



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

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Recent Publications

[Identifying Gaps and Setting Priorities for Employment and Training Research](#)

published by the *John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development*. July 2011. By Carl E. Van Horn, Christopher T. King, and Tara Smith. The authors review findings from several workforce

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Center News

Conference Explores Initiatives to Link Education and Workforce Data

Ray Marshall Center director Dr. Chris King and research associate Tara Smith participated in a conference organized by the U.S. Department of Labor for grant recipients of the agency's [Workforce Data Quality Initiative](#) (WDQI). The purpose of the Nov. 14-16 conference was to bring together WDQI grantees, to share information on challenges and promising practices as well as to explore development of data-driven products that support sustainability. In addition, conference participants received information about the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center, and updates on proposed revisions to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as well as opportunities to access other data systems, including the Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) and Federal Employment Data Exchange System (FEDES). In the second half of the conference, WDQI grantees joined the Department of Education's State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grantees to explore opportunities for linking the two initiatives.

In 2010, the Labor Department awarded the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) a grant of approximately \$1 million dollars to expand and improve existing longitudinal databases of workforce data that also link to education data. The Ray Marshall Center is conducting much of the research for this [project with TWC](#). More information about the project is available in a [project brief](#) and also on the Center's [website](#).

Survey Shows Increase in Students Taking College Entrance Exams

On Nov. 14, Greg Cumpton from the Ray Marshall Center met with members of the [Austin Chamber of Commerce's](#) College Readiness and Enrollment Support Team (CREST) to present recent findings from the 2011 survey of high school seniors. CREST, a group comprising representatives from independent school districts and



development research and recommend high-priority topics for further exploration in the coming years.

[Value-Added Immigration: Lessons for the United States From Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom](#)

published by *Economic Policy Institute*. October 2011. By Ray Marshall. Dr. Marshall analyzes and comparatively assesses the immigration systems in three western industrialized countries and proposes general principles for effective immigration reform in the United States.

[The Long-term Effects on Children and Adolescents of a Policy Providing Work Supports for Low-income Parents](#)

published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Autumn 2011. By Aletha C. Huston, Anjali Gupta, Jessica Thornton Walker, Chantelle J. Dowsett, Sylvia R. Epps, Amy E. Imes, and Vonnie C. McLoyd. The authors review "New Hope", a random-assignment experiment of an employment-based poverty reduction

area colleges, works to help students successfully enroll in college. The senior survey is a key component of the [Central Texas Student Futures Project](#), the research initiative aimed at recording and analyzing how students progress from high school to postsecondary education, and into the labor market. The data came from 6,134 students from ten independent school districts in central Texas. Garry Davis, graduate research assistant at the Center, developed the survey report and [presentation of results](#). Key findings in the report include students naming academic performance and graduation plans as the main reasons for meeting with school counselors; an increase in students taking college entrance exams; and an overall increase in students applying for financial aid compared to the class of 2010.

Center Researchers Present at APPAM National Conference

Drs. Chris King, Bob Glover, and Daniel Schroeder presented research at the [2011 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management \(APPAM\) Fall Research Conference](#) held in Washington D.C. earlier this November. The theme of this year's conference was "Seeking Solutions to Complex Policy and Management Problems." King presented a paper titled "[How Effective are Workforce Development Programs? Implications for U.S. Workforce Policies](#)" co-authored with Dr. Carolyn Heinrich from the University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School. King also presented a second paper titled "[Evidence on the Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Development and Unemployment Insurance Provisions](#)" which he co-authored with Dr. Rich Hobbie from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, Dr. Burt S. Barnow from George Washington University, and several other researchers.

Dr. Daniel Schroeder presented research on "Interactions between SNAP and UI before and during the Great Recession" in which he analyzed the interactions between Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and UI benefits programs in the state of Texas from 2006 through 2010, and explored the extent to which the dynamics of the two programs changed in response to the Great Recession.

Dr. King presented another research paper co-authored with Dr. Bob Glover and Ray Marshall Center research associate Tara Smith titled "[Investing in Children and Parents: Fostering Dual-Generation Strategies in the United States](#)." The paper provided an overview of dual-generation strategies, including a conceptual framework and important components, and analysis of the major opportunities and challenges for these strategies, as well as ideas on next steps for moving forward with a dual-generation agenda. King also served as a discussant on the Nov. 3 "Use of Market Mechanisms for Employment and Training Services" panel that explored the use of vouchers in employment and training programs in the United States and Europe. Copies of the research papers are available on the Center's [website](#).

EPI Pays Tribute to Ray Marshall at 25th Anniversary Event

On Nov. 1, the [Economic Policy Institute \(EPI\)](#) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner event honoring former U.S. Secretary of Labor [Dr. Ray Marshall](#) and Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize winning economist and op-ed columnist for the New York Times. Dr. Marshall was one of the original founders of EPI in 1986. The evening's program included video

intervention program for adults, and explore if the positive effects of the program on the young children of participants diminished or reversed when children reached adolescence.

[Non-Custodial Parent Choices Establishment Pilot: Impact Report](#)

August 2011. By Daniel Schroeder and Amna Khan. Findings in this report suggest that the Establishment Pilot has led to increased child support collections, including increased frequency, amount, and consistency of payments made by non-custodial parents.

