Rethinking NCES Data on Education and Work

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Goal

NCES wants to collect and report better data on the role of education in preparing youth, young adults, and adults for work.
Adult and Career Education Program

- January 2010: NCES formed the Adult and Career Education (ACE) program in PACE
- Reflects view that preparation for careers is integral part of postsecondary education and adult education
- Maintains focus on role of secondary education in preparation for careers
- Expands the focus beyond traditional CTE to a broader notion of data on education and work
Developing Better Data: Concrete Steps

• Phase 1: Prioritize Measurement Needs
• Phase 2: Compare Needs to Existing Data
• Phase 3: Recommend Survey Additions and Revisions and Improve Reporting
May 5-6 Expert Panel Meeting

• Researchers, Practitioners, Associations, State Directors, Federal Agencies
• Elementary/Secondary and Postsecondary
• Education and its context
• How education affects workforce preparation:
  – Skills and Knowledge
  – Information
  – Preferences
Expert Panel Meeting: Topics

- Early labor market experiences (in and out of school/high school and postsecondary)
- Guidance/advising/mentoring
- Student intentionality and planfulness (includes but not limited to formal college/career plans at high school level)
Expert Panel Meeting: Topics—cont.

• Student information—where they get it, whether they trust it, how they use it
• Curriculum and instruction (occupational and academic—including “dosage,” integration of basic skills instruction/remediation, access/offerings)
• Outcomes (credential attainment, “good job,” wages/salary/benefits, industry and occupation, initial job versus career)
Goals for NCES Data on Education and Work

• DESCRIBE
  – Basic descriptive statistics to help NCES monitor the condition of education
  – Most NCES tables/reports

• UNDERSTAND
  – More complex analyses and models focusing on reasons, relationships, and outcomes
  – Data for secondary analysis
Discussion

• Are we moving in the right direction?
• Are these the right topics for us to focus on?
• What do we need to know about each topic to:
  – *describe* the role of education in preparing for work?
  – *understand* the role of education in preparing for work?
Contact Information

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