



Learning and Work Perspectives

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

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Recent Publications

Learning Systems for a Globalized Economy: Do Americans Face Tough Choices or Tough Times?

in Human Resource Economics and Public Policy: Essays in Honor of Vernon M. Briggs, Jr. edited by Charles J. Whalen. In this essay, Ray Marshall focuses on the need to modernize the nation's education and workforce-development policies and institutions.

Sectoral Approaches to Workforce

Issue 1

July 2010

Dear Colleague,

It's taken us much too long to make the leap into the digital age, but after a short four decades, we've finally made the plunge. We hope you enjoy the inaugural e-newsletter of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at The University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Since opening its doors in June 1970, the Center has made a name for itself working with policymakers, program administrators, employers, unions and others at all levels - from international to local - on a range of projects large and small. Over the years, the Center has developed new training and employment opportunities for minority women and other groups, designed award-winning training programs, pioneered linking longitudinal data in support of labor market research and program evaluation, and trained generations of education, workforce and nonprofit leaders. Our mission, every bit as relevant now as then, has remained largely unchanged:

The Ray Marshall Center identifies and fosters creative solutions to challenging education, workforce and social problems through applied research, policy analysis and innovative program design.

This October, the Ray Marshall Center will host a 40th anniversary event at the LBJ School. This event will both celebrate the Center's accomplishments over the past four decades, as well as engage leading policymakers and researchers in a discussion of critical education and workforce issues and innovative policies for addressing them.

We sincerely hope you'll attend the event and will look forward to seeing you there. We will send out details in the next month or so. Stay tuned...

Warm regards,

Chris King
Director

Ray Marshall
Founder and Advisory Committee Chair

Center News

Two Center Projects Highlighted by Labor Department

The U.S. Department of Labor highlighted two of the Center's projects -

**Development:
Toward an Effective
U.S. Labor-Market
Policy**

in *Human Resource Economics and Public Policy: Essays in Honor of Vernon M. Briggs, Jr.* edited by Charles J. Whalen. In this essay, Robert W. Glover and Christopher T. King examine existing labor-market policies and discuss new policies that are required to address the current situation.

**Student Futures
Project - Final
Survey Report 2009**

Tara C. Smith and Greg Cumpton present findings from surveys conducted of Central Texas high school seniors in the spring of 2009. The report provides information on seniors' family background, high school experiences, and preparation for life after high school.

**Evaluating Local
Workforce
Investments:
Results for Short-
and Long-Term
Training in Austin
(TX)**

Christopher T. King, Tara C. Smith, and Daniel G. Schroeder present near- and longer-term outcomes, impact results, and policy implications for workforce investments in Central Texas.

The U.S. Department of Labor highlighted two of the Center's projects - [Administrative Data Research and Evaluation \(ADARE\)](#) and the [Student Futures Project](#) - in its May 2010 [announcement](#) of a grant program aimed at creating and expanding state longitudinal workforce data systems. ADARE, an alliance of nine state partners including the Ray Marshall Center, pioneered the use of linking longitudinal welfare, workforce and other records. The announcement uses the Student Futures Project to exemplify how linked education and workforce data can inform policies and practices, noting that the project "has used their longitudinal administrative database to create a feedback system that has led to improvements in the direct-to-college enrollment rates from 54 percent to 62 percent between 2004 and 2009."

Center's Work Featured in Texas Business Review

The June issue of the [Texas Business Review](#) featured the Center's recent work to produce return-on-investment (ROI) estimates from Texas workforce investments. Highlights from the research include an annualized ROI estimate of 38% for program participants, 25% for taxpayers, and 35% for society as a whole.

Center Researcher Teaches Data Methods and Analysis

In June, [Dr. Daniel Schroeder](#) taught at a three-day workshop hosted by the [Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research](#). Participants learned how to use administrative data, such as TANF and Unemployment Insurance wage data, to provide valuable information on family circumstances in early childhood research. The workshop responds to the growing interest in linking early childhood data systems with K-12 data, and using this data to improve school readiness and reduce disparities.

Project Update

Tulsa Initiative Targets Intergenerational Poverty

The Tulsa Initiative is a pilot project undertaking a dual-generation approach to poverty reduction. The project enhances educational and enrichment services to low-income children while helping their parents provide a nurturing, secure, and supportive home environment. The initiative aims to develop a proven and sustainable model targeting low-income parents and their children that can be replicated in other communities.



Mike Simons/Tulsa World

A critical component of this project is a sectoral job development strategy designed by the Ray Marshall Center, with colleagues at Harvard University's Center for the Developing Child, to help parents enter into a career path that pays well, provides benefits, and offers advancement opportunities. The strategy, as implemented by the [Community Action Program of Tulsa County](#), is demonstrating promising early results in helping low-income parents begin a career path in health care. The first cohort of parents graduated in April 2010, earning their certified nursing assistant licenses, and now they have the option to move on to a licensed practical nursing program and/or work. The next cohort will enroll next month.

The Tulsa Initiative is supported by the [George Kaiser Family Foundation](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about the Tulsa Initiative or [here](#) to read a Tulsa World article featuring the project's first cohort.

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