



POWERHOUSE PARTNERSHIPS

Community Colleges and Workforce Boards Working Together

This report describes the activities and strategies of a wide variety of partnerships between community colleges and workforce boards, with key takeaways that can assist other community colleges and workforce organizations to solidify their collaborations and further their mutual goals.

Such partnerships are an essential element of the U.S. Department of Labor grant program called Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT). This program provided nearly \$2 billion over a seven-year period to help the nation's community colleges deliver industry-aligned credentials for unemployed and underemployed adults.

Many of the examples in this report illustrate partnerships that emerged out of TAACCCT, while others are longstanding relationships that pre-dated the program. The first set of stories focuses on statewide and regional efforts to identify needs in the local labor market and to develop programs to meet them. The second set delves into the activities and lessons learned from serving "common customers"—individual students, employers, and jobseekers.

These are just a few of the key takeaways from the state's stories. Download the full report at:

bit.ly/powerhousepartnerships

Strategy and Planning

- ▶ Align the work of the partnership with the goals and priorities of other large-scale statewide or regional initiatives.
- ▶ Jointly and strategically engage employer partners.
- ▶ Build leader-to-leader and staff-to-staff relationships.
- ▶ Have a written agreement.

Funding

- ▶ Look for opportunities to share costs.
- ▶ Develop grant proposals together.

Systems and Processes

- ▶ Develop staff knowledge of each other's systems.
- ▶ Co-enroll students when possible.

Communication

- ▶ Continue to build and maintain systems of communication.
- ▶ Recognize that a strong level of trust between the organizations is critical.

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