

# Preparing Wisconsin's Youth for Success: Lessons from Other States

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# The Pathways Project: A Brief Review

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- **LAUNCHED: FALL 2008**
  - \*Two Key Questions
  - \*The Research Phase
  
- **THE REPORT**
  - \* Release: February, 2011

# RESPONSE to the Pathways Report

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- **NATIONAL:**
  - \*Two-thirds of the states
  - \*Red AND Blue States
- **EVERY GEOGRAPY**
  - \* New England/ Mid-Atlantic
  - \* Midwest
  - \* West
  - \* Southwest and South

# THE WISCONSIN RESPONSE

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- The “New North”:
  - \*Appleton
  - \*Fond-du-Lac
  - \*Moraine Park/Fox Valley
- Greater Milwaukee:
  - \*sySTEM Now Conference
  - \*Project Lead the Way Conference: Pewaukee
  - \*Greater Milwaukee Committee
  - \*ManpowerGroup; Caterpillar; Rockwell
- Madison:
  - \*State Capitol; Career Counselors

# WHY IS THERE SO MUCH INTEREST?

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- **The Record of School Reform: Disappointing at Best**
- **The American Dream is at Risk:**
  - \*\*Near-record youth unemployment: 53% grad unemployment/underemployment**
  - \*\*Soaring student debt**
  - \*\*Middle class under pressure: Median income back to mid-90s**
- **THE BOTTOM LINE: A HUGE CHALLENGE AND A BIG OPPORTUNITY**

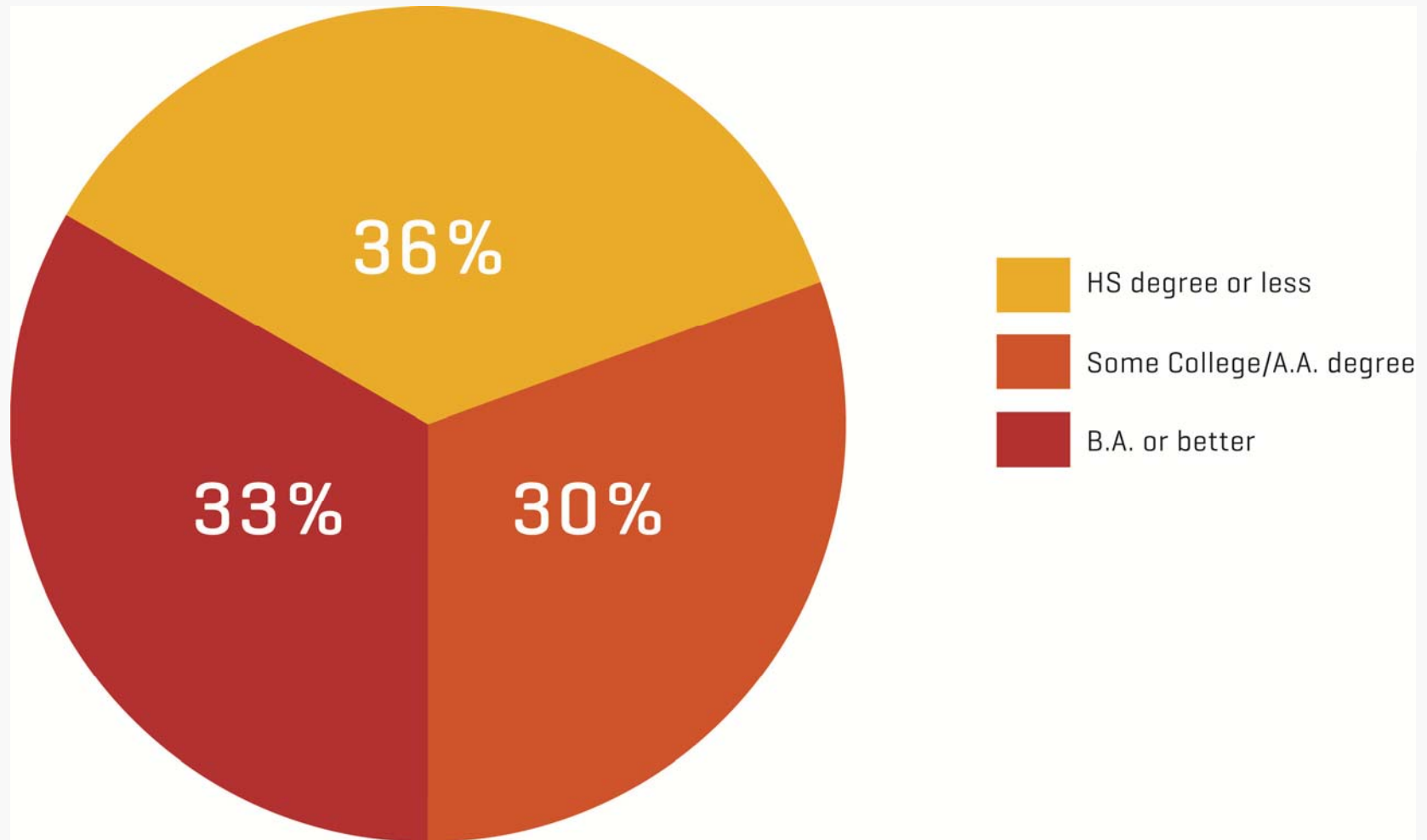
# What is the Pathways Challenge?

