



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

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### Recent Publications

#### **CareerAdvance: A Dual Generation Antipoverty Strategy**

Robert W. Glover,  
Tara C. Smith,  
Christopher T. King,  
Rheagan Coffey  
report on the initial implementation of CareerAdvance, a pilot program conducted by the Community Action Project of Tulsa County aimed at providing low-income parents of children in early childhood centers with education, workforce training, and skill certification. The study documents the accomplishments of the program in its

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This new year is off to a busy and productive start for the Ray Marshall Center. We are working on new and expanding research projects in our long-standing core competency areas and developing reports and presentations on topics ranging from early education initiatives, to post-secondary transitions, to workforce training impacts. Center researchers are meeting with various groups to present our recent findings, including presentations to the business community, youth advocacy groups, and policymakers. We also have many activities planned with CareerAdvance, our seminal dual-generation antipoverty initiative in Tulsa. More information about these topics are in this newsletter.

Last year marked the 40th year of operations for the Center, for which we hosted an all-day [symposium](#) with distinguished policy experts from around the country. We were gratified by the turnout and the attention that the event garnered. We plan to release a volume containing the papers and presentations from the symposium in the coming months and will let you know when it is available. We look forward to another great year and to sharing the results of our work with you.

Warm regards,

Chris King  
Director, The Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources

### Center News

#### **Planning for CareerAdvance Program Expansion**

On Jan. 27, [Dr. Robert W. Glover](#) met with Drs. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale and Teresa Sommer of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University and other major program partners to present the plans for jointly evaluating the newly expanded [CareerAdvance](#) project operated by the Community Action Project (CAP) of the Tulsa County. CAP organized the launch meeting after receiving a \$10 million grant from the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand and continue the program to 2015. The goals of the meeting were to brief and fully engage program partners and gather feedback on the evaluation plans for the five-year project.

#### **Center's Research Presented to Ready by 21 Coalition**

[Dr. Chris King](#), director of the Ray Marshall Center, met with members of the [Ready by 21 Coalition](#) on Jan. 13 to present the findings from the

the program in its initial year of operation, reviews the challenges faced by the program and its participants, and draws lessons and recommendations from the experience.

### Findings from the 2010 Senior Surveys

Greg Cumpston and Shelby Tracy present findings from the survey of area high school seniors conducted in the spring of 2010. The annual survey is a key component of the Central Texas Student Futures Project. Comparisons and trends between the 2010 senior survey and previous years' surveys are also presented in the report.

### Upcoming Events

#### In February:

Central Texas Student Futures Project presentation to the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce College Readiness Enrollment Support Team (CREST)

#### Upcoming Reports:

- An Evaluation of Workforce Development Services in Travis County
- NCP Choices: Providing Workforce Development Services to Non-Custodial Parents
- Goodwill Strategies Positioning Project

Central Texas Student Futures Project. The Ready by 21 Coalition is a collaboration of more than 30 youth service providers working to prepare young people for and improve their outcomes in education, health, leadership and community engagement. Members of the coalition include Austin Independent School District, The Austin Project, Skillpoint Alliance, and the United Way of the Capital Area. The Student Futures Project is a partnership between the Ray Marshall Center, the Greater Austin Chamber and 11 Central Texas independent school districts engaged in recording and analyzing the progress of high school students as they move into higher education and the labor market. The presentation included factors significantly related to success in post-secondary enrollment and jobs. It also reviewed trends in demographics and enrollment. The information from the Student Futures Project provide the Ready by 21 Coalition with current data to help develop plans and effective targets for new youth initiatives.

### Chris King Spoke at Texas Family Impact Seminar

Dr. Chris King was a featured speaker at the 2011 Texas Family Impact Seminar hosted at the Texas Capitol on Jan. 31. These Seminars began as an initiative between the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and Texas Tech University and is aimed at providing state policymakers with nonpartisan, high-quality research on issues affecting Texas families. This year's topic focused on strategies for improving college enrollment and completion rates in Texas. Seminar attendees included state legislators and legislative staff.

### Center Provided Student Futures Project Update to CREST

In January, Center associate director Deanna Schexnayder provided an update on the Student Futures Project to the Greater Austin Chamber's College Readiness and Enrollment Support Team (CREST). CREST is made up of school district and area college representatives working to help students prepare for and complete post-secondary enrollment. The presentation included data from the recently published Findings from the 2010 Senior Surveys, which gathered responses from over 9,700 high school seniors in Central Texas. The report provided a comparative look at post high school employment rates for previous graduation classes and also summarized the 2010 group's responses regarding employment, work and study time, college preparation, and financial aid application process.

## Project Update

HHS Awards \$10 million Grant to Expand Career **Advance Community Action Project of Tulsa County** received a five-year \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) to expand the Career **Advance** program beginning in July 2011. This grant is one of 17 awarded by HHS/ACF in the country.

Career **Advance** is a dual-generation antipoverty program that works to increase the success of early childhood development programs by providing parents with education and job training. The George Kaiser Family Foundation provided the initial funding for the program in 2008.



Researchers from the Ray Marshall Center led the design of the program's **workforce training model**. The Center will receive a portion of the grant to continue providing

Center will receive a portion of the grant to continue providing implementation and evaluation work for the program. Over the next five years, *CareerAdvance* plans to help 285 new participants pursue careers in healthcare and related fields. Center researcher Dr. Robert W. Glover traveled to Tulsa in January to participate in the project's launch meeting with all major partners.

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