Preparing Wisconsin’s Youth for Success: Lessons from Other States

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The Pathways Project: A Brief Review

• **LAUNCHED: FALL 2008**
  *Two Key Questions*
  *The Research Phase*

• **THE REPORT**
  * Release: February, 2011*
RESPONSE to the Pathways Report

• NATIONAL:
  * Two-thirds of the states
  * Red AND Blue States

• EVERY GEOGRAPHY
  * New England/ Mid-Atlantic
  * Midwest
  * West
  * Southwest and South
THE WISCONSIN RESPONSE

• 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?

• 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?

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?

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.?

“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

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

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

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

EXEMPLARS FROM ABROAD

- 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

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

• “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

• 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

• WASHINGTON: Career Pathways Act
  **Key provisions:
    --Promotes Career Exploration; encourages students to select Career Majors
    --Promotes work-based learning
    --Encourages multiple Pathways
New York

• 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

• 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

• “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
QUESTIONS?