

ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS**HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNING PROJECT**

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), Washington, D.C.

May 2001 – September 2001

Project Summary: The High Performance Learning Project (HPLP) was a 30-month initiative sponsored by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), in collaboration with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Instructional Systems, Inc. The project was designed to place welfare recipients into high-demand occupations, while simultaneously teaching them computer and basic job skills that would enhance long-term employment potential. Funding for the project came from a \$4.9 million WtW Round One grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA). Under this grant, NAWB funded projects in 10 localities: Birmingham, AL; Central Illinois; Los Angeles, CA; Maricopa County, AZ; New Haven, CT; North Tennessee; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Prince George's County, MD; and St. Paul, MN.

The scope of work performed under this project was aimed at producing a final report that NAWB could use both to (1) meet evaluation reporting requirements under NAWB's Welfare-to-Work (WtW) competitive grant with the U.S. Department of Labor, and (2) provide workforce development boards with information useful for replication of program strategies and interventions developed under the High Performance Learning Project. Project activities involved the following major tasks: (1) project start-up and evaluation planning, (2) data collection, (3) data analysis, and (4) reporting. Project staff conducted in-depth telephone interviews with administrators/staff at grantee organizations, linked community colleges, employers, and other individuals knowledgeable about activities conducted by HPLP grantees. Project staff also collected and reviewed statistical reports and other programs documents prepared by each site, including the original scope of work and contract for each site, progress reports, and other memoranda. The final report included cross-site comparisons of participation levels, participant outcomes, service delivery approaches, start-up and other implementation issues/challenges, project budgets/cost, and implications and lessons learned. An important focus of the report was on innovative and effective strategies that could be replicated by other interested workforce development agencies.

Report:

J. Trutko, *Moving Welfare Recipients Toward Self-Sufficiency: An Assessment of the High Performance Learning Project*, prepared for the National Association of Workforce Boards, September 2001.

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