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The United States is increasingly failing to prepare young people to lead successful lives as adults:

- The key role of education in the American century
- We have lost our global leadership in educational attainment and achievement
- Teens and young adults (20-24) are increasingly unable to find work
- Mounting social problems: Decline of the family and historic core values
- **THE DANGER: A WASTED GENERATION**

College for All does not mean everyone needs a B.A. Even in this decade most jobs do not require a B.A.



Source: March CPS data, various years; Center on Education and the Workforce forecast of educational demand to 2018.

# What are the Trends in Wisconsin?

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By 2018, WISCONSIN expected to have 3.2 million jobs:

- **60% OF THESE JOBS WILL REQUIRE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

- **BUT ONLY 27% WILL REQUIRE A 4-YEAR DEGREE OR HIGHER**

- **33% WILL REQUIRE AN AA DEGREE OR SOME COLLEGE**

**SO: TECHNICAL COLLEGES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT IN WISCONSIN**



# What is the right goal for the U.S.?

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“College for All” needs to be broadened to mean a meaningful “post-high school credential” for all

A meaningful credential can be earned in many ways:

- Community college/Technical College
- Apprenticeships
- The military/community service
- Four year college

At the same time, we need to validate far more career choices: not just “elite careers”

# THE ROAD TO A PATHWAYS SYSTEM

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1. **Multiple Pathways: Give all students more than one way to succeed**
2. **An Expanded Role for Employers: They must become vital partners by engaging with educators and young people**
3. **A new Social Compact with Young People**

# Multiple Pathways

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## Key Elements:

- Elevate career education to world-class levels
- Provide high-quality career counseling to ALL students: make this a real focus
- Greatly expand and improve opportunities for work-based learning

# Expanded Role for Employers

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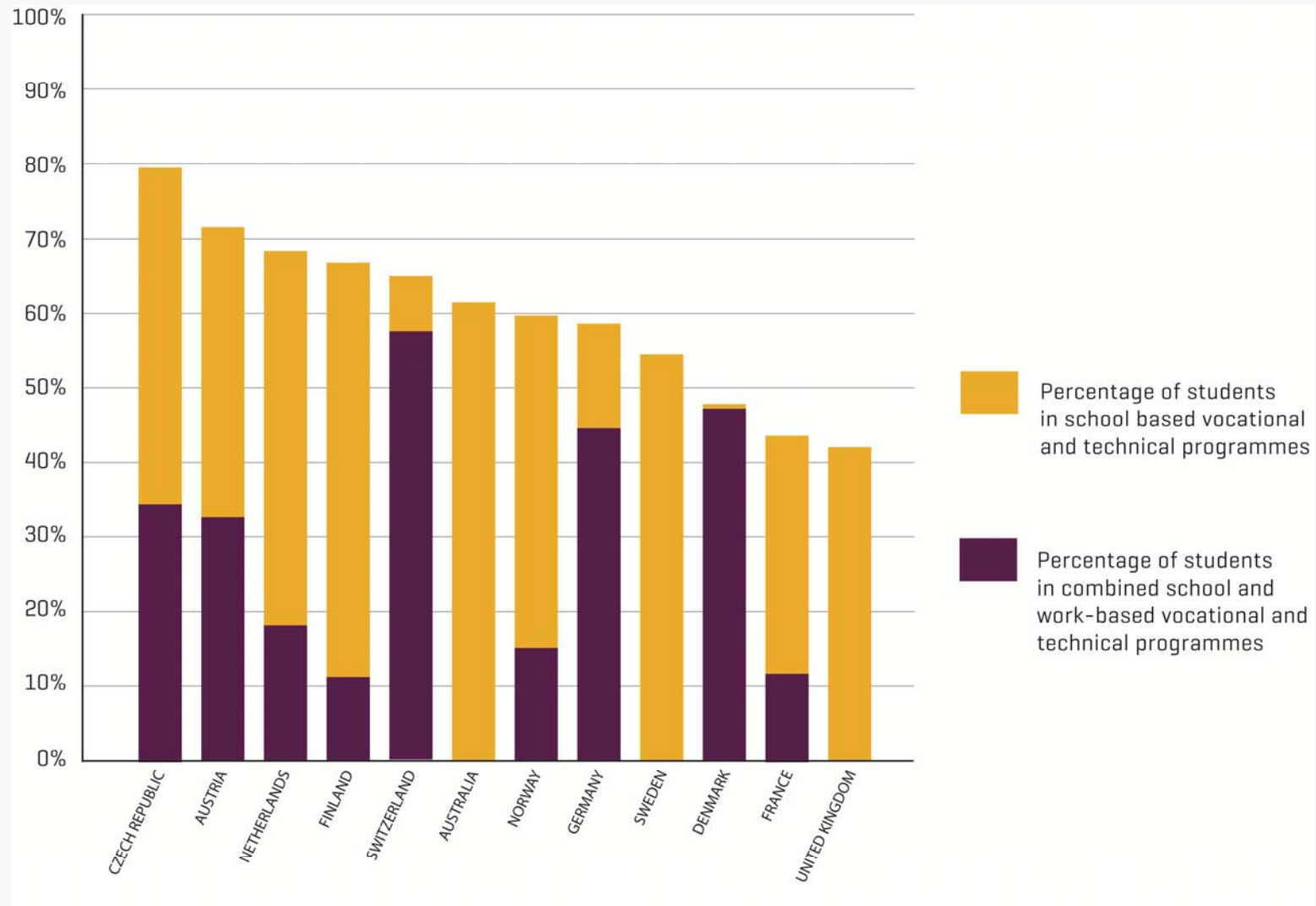
**Goal: Businesses need to become full partners in the Pathways system.**

