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transformative change

TCI News and Current Topics

TCI Briefing at the Department of Labor

Debra Bragg, Principal Investigator of TCI, was invited to attend a meeting at the Department of Labor to brief TAACCCT staff on updates to TCI and some lessons learned from OCCRL's role as third party evaluators of TAACCCT grants. Catherine Kirby, Consultant at OCCRL, presented a summary of findings from scaling and sustainability research of Round One TAACCCT consortia and shared copies of the Strategy Briefs staff have been creating. Dr. Bragg provided highlights of career pathways related outcomes drawn from two TAACCCT consortia. Representatives from Cosgrove and Associates shared insights as internal evaluators for multiple TAACCCT consortia. TCI staff were pleased to hear that our products have been useful to DOL staff in relating specific information to members of Congress and their staff, and the meeting overall produced a rich conversation among federal program staff, evaluators and foundation representatives in attendance whose shared goals are to learn as much as possible from the unprecedented investment in community colleges that TAACCCT has provided.





Understanding Local Workforce Systems

Michelle Van Noy shares insight and a new resource for building partnerships between colleges and local workforce systems. Understanding local workforce systems and these frameworks is important as WIOA moves toward full implementation this summer. Read [Understanding Local Workforce Systems](#).

Innovative Strategies

TCI Strategy Brief

Using Navigators to Support Student Success.

This brief authored by Gail Baldwin and Deborah Richie describes the work of navigators in the Gulf Coast IT Consortium, who worked with prospective students to help them better understand the process of becoming a college student, along with the academic programs, job markets, and the process through which a student might receive credit for prior experience or work-based learning. Read [Using Navigators to Support Student Success](#).





TCI Strategy Brief

Leveraging Partnerships to Expand Education, Training, and Employment Opportunities

This brief authored by Judith Alamprese describes the Community College Consortium for Biosciences Credentials

(c3bc), a national consortium led by Forsyth Technical Community College, worked to strengthen existing and build new collaborations with biosciences employers, industry associations, and workforce agencies. Read [Leveraging Partnerships to Expand Education, Training, and Employment Opportunities](#).

TCI Strategy Briefs on Development Education

Colleges across the country are exploring new approaches to assisting students to gain the reading, writing, and math foundations. This involves providing alternatives to the traditional sequence of developmental courses, and includes accelerated models, modularization, contextualization, integrated support services, learning communities, and learning labs.



TCI has two strategy briefs that outline approaches to developmental education redesign:

[Developmental Education Redesign](#): The Colorado Online Energy Training Consortium (COETC) developmental education redesign involves replacing the traditional sequence of developmental education courses with courses that employ acceleration, modularization, and contextualization.

[Intrusive Student Support and Contextualized Developmental Education](#): MoHealthWINS colleges are redesigning developmental education and implementing intrusive student support services.

TCI Featured Evaluators

These posts are part of a blog series called **TCI Featured Evaluators** that featured members of **TCI's Evaluation Collaborative**. This community of evaluators has a wealth of knowledge, experience and insights into evaluation of the TAACCCT grants that are being implemented throughout the United States.



Marisa Castellano

Marisa Castellano

OCCRL Consultant

Dr. Marisa Castellano joined the OCCRL evaluation team in 2014 and assisted in the evaluation of a multisite TAACCCT consortium grant. Dr. Castellano received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. She has 17 years' experience leading research and policy studies of secondary and postsecondary career pathway efforts, first for the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University and then for the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education at the University of Louisville. This work has included longitudinal studies of student achievement in secondary career pathway programs, a systematic literature review on educational transitions, and examinations of retention interventions for nontraditional community college students and promising practices in career pathway programs for low-skilled adults. [Read more.](#)



Sandra Staklis

Sandra Staklis

Senior Research Associate, RTI International's division of Education and Workforce Development

Sandra Staklis, Ph.D. is Senior Research Associate in RTI International's division of Education and Workforce Development. She has expertise in quantitative and qualitative data analysis and survey design, and experience in the areas of secondary and postsecondary student outcomes, community colleges, workforce education and development, and program evaluation. Dr. Staklis is currently leading the evaluation of Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant programs in Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, and Montana, as well as a multi-year program evaluation of a middle-skills retail training program for Goodwill International sponsored by the Walmart Foundation in eight sites nationwide. [Read more.](#)



Jennifer Cleary

Jennifer Cleary

Senior Associate at Social Policy Research Associates (SPR)

Jennifer Cleary performs a variety of research, evaluation, and capacity-building activities. Her current work is focused on understanding and improving the responsiveness of higher education to the emerging needs of the labor market and assisting policymakers and educators to build industry-focused workforce strategies. Over her nearly 15 years with the Center, she has also authored several studies on the workforce and education issues associated with emerging industries, including clean energy and other green sectors and she managed New Jersey's Ready for the Job initiative, a multi-year project to ensure New Jersey educates qualified workers for the state's key industries. [Read more.](#)

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