[Non-Custodial Parent Choices PEER Pilot: Impact Report](#)

August 2011. By Daniel Schroeder, Kimberly Walker and Amna Khan. The authors share impact evaluation results from the PEER pilot, program that combines workforce development with parenting and relationship skills as well as financial literacy for non-custodial parents provisions of the Recovery Act.

Upcoming Events

tributes to the honorees in addition to several other [multimedia presentations](#) highlighting EPI's twenty-five years of work in support of American workers and their families. Drs. Chris King and Bob Glover attended the dinner.



Ray Marshall tribute video courtesy of EPI

Morales Joins Center as New Research Associate

The Ray Marshall Center welcomed new research associate Vanessa Morales in October. Morales is working on the [Texas Early Childhood Needs Assessment](#) with Deanna Schexnayder, senior research scientist and the project's principal investigator. In this project, researchers will identify and analyze Texas' early childhood education and school-age system and provide recommendations for meeting identified gaps in programs and services. Morales is a doctoral candidate at Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Her past work experience includes the Texas Education Agency and various organizations in Austin.

Center Co-Convenes Roundtable on Two-Generation Strategies



L-R: RMC's Dr. Bob Glover, FCD President Ruby Takanishi, and Center director Dr. Chris King
Photo courtesy of the Aspen Institute

On Oct. 14, the Ray Marshall Center joined the [Foundation for Child Development](#) and the [Aspen Institute's Ascend Family Economic Security Program](#), to convene a roundtable meeting in Washington D.C focused on "Two-Generation Strategies in Education." Participants included

policy experts, researchers, and program practitioners from all over the nation. Discussion centered on opportunities and challenges for integrating two-generation education strategies with education, skills training, and early childhood programs. Participants also explored ideas for advancing the dual-generation agenda. Based on previous work with Ray Marshall Center researchers Dr. Bob Glover and Tara Smith, Dr. Chris King presented a [conceptual framework](#) for dual generation strategies and provided analysis of related policies and projects, as well as findings from recent research.

The Ray Marshall Center has been a leader in the design and implementation of dual-generation policies and programs. In 2008, Center researchers developed the program design for [CareerAdvance®](#), a [dual generation sectoral workforce development](#) program in Tulsa county for parents of children in Head Start and Early

& Reports

Nov 29:
Visit to Atlanta Civic Site, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has invited Dr. Chris King to visit its [Atlanta Civic Site](#) to review this dual-generation program.

Upcoming Reports:
Texas Workforce Data Quality Initiative, Dec. 2011

Student Futures Project: 2011 Senior Survey Report
Dec. 2011

Student Futures Project: Outcomes Analysis Report
Dec. 2011

Evaluating Local Investments in Workforce Services
Dec. 2011

Head Start. This year, the Center is [expanding](#) its dual generation programs with [support from the Foundation for Child Development](#) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Professions Opportunities Grant program.



Two-generation roundtable participants
Photo courtesy of the Aspen Institute

King Shares Student Futures Research with College Administrators

The [Austin Area Research Organization](#) convened a meeting of Central Texas College Presidents on Oct. 14 and invited Dr. Chris King to discuss current education research. Dr. King presented an [overview](#) of the Central Texas Student Futures Project to meeting participants as well as recent findings on college enrollment and persistence and employment data of high school graduates. The [Student Futures Project](#) is a research partnership between the Ray Marshall Center, the [Austin Chamber of Commerce](#), and eleven Central Texas independent school districts to document and analyze student pathways from high school to postsecondary education and the workforce.

CLASP Publications Cite RMC Research

The [Center for Law and Social Policy](#) (CLASP), a Washington D.C.-based organization working in the area of workforce development, published two briefs on workforce development effectiveness that cited research by the Ray Marshall Center. The CLASP brief "[Research Show the Effectiveness of Workforce Programs](#)" incorporated several workforce development evaluations and reports by Center researchers from 2005 and onwards. The second CLASP brief "[National Leaders Recognize the Value of Workforce Development Programs](#)," drew from other Center research papers as well as responses from policymakers, the research community, and business leaders arguing the effectiveness and advocating for continuation of the nation's workforce programs.

Ray Marshall Center Continues Associate Director Search

The Ray Marshall Center is seeking qualified applicants for the [Associate Director](#) position. Candidates should have a doctoral degree in economics or a related social science area and ten years experience. The position is 20 percent administration and 80 percent research on education and workforce development projects that rely on linked longitudinal administrative records. The position will start immediately since, in addition to having administrative duties as Associate Director, the person filling this position will play a role in several ongoing research projects involving confidential education, workforce and related data. The position description and online application is accessible at this [link](#).

Project Update

Health Programs Opportunities Grant Expands Dual Generation Research

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Family has approved a four-year grant under its Health Profession Opportunities Grant program to support further study of outcomes and impacts for participants of **CareerAdvance®**, a dual-generation sectoral training program for parents of children in Head Start and Early Head Start in Tulsa. The project will be jointly implemented by the Ray Marshall Center and Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research. Center director Dr. Chris T. King and Northwestern University's Dr. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale will serve as co-principal investigators. The project has two objectives: the first is to study the long-term family, parent and child outcomes from participation in CareerAdvance®; and secondly, to understand variation in the program participation in relation to differences in educational attainment, employment, and family health and well-being.

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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