERA conference in Philadelphia, PA in early April. Greg will be presenting Central Texas Student Futures Project research on the effects of 11th and 12th grade coursework and

Carinne Deeds Selected as New Bryna and Henry David Fellow

Carinne Deeds, a graduate student at **LBJ School of Public Affairs** at the University of Texas in Austin, has received the Bryna and Henry David Fellowship from the Ray Marshall Center and joins the Center as a graduate research assistant working on the Central Texas Student Futures Project. Deeds is the sixth recipient of the fellowship.



The Ray Marshall Center selects the David Fellow every two to three years to work half-time on education and workforce related research. Funding for the fellowship is generously supported by the endowment of Bryna and Henry David. Henry David taught at the LBJ School in the 1970s; both he and his wife Bryna were nationally recognized researchers in career-related education.

Deeds is seeking a masters degree in Public Affairs at the LBJ School, with a focus in Education and Social Policy. She expects to complete her degree in spring of 2015.

Prior to coming to the LBJ School and the Ray Marshall Center, Carinne worked as Education Program Coordinator at the **Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe**, in Kings Beach, California on Lake Tahoe. In Tahoe she also worked as Outreach Coordinator for the **Tahoe Institute for Natural Science**. Previously, Carinne taught English to Thai kindergartners and then high schoolers in Bangkok, Thailand, and the surrounding areas. She also taught English to a group of Turkish students who could not speak Thai or English at the time.

Carinne received her Bachelors Degree in Communication Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

Center Researchers Traveled to Washington, DC for APPAM Conference

The week of November, 4th, the **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)** held its annual research conference in Washington, DC. APPAM is a professional association of graduate schools of public policy and management, which brings top policy researchers, policymakers and practitioners together to share information about emerging issues in policy and practice. The Ray Marshall Center's work speaks directly to the issues that are central to APPAM's mission. This year, Dr. Christopher King, Director at the Ray Marshall Center and LBJ faculty member, participated as a discussant in a Saturday panel titled, "Financial Incentives for Economic Development." Also traveling with **Dr. King** were Center Associate Director **Dr. Heath Prince**, Research Scientist **Dr. Daniel Schroeder**, and Research Associates **Dan O'Shea** and **Ashweet Patnaik**.



Dr. Prince was a presenter on the panel titled, "Child Poverty Around the World: Measurement, Interventions, and Policies." The panel, which included researchers from UNICEF and Fordham University, served as a platform for Prince to present his

activities on postsecondary enrollment and persistence. Greg will also be presenting results of his dissertation research on the effect of school reconstitution on student achievement in Texas.

In the News

You Tube Animation About Central Texas Education

This Opportunity Austin Education Animation speaks to the issues facing education reform in Central Texas, specifically issues concerning college enrollment and assistance. The Ray Marshall Center plays an important role in this analysis, and is mentioned in the video. Click [here](#) to watch.

In This Issue

Washington, DC. Photo credit: Trevor Udwin research on macro-level drivers of multidimensional poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Schroeder, together with research partners from four other states in the **ADARE** group, met with officials from the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) to discuss plans for the final year of the SNAP-UI project, including ensuring standards for uniform research products from each state, and potential topics to add to common deliverables.

From research on Africa to two-generation strategies across the USA, the Center's mission is grounded in the belief that public service to those in need will improve society at large. Speaking about APPAM, King notes, "APPAM's annual conference is a gathering of savvy policymakers, practitioners, funders and researchers. We make a point of being part of it every year without fail. Not only have we learned powerful lessons from ongoing research being conducted by the best in their field, we have often established collaborations and relationships and developed new research initiatives with real impacts on policy and practice."

Ruth Ellen Wasem Presents Book at LBJ Brown Bag Series

On Friday, November 22nd, Director Dr. Chris King introduced Ruth Ellen Wasem, guest speaker at a LBJ School's Brown Bag series event sponsored by the Ray Marshall Center. Ms. Wasem is a Specialist in the Domestic Social Policy Division of the **Congressional Research Service** and Adjunct Professor of Public Policy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Washington Program. Wasem's talk, "Tackling Unemployment: Lessons for Today from the Employment Act of 1946", drew from her recently published a book titled, "Tackling Unemployment; the Legislative Dynamics of the Employment Act of 1946."

In her presentation, Wasem spoke to how the sweeping legislation that resulted from a post-war consensus surrounding the belief that full-employment was the central piece to achieving the American dream was passed through congress and signed by the president. She then went on to tie comparisons between the issues that American society grappled with then to those that we face today.

The Student Futures Project and the Austin Chamber of Commerce Work to Raise College Enrollment in Central Texas

Following up on the article mentioned in the first part of this newsletter, the Austin American-Statesman has produced two more pieces about college enrollment in Central Texas.

The first follow-up article places special emphasis on the fact that college enrollment for lower-income groups is on the rise, increasing by six percentage points in the last four years. The second follow-up, an editorial piece, cites RMC data and analysis, the piece praises the Austin Chamber of Commerce for its role in supporting education in the area. "The Austin chamber has the right idea in using its own resources to help Central Texas schools. In all, the chamber has steered \$1.5 million to schools to help boost graduation and college enrollment rates. It has paid for the new Counselors Portal program for area districts that help counselors track high school students in a similar way as Austin's Project Advance program does. The chamber's

funding also goes toward tutoring graduating students who are not college-ready and last summer's pilot, **Summer Melt**, which paid high school counselors through the summer to help students, particularly those who are first-generation college-goers, to finish the application process."

Increasing interest in the Student Futures Project points to the fact that Central Texas and other parts of the country are taking a closer look at how they can mold policies that will help high school students in their transition from high school to college.

Project Updates

Three RMC Researchers Travel to North Dakota

The week of October 13th Heath Prince, Greg Cumpton and Amna Khan traveled to four community colleges in North Dakota to discuss the data collection context and procedures for **Project TREND (Training for Regional Energy in North Dakota)**. This project funds development of structured training and supports at colleges for students interested in obtaining skills and knowledge related to high-demand and high-wage jobs. It is supported through a grant from the **Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program (TAACCCT)** grant.

North Dakota is in the midst of a booming economy due to vast oil reserves in the Bakken formation with some areas experiencing unemployment rates as low as 1%; the high demand jobs generally service the local oil industry and include oil drill workers and managers, oil processing workers and truck drivers.



North Dakota. Photo Credit: Greg Cumpton