



## Learning and Work Perspectives

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

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### Recent Publications

#### **Challenges, Promising Programs and Effective Practices in Adult And Developmental Education**

February 2011.  
Rheagan Coffey and Tara Carter Smith review the state of adult education in Tulsa and the nation, the challenges encountered in the field, and highlights successful programs in the areas of GED/Adult Basic Education, ESL and Developmental Education. It includes a discussion of best practices in adult

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This Spring, substantial budget cuts in education, workforce development and social policy are looming at the national level and in most states and local areas, even as re-authorization debates are underway on many of these same programs. Not only are Ray Marshall Center researchers actively engaged in these discussions, but our research is serving as a key part of the evidentiary basis for a number of them, particularly those involving education and workforce.

Meanwhile, as you'll see, we continue to build out our research portfolio in characteristically innovative ways, with new projects seeking to foster dual-generation early childhood/sectoral job training strategies, among others. These are exciting times, and we are glad to be part of them.

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about us and our work.

Warm regards,

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

### Center News

#### **King Presented Center's Research at Education Forum**

The Urban League's of Texas - Austin, Greater Dallas & North Central Texas and Houston Area - organized the *State of Urban Education in Texas Forum* at the AT&T Executive Training Center held on Apr. 4. The forum provided an opportunity for learning and exchange between researchers, policymakers, community leaders, and education professionals. Dr. Chris King, Ray Marshall Center director, gave a presentation entitled "[College & Career Readiness: Insights from the Central Texas Student Futures Project](#)." King provided an overview of the Center's research to identify factors and strategies for improving students' college enrollment and completion rates, as well as strategies to improve employment outcomes for individuals beyond traditional schooling age. Other topics at the forum included updates on current education policies and legislative issues, ongoing research and best practices in the field, and trends and outlooks for improving education programs and outcomes.

process in adult education and offers recommendations to the Tulsa community for further consideration.

### 2010 Texas Market Rate Survey

February 2011. The Center's Daniel Schroeder and Monica Faulkner from the Center of Social Work Research at the University of Texas released the eighth annual Market Rate Survey Report. Commissioned by the Texas Workforce Commission for the 28 Workforce Development Boards, this report provides up-to-date, reliable data and information to determine maximum reimbursement rates for subsidized child care services.

### Upcoming Events

**April**  
26 - 29: TG Annual Training Conference

**May**  
9: Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) 40th Anniversary Policy Panel in Washington D.C.

### Student Futures Project Met with District Partners and Funders

On Feb. 24, partner school districts, donors, and researchers involved in the [Central Texas Students Futures Project](#) met in Austin to discuss recent results and analysis of factors linked to successful college enrollment.



Representatives from nine area school districts as well as members of the [Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce](#) and the non-profit group [TG](#) were in attendance. Student Futures Project researchers regularly engage with partners and provide updates to ensure that research continues to be relevant and adequately addresses the concerns of stakeholders.

### Center Director Participated in Seminar at Univ of Birmingham

[Dr. Chris King](#) gave a [presentation](#) on Mar. 16 evaluating short- and long-term workforce training results at *The Contemporary Issues in Work, Employability and People Management Seminar*, hosted by the University of Birmingham in Birmingham, England. King reviewed research results from two programs in the Austin and Travis County area. The long-term training strategy for employment yielded higher, sustained earnings outcome for individuals, while individuals receiving shorter term training showed an initial increase in earnings but it was not sustained over time. The presentation also offered observations on why impact evaluations of workforce training programs have been limited in the past and provides recommendations for improving future evaluations.

### Researchers Met for Preliminary ADARE-SNAP Findings

[Dr. Daniel Schroeder](#), Center research scientist, participated in the [Administrative Data Research and Evaluation](#) - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (ADARE-SNAP) research workshop held in Washington, D.C. on March 2. The workshop, hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, brought together researchers, academics, and federal agency representatives involved in the project. The ADARE-SNAP project collects and analyzes state administrative records from seven states to evaluate program participation, employment and income effects. At the workshop, participants reviewed preliminary data reported through administrative records and discussed key outcomes emerging from the analysis of the data, lessons learned, as well as provided general feedback on the project. In the coming months, the Ray Marshall Center will continue to work with other researchers to revise the outcomes and draft a final report for the project.

### King Quoted in NPR's Jobs Office Training Story

A [news story](#) on National Public Radio's Morning Edition on Feb. 21, featured comments from Chris King, along with Rutgers University professor [Carl Van Horn](#), in response to an Ohio jobs office program that works to both train and find employment for unemployed Americans. The program is the first of its kind in Ohio and is showing to be more successful in getting people placed in jobs than traditional training-only programs. According to King, jobs offices can help match people to employers, but the success of the program also depends what type of employers are hiring. People placed with employers who are willing to train and develop new staff will have improved outcomes

are willing to train and develop new staff will have improved outcomes, but if they are placed with employers that have a high turnover rate, outcomes can become more uncertain.

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## Project Update

### **Ray Marshall Center Launches Dual Generation Strategy Initiative**

With support from the [Foundation for Child Development](#), the Center is beginning work on a Dual-Generation Strategy Initiative in Texas. This initiative seeks to reduce poverty by providing children in early and primary education programs (PreK-3rd) with effective high-quality learning while simultaneously working with parents to develop valuable training and skills to secure potential high-growth employment. The components of the multi-year project include meeting with policymakers and stakeholders to plan and develop a model for implementation and then conducting pilot programs at two sites. Project evaluation and reporting will take place throughout the multi-year project duration. Through this endeavor, the Center aims to increase awareness and information to federal, state and local policymakers about dual-generation programs and promote the strategy for future successful education and workforce development programs.

The Foundation for Child Development (FCD) is a national private philanthropy in New York City dedicated to promoting a new beginning for American education from PreKindergarten through Third Grade (PreK-3rd). PreK-3rd Grade Education is a seamless learning continuum, connecting high-quality PreK programs with high-quality elementary schools, to create a well-aligned primary education for all our nation's children. The Foundation promotes the well-being of children, and believes that families, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and governments at all levels share complementary responsibilities in the critical task of raising new generations.

### **Center Partners with Texas Workforce Commission on Workforce Data Quality Initiative**

The Ray Marshall Center is partnering with the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) on a new project titled the Texas Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI). The project is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration with a grant of \$1 million over the next three years. Through this project, researchers plan to identify and assess postsecondary pathways and transitions between education, employment, and other outcomes for students exiting the public school system. Along with this objective, researchers will also analyze the performance of human capital development systems in Texas, spanning secondary education through postsecondary and on to workforce training and employment. The grant from the Labor Department is one of 12 made in the country to support and expand longitudinal data systems and enable ongoing improvements in education, workforce development, and employment programs.

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