



April 2015

## Center Promotes Greg Cumpton to Associate Director

In December, the Ray Marshall Center promoted [Greg Cumpton](#) to Associate Director. Greg works closely with local school districts on the [Central Texas Student Futures Project](#), an ongoing look at life after high school for graduating seniors. He also leads research on the [National Center for Health Statistics Data Linkage](#) project and is involved with several other projects here at the Center. Our Director, Dr. Heath Prince, noted:

" I am happy to announce that Greg Cumpton has accepted the Associate Director position at the Ray Marshall Center. As you may know, Greg has been on staff at the RMC for 10 years, during which time he has consistently conducted exemplary work, has greatly assisted in establishing the RMC's reputation for rigorous research in the education arena, and has, in recent years, proven himself equally conversant in the workforce development field. More than this, though, Greg has demonstrated a rare quality: he can manage and mentor at the same time, and can do so in a way that contributes to an esprit de corps that is so highly valued by staff and management. We are lucky to have him, and grateful that he has taken on this new role. "

Please join us in congratulating Greg on his latest achievement!

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## Center Bids Farewell to Longtime Research Associate Tara Smith

At the end of February, the Center said their goodbyes to longtime researcher [Tara Smith](#). Tara came to the Center in 2005 and has been a vital part of the team during her tenure here. She led research on the workforce development investments for [Travis County](#) project, the two-generation effects from participation in [Capital IDEA](#), and the TAACCCT evaluation at [Tulsa Community College](#). She also played an instrumental role in the [Workforce Data Quality Initiative](#), the implementation study of the

CareerAdvance® program in [Tulsa](#), and with our ongoing two-generation strategy [initiative](#) funded by the Foundation for Children Development.

Tara leaves her post at the Center to join the staff at [Jobs for the Future](#) as a Senior Project Manager. Her work will include assisting community colleges in developing and implementing integrated pathways, including a small group of innovative community colleges developing competency based instructional approaches to support underprepared adult learners. She will also provide and manage the delivery of technical assistance and coaching to a subset of workforce boards that are Workforce Innovation Fund grantees.

We hate to see her go, but we wish her the best of luck in her new adventure!

## Chris King Joins Conversation in D.C. for the Release of the Aspen Institute 2Gen Anthology



On April 7, RMC Research Scientist Dr. Christopher King joined other Ascend Fellows and leading experts to discuss national programs, policies, and promising research helping children, parents, and families achieve educational success and economic security. The [release](#) also included best practices for influencing local, state, and federal two-generation policies as well as building beneficial partnerships in the public and private two-generation fields. A live recording of the event can be viewed [here](#) and updates can be found at our [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) profiles.

## RMC Researcher Attends 5th Annual SXSWedu Conference



RMC Researcher, Ashweeta Patnaik, attended the 5th annual [SXSWedu](#) conference held in Austin from March 9-12. This four-day event fosters innovation in learning by hosting a diverse and energetic community of stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds in education including teachers, administrators, university professors and business and policy leaders. This year, many of the sessions in the 'Continuing Education & Workforce Development' and 'Policy and Funding' strands focused on career pathways and linking education to employment. Ms. Patnaik also attended sessions focused on college access at the [Getting to Graduation: Re-Designing Higher Education for Student Success](#) summit hosted by [The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#).

## Heath Prince and Chris King Co-Author SWEAP Papers with National Skills Coalition



**NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION**  
*Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.*

Heath Prince and Chris King co-authored a set of State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP) papers just issued by the [National Skills Coalition](#). The two reports present new tools that provide policy makers the information they need to improve the effectiveness of states' workforce and education programs to create career pathways for people with a diversity of needs. They also explain how states can create web-based and interactive dashboards to evaluate their ability to help residents get jobs requiring postsecondary training while providing employers with skilled workers. The two papers can be found below.

[Using Pathway Evaluators for State Workforce Planning](#)

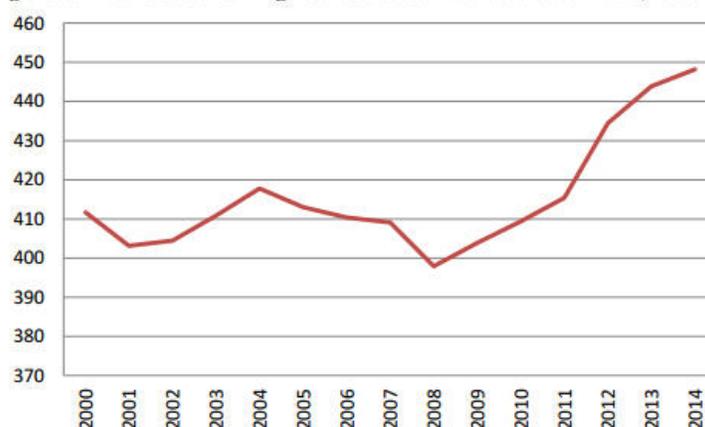
[Using Dashboards for State Workforce Planning](#)

## RMC Research Spotlighted in Recent Issue of the Employment & Training Reporter

The March 9, 2015 issue of the *Employment & Training Reporter* featured Heath Prince and Chris King's work on the State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP) for the [National Skills Coalition](#). Their paper, "Using Pathway Evaluators for State Workforce Planning," which was written with NSC co-authors Bryan Wilson and Brooke DeRenzis, offers a step-by-step process for evaluating the effectiveness of career pathways. A courtesy reprint from [MII Publications](#) can be read [here](#):

## TPR Quotes RMC Study on Lack of, and Need for, School Counselors

**Figure 5: Middle & Junior High School Student-to-Counselor Ratio, 2000-2014**



Source: Data from Texas Education Research Center.

"The Source" on [Texas Public Radio](#) (TPR) recently spotlighted the overwhelming need for school counselors, and related legislation being introduced via [House Bill 18](#) authored by Jimmy Don Aycock (R-Killeen) that addresses college and career readiness training for certain public school counselors. The program included details from our recent study published in December 2014, "[Texas School Counselor Study: Exploring the Supply, Demand, and Evolving Roles of School Counselors](#)", authored by Greg Cumpton and Matt Gianni. You can listen to the program [here](#).

## Heldrich Center Releases Summary of Panel Featuring Chris King from October's

# Workforce Conference



**Chris King**

Lecturer, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and Senior Research Scientist, Ray Marshall Center, University of Texas-Austin

The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University has released a summary highlighting the discussions from the panel "Aligning Employers and Workforce Development Strategies" from last October's *Transforming US Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century* workforce development conference (see original news post [here](#)). The summary can be found [here](#). Above, you can watch the Heldrich Center's interview with Dr. King in which he provides recommendations on what should be done to address workforce challenges in the US. It can also be viewed [here](#).

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*Heath Prince, PhD*  
*Director*

The Ray Marshall Center is a research unit of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin

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