**Key roles for business/employers:**

- **Career guidance**
- **Designing/Developing Programs of Study**
- **Providing Opportunities for Work-based learning and Work**

# Lessons from Abroad

## In many European countries over half of upper secondary students are in vocational education and training



Source: OECD (2008), Education at a Glance 2008, OECD indicators, Table C1.1, OECD, Paris.

# EXEMPLARS FROM ABROAD

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- **CHAMPIONS OF THE “DUAL SYSTEM:”**

Switzerland/Germany:

**\*\*Vast choice of career pathways**

**\*\*Based on apprenticeship system**

**\*\*Integration of Academic/Vocational Instruction**

**\*\*The Payoff: Very low youth unemployment**

# The Case for Vocational Education and Training

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## Pedagogical

- Best way for many young people to learn
- Apprenticeships support developmental needs of young people

## Higher attainment

- Many countries with the best Vocational Education and Training systems surpass the U.S.

High-quality Vocational Education and Training correlates with low youth unemployment



# STATES TAKING THE LEAD

# The Goal: World-Class CTE

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- **“The Massachusetts Model:” Public School Choice**
  - \*\*How It Works**
  - \*\*The Pay-Off**
- **Oklahoma Technology Centers: Providing excellence within a Red State philosophy**
- **Tennessee Technology Centers: Who says 2-year colleges can’t have high graduation rates?**

# The Illinois Pathways Initiative

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- **ORIGINS: A Direct Response to Pathways**
- **The Framework:**
  - \*\*Learning Exchanges: true business-education partnerships**
  - \*\*Focused on high-demand careers: Manufacturing; IT; Health Science; R&D; Ag**
  - \*\*Funding: RTT plus Industry Match**
- **TIMELINE:**
  - \*\*Formal Launch: February, 2012**
  - \*\*Exchanges selected: September**
  - \*\*Three-year rollout**

# State of Washington

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- **WASHINGTON: Career Pathways Act**

- \*\*Key provisions:**

- Promotes Career Exploration; encourages students to select Career Majors**

- Promotes work-based learning**

- Encourages multiple Pathways**

# New York

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- **PROJECT FOR NEW YORK REGENTS**
  - \*The question: How do we define College and Career Readiness?
  - \*The existing test: 74% earn a “Regent’s Diploma,” but only 37% are “College Ready”
  - \*The proposed change: Take “career readiness” more seriously; endorse career assessments

# FORGING A SOCIAL COMPACT

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- **BUILDING AWARENESS/ WILL THROUGH PATHWAYS CONFERENCES:**
  - \*\*Nebraska/ Minnesota/ \*\*NH/ Rhode Island/ Hawaii**
- **THE PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY NETWORK**
  - \*\*6 STATES PLUS SOME OF CALIFORNIA**
  - \*\*MAPPING EXERCISE**
  - \*\*THE NEXT CHALLENGE**

# NEXT STEPS FOR PATHWAYS

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- **“CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY:”**
  - \* **National conference: At Harvard: March 18-19**
  - \* **Who Will Attend**
    - **Teams from Many States**
    - **Partner organizations**
    - **Business and Government Leaders**
- **WISCONSIN INVOLVEMENT**
- **GOALS**

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# QUESTIONS?